



January 06, 2020

January's Message from Ms. Branch

The new year is upon us and we look forward, with hope, that 2021 will bring forth relief from the current pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic, combined with the nation's mental health and equity concerns, has certainly accelerated the shift in the accountability landscape within education. The social emotional and mental well-being of our students is at the forefront of our work and is something that should remain at the forefront as we move forward. I recently read an article titled "Has the Pandemic Ushered in New Norms in Education?" Hopefully so, as we have been forced to shifted some of our current pedagogical thinking. Pedagogical growth is the kind of growth needed to recharge and reimagine education. If 2020 has taught us anything, it has taught us that we need to flip priorities in order to address achievement. It's about the reprioritizing of community and compassion over content as a means to positively impact curriculum and student achievement, which is what we are prioritizing. Teachers are instructing and students are learning during this very challenging time. Acknowledging the fact that academic growth looks different this year, we must all recognize and accept that reality. We have asked so much of our students during these unprecedented circumstances, therefore, as teachers and parents we must concede the impact the pandemic has had on them and we must be content with their current rate of progress which may not be the norm for a regular school year - which this year is anything but. It is my hope, that in the new year and years to come, that the work we have begun at Mirada Leadership Academy will continue to embrace compassion and community as the foundations upon which academic learning is built. Hope is alive at Mirada Leadership Academy!

Please take note of these important messages and dates embedded in this newsletter:

- Last Day to change child's current FLEX or In-Person placement - Thursday, January 7th
- Material Distribution Day - Monday, January 11th
- Martin Luther King Day - No School - Monday, January 18th
- PTO Restaurant Night - Thursday, January 26th
- Mirada Virtual Showcase Event for Incoming Preschool & Kindergartners - February 4th @ 5:30PM
- Early release days for the 20/21 school year

"Hope is passion for what is possible." ~ Soren Kierkegaard

My wish for 2021 is that we always keep hope alive and that we use what we learned in 2020 to improve ourselves and those around us.

Warmly,

Ms. Branch

Upcoming Events

JAN 4: School Resumes

JAN 7: Last Day to Change Learning Environment (Flex or In Person)

JAN 8: Report Cards Quarter 2

JAN 11: Student Materials Distribution - Drive Up Event

JAN 12: Kyrene Governing Board Meeting / Online Enrollment Begins

JAN 18: MLK Day - No School

JAN 26: PTO Restaurant Night



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

No School

Monday, January 18th

Mirada Leadership Academy Virtual Showcase Event

If you have an incoming preschooler or kindergartner, or know of someone who does, please check out our first ever Virtual Showcase. This event will begin at 5:30PM on Thursday, February 4th. A ZOOM link will be posted prior to the event. Administration, along with members of our preschool and kindergarten teams, will be sharing important information about our leadership program and the preschool and kindergarten programs. Please mark your calendars for this special event. We would greatly appreciate it if you can help get the word out to those in the community who currently do not have children attending Mirada.

SAVE THE DATE:
Mirada Leadership Academy
Virtual Showcase Event
February 4th at 5:30PM

The
LeaderinMe
great happens here

Upcoming Early Release Days

2021 Early Release Dates

Students Release at 12:30PM
Mirada Office Closes at 1:20PM

Jan. 15 (Fri) Jan. 29 (Fri)	Feb. 12 (Fri) Feb. 24, 25, 26 (Wed-Fri)	Mar. 5 (Fri) Mar. 26 (Fri)
Apr. 1 (Thur) Apr. 16 (Fri) Apr. 30 (Fri)	May 14 (Fri) May 28 (Fri)	Jun. 7 (Mon) Jun. 8 (Tue)

As students continue online learning, Kyrene schools are mindful of the extended screen time for children. District leaders received positive feedback from families about the flexible learning hour days offered prior to winter break.

Kyrene School District will be reintroducing early release dates into the calendar for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year. Students are encouraged to use early release dates for independent study, homework catch up, social-emotional activities and self-reflection.

Mirada Leadership Academy will Release at 12:30PM these days. The front office will close at 1:20PM.



Deadline for 3rd Quarter Learning Environment Selection

Families wishing to change a student's learning environment for Quarter 3 will now have until **Thursday January 7** to make any changes in [ParentVUE](#). This will give parents an opportunity to view this week's health metrics from Maricopa County before making a final decision.

Material Distribution Day for 3rd Quarter Materials - For All Students

On Monday, January 11th, from 2-4 PM, parents/guardians will need to pick up necessary curriculum items for 3rd Quarter. Parents/guardians are asked to pull into the drop off/pick-up lanes in front of the school and stay in their cars. If you have your car tag, please make sure that it's visible. Our staff will bring your child's materials to you. Also, please bring any barcoded materials that your child currently has at home. This may include library books, CKLA readers, Junior Great Books, etc.

PTO Restaurant Fundraiser at Panda Express

Tuesday, January 26th from 3-9PM

2905 W Ray Road
Chandler, AZ 85224

Enter 319530 in the promo code box during online checkout at:

[OrderPandaExpressOnline](#)

Participating fundraiser guests are required to present a valid fundraiser flyer (paper copy or digital image) with each order to receive credit towards the fundraiser. In order to support CDC guidelines, we encourage our families to take advantage of the online ordering option.



Please **ACT NOW!** ParentVUE Updates

Please help us! We still have over 350 families that have not updated their Emergency Contact information. That is over half of our student body.

Please take the time to complete this request. Per state requirements, it is imperative that we keep accurate and updated contact information.

