



March 1, 2021

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## **March's Message from Ms. Branch**

It has been said that “A child has a special way of adding joy to every day!” At Mirada Leadership Academy we are eagerly waiting to add a tremendous amount of joy to our lives on March 16<sup>th</sup> and we can’t wait! As we prepare to re-open our doors for in-person learning, we want to remind families of the 2020-2021 procedures and protocols that we implemented in September. In this newsletter, you will find information that you will need to ensure a smooth and safe return to Mirada on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Welcome back!

To those families and students who have chosen to remain in their Flex distance learning classrooms, we will miss seeing you in person and look forward to the day you return. Sometime this week, families will be provided the opportunity to select their choice of learning (In-Person or Flex) for the fourth quarter, which begins on April 5<sup>th</sup>. On Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, from 2-3:30 PM, we will ask parents/guardians of students staying in distance learning, to pick up necessary curriculum items for 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

Parents and guardians, you have been heroes throughout this pandemic. We are in awe of all our families have done during this time when children's routines and learning have been disrupted. While I am very proud of our teachers, I am equally as proud of and thankful for the love and support you have provided your child and your child's teacher. Thank you so much.

I wish you all a safe, relaxing, and fun Spring Break.

Warmly,

Ms. Branch

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# UPDATED SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

~ MIRADA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY~

School hours: 7:30 AM - 1:45 PM

## RETURN OF MATERIALS

- Kyrene laptops and battery chargers need to be returned on the first day the student returns.
- Other materials needed to be brought back to school will be communicated by the classroom teacher. Since parents are not able to leave their cars to assist their children, we may be asking for the return of materials over the first few days back.

## DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

- Staff will be on morning duty at 7:15 AM. Children may not be dropped off prior to that time. You can wait in the drop-off lane prior to that time, but children must stay in the car.
- Both drop-off and pick-up will take longer than it has in the past as we safely move children to and from their classrooms. It is very important that everyone follows the established protocols and recognize there will be longer wait times. We moved a lot of cars through very quickly during our first round! Tips for faster drop-off and pick-up:
  - Make sure your child has their mask on before entering the drop-off lane.
  - Children should be ready to exit their vehicle as soon as a staff member opens the car door. All items students are bringing to school must be easily accessible and ready for them to grab as they exit their car.
  - Car Visor Tags that we provided in September are essential for a more efficient pick-up. If you need a car visor tag, let us know during drop-off time and we will provide one.

## PICK UP TIME

- We made a slight change and students will now be outside at 1:40 PM for dismissal. In the fall, students began lining up outside at 1:30 PM. We are adjusting the schedule by 10 minutes since 1:45 PM is the stated end time of the school day and we want to take advantage of all the instructional minutes available. On early release days, students will be released and ready for pick up at 12:30 PM.

## LATE ARRIVALS

- Parents will need to check their child in at the front office if they are late. Students may no longer just be dropped off and walk into the office on their own.

## LATE PICK-UP

- In order to avoid mixing student cohorts, students who are not picked up on time will need to stay in the classroom with their teachers if a parent/guardian is not on time. We ask that families are respectful of teachers' time and pick their child up on time each day.

## MASKS

- Masks must be worn while on campus. **Please note that neck gaiters, masks with valves, and shields (without masks underneath) are not permissible.** Kyrene follows all CDC guidelines and CDC has stated that these items do not provide the protection needed to keep the virus from spreading.

## FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

- We highly encourage all families to take advantage of the opportunity for students to receive free breakfast and lunch at school.
- The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has provided a waiver to Kyrene, which enables all students to get a free breakfast and/or lunch up through June 30.
- Cold breakfast only will be served and will be served in the classroom.
- Hot lunches are boxed. Children will be offered two menu choices. Students will be eating either in the cafeteria or in a designated area outside.

## WATER BOTTLES

- Students will not be able to use water fountains except to refill their own water bottles. Please send your child with a water bottle each day.

## TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULES

- Schedules will remain the same as they were when students were in-person in the fall.

## HEALTH PROTOCOLS

- A staff member will observe each student upon arrival for any signs/symptoms suggestive of COVID-19-like illness (fever: temperature of 100.4°F or higher, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea).
- Any student with the above symptoms either at the start of the day or during the day will be taken to the health office, where parents will be contacted for pick up. The student will be excluded from school per MCDPH guidelines (sick or exposed to COVID-19) with the following exception:
  - If the student has information that confirms a diagnosis of a chronic health condition, the district nurse will be contacted to assess if the student can remain on campus and return to class.
- Please do not send your child to school if they are sick or have any of the mentioned symptoms. We must do all we can to mitigate the spread of the virus.

- Parents/Guardians must arrange for pick-up of student within 30 minutes of being notified.

Thank you for trusting us with your children as we once again return to school. We are eagerly awaiting their return. The safety of all children and adults is dependent upon everyone doing their part in following the set protocols and doing everything they can to stop the spread of the virus.

