



Welcome Letter and Information

The Taos Academy Governing Council, Administration, Faculty and Staff would like to welcome both new and returning students and their families back to school! We are looking forward to another strong year with exciting additions to our student body, faculty, curriculum, programming and facility. Thank you for joining us as we continue to grow and innovate!

Taos Academy would like to introduce our new Principal, Dr. Mae LaBella. Dr. LaBella comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience. She is looking forward to getting to know Taos Academy and supporting new opportunities for students and teachers. Welcome to the TA team, Dr. LaBella!!

Ms. E will still be around, not to worry. Elizabeth has resigned her role as principal at TA and has moved into a contracted consulting/training position. This is allowing her more time to pursue other educational interests while still supporting TA. We will continue to see Ms E and work closely with her for the transition and beyond. We are grateful to have Ms LeBlanc's historical knowledge of TA continuing to help guide us and for her willingness to support our goals into the future.

Another new face at TA is Ms. Mary Diggin who is our new Technology Director. Ms. Diggin comes with experience in educational technology as well as other experience in overall technology operations. Mary has been working closely with Kenny Shannon for many months now and is ready to take the helm in the technology department. Kenny Shannon is also off to pursue bigger aspirations in the tech field and we wish him all the best in his new endeavors.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

Please review the attached 2024-2025 school calendar and supply list that accompanies this newsletter. More information follows below for you to be able to plan ahead. Please feel free to contact Amy Lucero if you have any questions or need further help at 575-751-3109 or alucero@taosacademy.org

Check out our website with this information as well as much more at www.taosacademy.org.



New Family Orientation

SAVE THE DATE: Taos Academy will be hosting **New Family Orientation** for all incoming families here on the TA campus.

- Grades 5 - 8: New Family Orientation for middle schoolers will be held on Wednesday, August 7th from 9 am to 1 pm.
- Grades 9 - 12: New Family Orientation for high schoolers will be held on Thursday, August 8th from 9 am to 1 pm.

Please make plans now to attend this mandatory instructional day to meet your students' teachers and our staff, learn about your child's schedule for the first few weeks, and to explore our academic expectations and policies. Students participating in our College Link program may have an additional training time.

HIGH SCHOOL STARTS THE WEEK OF:

Monday, August 12th – Thursday, August 15th

School starts at 8am and ends at 4pm

Monday 8/12 - School starts at 8 am and concludes at 4 pm for **High School only** this week. Students will participate in orientation activities and begin coursework.

Tuesday 8/13 - School starts at 8am and concludes at 4 pm for **High School only** this week. Students will participate in orientation activities and begin coursework.

Wednesday 8/14 - **This is a TENTATIVE schedule and subject to change. Schedule will be confirmed in the August newsletter.**

- **Grade 9:** Will be participating in the Rocky Mountain Youth Corp Challenge Course. Students will meet at 8 am at Taos Academy Campus. Pick up is at 3 pm at Taos Academy.
- **Grade 10:** Attend Taos Academy as scheduled with their advisor for meetings and to engage in their assigned TA online coursework.
- **Grade 11:** Will meet at the Rio Grande Visitor's Center in Pilar at 8:30 am to raft the Rio Grande "Racecourse" with Los Rios River Runners. Parents and/or students will be responsible for transportation and lunch.
- **Grade 12:** Attend Taos Academy for advisory meetings, to develop weekly schedules, get set up in classes, and engage in their assigned TA online coursework.



Thursday 8/15

- **Grade 9:** Attend Taos Academy as scheduled with their advisor for meetings and to engage in their assigned TA online coursework.
- **Grade 10:** Will be participating in Outdoor Education activities in Taos Ski Valley. Drop off is at 8 am at TSV at the base of Lift 4 and pick up is at 3 pm.
- **Grade 11:** Attend Taos Academy for advisory meetings, to develop weekly schedules, get set up in classes, and engage in their assigned TA online coursework.
- **Grade 12:** Will meet at the Rio Grande Visitor's Center in Pilar at 8:30 am to raft the Rio Grande "Racecourse" with Los Rios River Runners. Parents and/or students will be responsible for transportation and lunch.

* College Link: Ms. Patricia Meagher and Ms. Kelci Pike will be working with you to develop your TA schedules during this Orientation Week based on your UNM classes as well as Enrichment and Capstone obligations. Please plan to attend full days for Orientation.

PLEASE NOTE that Monday 8/19 through Thursday 8/22, high school students will NOT be attending TA campus. They will be engaging with their online coursework and are required to stay on target with their pacing calendar for their digital coursework in Edgenuity. Students may attend the Student Success Lab at Taos Academy Monday through Thursday from 8-12, if needed.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STARTS THE WEEK OF:

Monday, August 19th – Thursday, 23rd

School starts at 8am and ends at 4pm

Monday 8/19: School starts at 8am and concludes at 4pm for ALL middle school students, 5th-8th grades. Students will participate in a full day of orientation activities and begin coursework.

Tuesday 8/20: All middle school students on campus at 8 am. 5th and 6th graders will be dismissed at 12 noon for their outdoor leadership activities and overnight camping trip. 7th and 8th graders will remain on campus for the day to continue orientation until 4 pm.

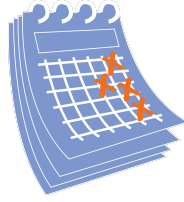
Wednesday 8/21: 5th and 6th graders will continue on their outdoor leadership trip. Pickup and location TBA. 7th and 8th graders will be dismissed at 12 noon for their outdoor leadership activities and overnight camping trip.

Thursday 8/23: 7th and 8th graders will continue on their outdoor leadership trip. Pickup and location TBA. 5th and 6th graders will return to TA campus for the remainder of their orientation week from 8 am til 4 pm.



Please note: Families will be responsible for transportation to and from camping

sites. In addition to the items on their gear list, students will need a sack lunch.



ALL STUDENTS:

Monday, August 26th – Thursday, August 29th

Beginning the week of August 26th, students will attend TA on their regularly scheduled days. Middle school students attend campus on Monday and Wednesday from 8 am to 4 pm; high school students attend Tuesday and Thursday from 8 am to 4 pm. College Link will be scheduled around the UNM schedule.

***PLEASE NOTE: September 2nd is Labor Day and the school is closed. This week only, middle school students will attend Wednesday 9/4 and Friday 9/6.**

GET INVOLVED

Community Council/Foundation Board Meeting

Parents interested in joining the community council or foundation board, please attend our first meeting on Wednesday, August 28th at 4:30.

If you have any questions feel free to call or email the contacts below:

Amy Lucero - Front office manager: alucero@taosacademy.org

Lisa Joseph - ljoseph@taosacademy.org

Jamie Lucero-Martinez - Equity Council Lead - jlucermartinez@taosacademy.org

Special Education

If you are joining Taos Academy for the upcoming school year and your child has an IEP, please assist us in getting the transfer process started by dropping off or sharing digitally the last evaluation and current IEP. If you have any questions or want to check in, we are happy to meet with you. We can be reached at 575-751-3109 ext: 104.

Sarah Bradley

Special Education Director

sbradley@taosacademy.org

Jeanette Henshaw

TA Special Education Coordinator

jhenshaw@taosacademy.org