You can access your information and set up an account in ParentVUE [HERE](#). Note, an activation code is necessary for first time users. Please call the school office at 480-541-4200 and we can assist you.

Tax Credit Donations ~ It's a Win, Win!

Your tax credit donation helps provide for some of the following at Mirada Leadership Academy: Leader in Me Program, guest speakers, student Leadership Day, MML Awards and field trips.

These programs develop well-rounded students, who in turn, build strong communities. Arizona statute allows individuals/couples to donate \$200/\$400 for a dollar-to-dollar tax credit.

The deadline for tax credit donations is April 15 of the following year. You can donate online through our [Payment Portal](#) or fill out the [Tax Credit Contribution Form](#) and send it directly to Mirada Leadership Academy.

Thank you for your continued support!

Counselor's CORNER



Welcome back to Counselor's Corner! January's Tip: Helping your child handle stress

As adults, we may wonder why a carefree and happy child would feel stress in their life. The truth is, elementary aged children are faced with many circumstances that can cause them to feel stressed. This includes academic pressure, social media influences, peer pressure, COVID related stressors, family changes like divorce or illness, financial struggles at home, food and housing insecurities, and so much more!

Did you know that some stress is healthy? For example, your child is riding their bike down a hill and as they whiz down, they feel stress, gain control of their handlebars, and ultimately make it to the bottom. Your child has just successfully overcome adversity and will now feel more confident the next time they're faced with a challenge. However, it's important to recognize when your child is feeling an unhealthy amount of stress.

Signs that your child may be experiencing too much stress: (A)

- Increased mood changes
- Lashing out or angry behaviors
- Struggling with sleep
- Lack of focus with school work and in the classroom
- Physical symptoms like stomachaches or headaches
- Young children may pick up behaviors they once had like thumb sucking or clinginess
- Increased nightmares

How to help your child handle stress: (A)

- A good nights' sleep
- Healthy nutrition, balanced meals
- Intentionally spending time with your child to bond, creating the opportunity to talk about their stress
- Open discussions with your child about why they are stressed and making changes and working together to find solutions

- Preparing your child ahead of time for stressful situations like a dentist appointment or a class presentation
- Talking out loud about your stress and healthy ways you handle it
- Validating their feelings and reminding them that it's okay to not be okay

A: [Link to KidsHealth Article](#)

Thanks for reading, see you next month!

Ms. Chavez Google Site

To learn more about my role and the support I can provide, please see my google site for more information!

Link: [School Counselor Google Site](#)

Contact Information

Cielo Phone: (480) 541-2424

Mirada Phone: (480) 541-4369

cduranchavez@kyrene.org

Schedule

Monday & Thursday: Kyrene del Cielo

Tuesday & Friday: Mirada Leadership Academy

*Rotate Wednesdays

LEARN

More than a dozen choice opportunities across 26 schools

Kyrene sets the bar among peer districts for classroom spending and teacher salaries

LEAD

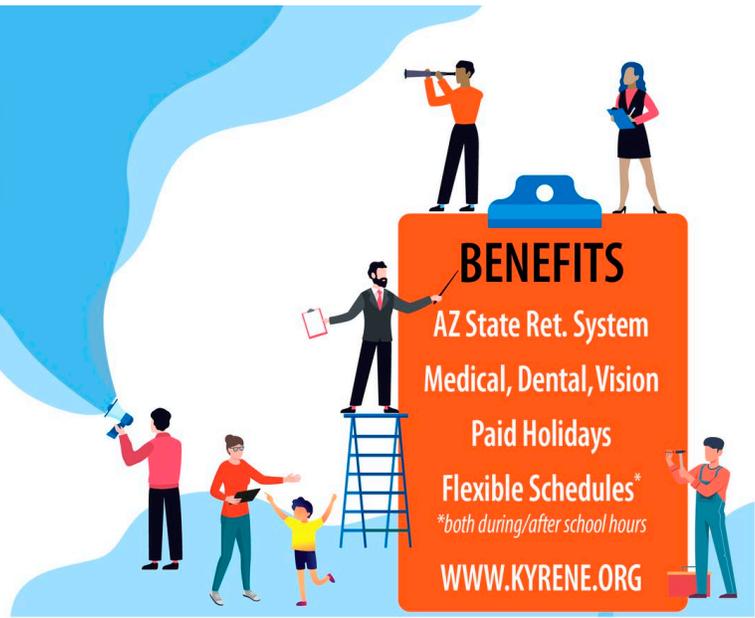
A+ Schools of Excellence with some of the highest rated in AZ
Enrollment Begins January 12

ACHIEVE

WE'RE HIRING



- Instructional Assistants
- Resource Teachers
- School Psychologists
- Speech-Language Pathologists
- Bus Drivers/Monitors
- Electricians, HVAC Techs
- Groundskeepers
- Club Leaders



#KyreneSafe
#KyreneStrong

From the District Office

Please visit [SafeStrong](#) for up to date information and news from Kyrene School District.

Contact Us

Kyrene de la Mirada
Leadership Academy
5500 W. Galveston Street
Chandler, AZ 85226

School Hours: 7:30 am - 1:45 pm
Office Hours: 7:10 am - 3:10 pm

Front Office: 480-541-4200
Fax Number: 480-541-4210
Attendance: 480-541-4201
Health Office: 480-541-4220
Cafeteria: 480-541-4226
Kids Club: 480-541-4230

Quick Links

[Food Services and Menu](#)

[ParentVUE](#)

[StudentVUE](#)

[Technology Assistance](#)

[Family Handbook](#)

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