## Upcoming Events

MAR 5: Early Release 12:30 PM

MAR 8-12: Spring Break

MAR 15: No School

MAR 16: Campus Open to In Person Students / Preschool Enrollment Begins

MAR 25: Panera Bread PTO Restaurant Fundraiser

MAR 26: Early Release 12:30 PM

MAR 30: 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Curriculum Distribution for Flex Students 2-3:30 PM

# March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 EARLY RELEASE 12:30	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>HAPPY SPRING BREAK</b>						
14	15 No School	16 In Person Students Return  Preschool Enrollment Begins	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Panera Bread Restaurant Fundraiser	26 EARLY RELEASE 12:30	27
28	29	30 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter Curriculum Distribution 2 - 3:30 PM	31	1 EARLY RELEASE 12:30	2 No School	3

**Mark your calendar!**

**4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Curriculum  
Distribution  
Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>  
2-3:30 PM**



**Spring Break**

**March 8-12**

**March 15 - No School**

Have a safe and wonderful break!



We greatly appreciate your participation in our Parent/Teacher Conferences. Our partnership with you helps to ensure improved student achievement and overall student success.

Together is better!

Our teachers are also grateful for the many kind words, compliments, and kudos that they have received from families. Your words of encouragement and support mean so much to them.

Kyrene’s free meal service continues through June 30, whether students are learning in person or at home, and all families are encouraged to participate. Meals are free for ALL students, regardless of need. Kyrene is proud to offer healthy, made-from-scratch meals for all children age 18 and under. No sign up required! In Person Learning students can receive free breakfast and free lunch on campus, and students in both Flex Distance Learning AND In Person Learning can receive breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks for all 7 days of the week, through curbside pickup at the Kyrene District Office. For more information and monthly menus, visit [www.kyrene.org/foodservices](http://www.kyrene.org/foodservices). This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

**It’s been a tough year. Lunch is on us.**

  
Parents, you have enough going on...  
**Let Kyrene handle the cooking!**  
*Free meals for all children under 18.*



**Children/siblings  
*do not* need  
to be Kyrene  
students!**



**Pick up  
*nutritious*  
breakfasts &  
*fresh* lunches  
at no cost.**

## 2021 Early Release Dates

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

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

## Mirada Leadership Academy Enrollment

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is now open. Kyrene School District will continue to offer online enrollment for new students and any students applying to change schools. Enrollment links are available for the 2021-2022 school year on the KSD homepage [Enroll Here](#)

**Open Enrollment:** Students new or transferring who live outside of Mirada's boundaries must fill out an application via the online registration portal. Open Enrollment must be approved before registration is considered final.

**Current Students:** Continuing Mirada students, will NOT need to re-register. Students in grades K-4 will be registered at Mirada Leadership Academy. All Mirada 5<sup>th</sup> graders will automatically be registered at [Pueblo Middle School](#). If your 5<sup>th</sup> grader will not be attending Pueblo for the 2021-2022 school year, please notify our office staff at 480-541-4200 or via email at [mirfrontoffice@kyrene.org](mailto:mirfrontoffice@kyrene.org).

For current Mirada Leadership Academy families with new students entering school, online registration is available through your existing [ParentVUE](#) account.

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## 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.

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## Tax Credit Donations : Deadline for 2020 is Fast Approaching

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!

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## PTO Restaurant Fundraiser at Panera Bread

Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>

Panera Bread

1707 W Warner Rd in Tempe

480.305.6994

Please join us in support of Mirada Leadership Academy. See the attached Flyer for specific details.

[Panera Bread Flyer](#)

### ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP

In order to support CDC guidelines, we encourage our families to take advantage of the curbside pickup option. You can place your order at [Panera Bread Online](#)



Welcome back to Counselor's Corner!

March's Tip: How you can help your child build confidence while learning online.

It's hard to believe that it has already been one year since teachers and students unexpectedly moved from learning in the classroom to learning online. Unfortunately, some children are still struggling with being successful online learners. One of the many struggles students are experiencing is not having the confidence that they can do well while learning online. As a parent, it can be difficult watching your child doubt their abilities in navigating their very first time as an online learner.

Implementing the tips below can help increase your child's confidence as they continue to be a digital or in-person learner for the remainder of the school year!

1. **Modeling confidence:** As I've mentioned in previous newsletters, modeling the behavior you want your child to exhibit is always helpful! You can accomplish this by making positive comments in front of your child regarding your own progress with your job or your personal goals.
2. **Give specific praise:** Instead of making general statements like, "good job today," it's helpful to use specific praise such as, "I know it was frustrating when you got kicked out of ZOOM, but you did a great job logging back in and asking your teacher what you missed." This specific praise empowers your child to be confident the next time.
3. **Create a wall of fame:** Take some of your child's work (even test grades) and post it in the home. This lets them know that their hard work is being noticed and appreciated.
4. **Allow your child to fail:** By reminding your child that it is okay to not do well (if they tried their best) you are allowing them to release the stress-inducing pressure that can come with completing online tests and important projects.
5. **Encourage emotional expression:** Provide your child opportunities to express how they are feeling about school, especially if they've had a tough day. This encourages them to be open with their feelings so that you can discuss together.

A: <https://usmc-mccs.org/articles/boosting-confidence-during-covid-learning/>

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](mailto:cduranchavez@kyrene.org)

### Schedule

Monday & Thursday: Kyrene del Cielo

Tuesday & Friday: Mirada Leadership Academy

\*Rotate Wednesdays

**#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](#)

*A+ School of Excellence™*

The  
**LeaderinMe™**  
great happens here

