



August 22, 2020

## Message from the Principal

Dear Families,

Welcome to Kyrene de la Mariposa Computer Science Academy! We are the only designated Computer Science Academy in the Kyrene School District. We are proud to be an “A+ Excellence in Education Award School” as designated by the Arizona Educational Foundation in 2004, 2009, 2015 & 2019! We are one of ten schools in the entire state of Arizona that has received this distinction four times!



Our mission is to educate and foster the development of the whole child in a safe environment by collaborating with families, staff and the community. We strive to meet individual needs while instilling a love of learning in every student to ensure continuous academic achievement.

The 2020-21 school year has begun, supporting your children through online learning. Kyrene, like many other school districts, experienced the growing pains of a massive launch of a new online learning system, including a network hardware failure. As of this morning, most of the issues have been resolved, though I recognize that there are still a few isolated incidents that are being addressed.

I would like to congratulate Carolyn Payne, Mariposa’s Assistant Principal, for the last six years. She has been selected as the new Principal of Kyrene de la Esperanza. Though she will be dearly missed, we are all very proud of her great accomplishment. I would also like to welcome Mrs. Ann Leftwich who will be joining the Mariposa staff as our new Assistant Principal. Mrs. Leftwich will split her responsibilities between Mariposa and Esperanza. She has been an Assistant Principal at Esperanza for the last five years and was a teacher for several years in Kyrene prior to that.

Our best hope is that our children will have the opportunity to return to school in the near future. Children, staff and parents are adjusting to this new way of learning but there is nothing better than having your children with us at school. Mariposa is a great place for children and adults alike! We are committed to providing a caring environment for your child and providing an experience for them that will last a lifetime whether it be in person or through a virtual classroom environment.

Thank you for choosing Mariposa as your child’s school! Our primary goal is to put your children at the heart and center of our decision-making and to make this goal our practice in all that we do. We are looking forward to a great year of learning!

Sincerely,  
Spencer Fallgatter  
Principal



## Meet our new Assistant Principal



Hello Challenger Community!

I am honored and excited to begin this new year at Mariposa. Our mission to educate and foster the development of the whole child in a safe environment is one that I embrace whole-heartedly. As I split my time between Mariposa and Kyrene de la Esperanza, I will continue to provide support by collaborating with staff, families and the community to ensure our students' needs are met.

A little about myself, I received my undergraduate degree from Radford University in Virginia. I furthered my education and received a master's degree in education with an emphasis on language and literacy from Arizona State University. I also received a master's degree from Grand Canyon University in education administration. I was a classroom teacher for 17 years teaching first through third grades, and five summer school seasons as a sixth-grade math teacher. I have spent the last five years as the full-time assistant principal at Esperanza. My husband and I have called Ahwatukee our home for 26 years now where we have raised four children. To round out our family, we have two boxer dogs.

I became an educator because I have a true passion for helping all learners reach their full potential. I look forward to building lasting relationships as we work together, keeping our students at the heart of all our decisions.

Warmly,

Ann Leftwich  
Assistant Principal

---

## Distribution of Technology and Materials



On August 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, families were able to pick up laptops (if needed) and materials to support your child's classroom learning. During the four designated times that were available for pickup, many of our families were able to acquire the necessary resources. We were able to follow up with a few families where the schedule was challenging. Thanks for braving the heat as both days were scorchers. Depending on plans for reopening, there will likely be another opportunity prior to the start of the Second Quarter to pick up the next batch of instructional resources

whether we are still teaching remotely or returning to school in a hybrid (In-school/FLEX) mode.



## Meet the Teacher Night

Mariposa held its first Virtual Meet the Teacher via Zoom on Thursday, August 13, 2020. Though it was a very unconventional approach for your child to meet their teacher, the event went off without a hitch. Most of our families were able to participate in the grade level presentation and then follow-up with their child's teacher with any questions or pertinent information. *\*Please stay tuned for an announcement regarding Curriculum Night where families will be able to learn, in more detail, the grade level expectations for this school year.*



## Letter from our Counselor

Welcome back Challengers!

My name is Jenn Casey and I am the school counselor at Mariposa. I am excited to begin this journey into the 2020-2021 school year. I know there are many unknowns and these times can be a bit overwhelming. As your counselor, I am available to assist students and help with academic, personal, and social emotional needs. I look forward to offering support and resources to students, staff, families and the community. I meet with students individually and in small groups, as well as collaborate with parents, teachers, and staff. Additionally, I consult with community organizations to meet the needs of all students and families at Mariposa.

I am here to help address or provide resources for:

- Social/emotional support and mental health
- Short term, individual and group counseling
- Assistance with food, hygiene, clothes, and school supplies

If you have any questions, concerns, or need assistance please do not hesitate to contact me at [jcasey@kyrene.org](mailto:jcasey@kyrene.org) or at 480-541-3824.

Website: [Meet Jenn Casey, Mariposas School Counselor](#)

Thank you,

Jenn Casey  
Mariposa School Counselor

## Self-Care & Mental Health



Please see below for some resources to help assist you and your family:

McKinney Vento Homeless Liaison  
Leticia Beltran, MSW  
[LBeltran@kyrene.org](mailto:LBeltran@kyrene.org)  
480-541-1523

Family Resource Center (Located next to Kyrene de los Ninos)  
1330 E. Dava Dr.  
Tempe, AZ 85283  
480-541-4772  
Website: [Kyrene Family Resource Center](#)

AZ food bank locator: <http://www.azfoodbanks.org/index.php/foodbank/>





## Notes from Gift Resource and Computer Science

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year, Challengers! I am Ms. Ting the Gifted Resource Teacher/Computer Science Specialist. Though this year may present some unique challenges, it will also bring us many opportunities to learn in innovative ways! Starting our learning journey virtually gives us the chance to be leaders of digital citizenship.



## Hello from your 2020-2021 Mariposa PTO!



We would like to take a moment to welcome Kindergarten families and new families to our awesome community! Mariposa is a great place to learn and make new friends- for students and parents alike. We look forward to the day when we can have community events again at our school and meet you!

The Mariposa PTO is made up of parents and teachers who work together to raise funds for our school and put on community events throughout the school year. This year of course will look a little different from most, but normally we have a Harvest Festival, a big fall fundraiser, Scholastic book fairs, Father/Daughter dance, Mom/Son Kickball game, Astronomy Night and Restaurant Nights to name a few. Fingers crossed we will still be able to have some of these events later this school year!

All Mariposa parents are members of our PTO! Be on the lookout for ways to get involved as the school year gets underway. You can always find us on Facebook: [Mariposa PTO](#) or reach us via email: [kyrenemariposapto@gmail.com](mailto:kyrenemariposapto@gmail.com)

### The Mariposa PTO Board for 2020/2021:

**President:** Amanda Ohlgren

**Secretary:** Sofia Preston

**Treasurer:** Shannon McDonald

**Vice President of Communications:** Lydia Wanke

**Vice President of Fundraising:** Christine Budnik

**Vice President of In School Support:** Heather Larsen

We hope the school year is off to a good start for your family!





## Mariposa Yearbooks

Our 2019-2020 school year didn't wrap-up as we had planned, and families may have missed the opportunity to purchase a yearbook before student learning went virtual in March. We do have a limited supply of extra yearbooks on hand that can be ordered through the front office for \$15.00 each. Payment can be made by cash or by check (made payable to "Mariposa PTO").



---

## Share the Achievements and Celebrations of your Mariposa Challengers!

In this unique 20-21 school year, social media has become the most popular way to share information as well as celebrate our students! If you have any photos or short video clips of your child participating in the online learning classroom, a drawing/artwork they would like to share with our Mariposa community, or even a short clip of your student reading or participating in one of their specials, we may post it on Facebook for their fellow students to see and celebrate along with them!

Send your submissions to: [mariposanews@kyrene.org](mailto:mariposanews@kyrene.org)

Get social with Mariposa via Facebook! Like, Follow, and Share:



---

## \*Important Reminders\*

### Kyrene Family Handbook 2020-21:

Please log-in to your ParentVue account and acknowledge receipt of the Kyrene Family Handbook. You simply type your name in the signature block to let us know you have received the document. The handbook is downloadable right from ParentVue or visit [Kyrene Family Handbook](#).

**Attendance:** Teachers are taking daily attendance as they would during in-person learning. Please call our 24-hour Attendance Line: (480) 541-3801 to report your student's absence.

### School Hours:

Kindergarten - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Monday-Friday, 7:30am - 1:45pm

AM-Preschool 7:30am -10:00am

PM-Preschool 11:15am - 1:45pm

*(No school on Wed for Preschool)*

**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday 7:10am-3:10pm

**Office Phone:** 480-541-3800

## Fun Facts About Mariposa

**Year Built:** 1987

**School Colors:** Red, White and Turquoise

**School Song Lyrics:** [click here](#)

**Motto:** Challengers Can!

**Mascot:** Chip, the Challenger

**Enrollment:** 450

**A+ School of Excellence Award:** 2004, 2009, 2015, 2019



## Chip's Spotlight



Mariposa's Preschoolers enjoying Library and P.E. ~ Virtual style!



#WeAllBelong

#WeAreKyrene

