



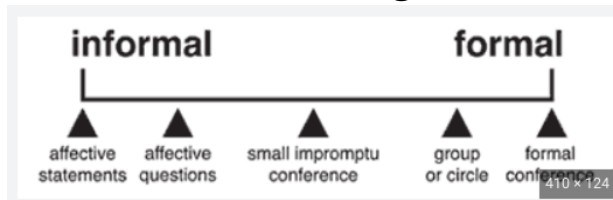
Dear TA Parents and Students -

Happy Spring, everyone! We hope all of our students, families, and community had a wonderful and well-deserved Spring Break. As you know, we are now in the last quarter of the school year. Hang on - the school year will fly by!

Please stay in close touch with your student's teachers and advisers as we work to finish the school year strong. We will also be sharing information about our summer school program and other summer learning programs over the next few weeks and months. Read on for more!

Middle School Dance and Fun on April 10, 2024: We will begin at 5:30 pm and go until 7:30pm. The event is free! We will have other activities besides dancing for all our students to feel welcome! Please make sure you drop your child at 5:30pm and pick up at 7:30pm. We will provide snacks and lots of fun.

Restorative Practices: Restorative Conferencing



Restorative conferences and groups take place with all age levels and with various advisors - to problem solve and remain accountable to each other with dignity. This shows how much students and staff have grown into becoming restorative practitioners.

When things get hard, students and staff meet in conferences, groups and circles to work WITH the relationship and trust we have in each other.

In the last six years, Taos Academy Staff and Students have built up to this. **It's really happening. During the current school year, Mr. Richert has led 21 group circles or formal restorative conferences with students, parents, and staff.**

We conduct school to promote the life skills of developing Relationships, Responsibility, and Respect; and, when harm occurs, to Repair.

Bilingual Seal Presentations

Senior students who have been prepping this year in a language other than English will share their presentations in front of a panel of bilingual Spanish/English educators and community members on the morning of April 3rd. By doing so and earning a passing score, these seniors will be awarded the New Mexico State Seal of Bilingualism and Biliterycy on their high school diplomas. Best of luck to all!



STATE ASSESSMENTS:

Please mark your calendar! New Mexico's Required Statewide Student Assessment dates are here. All listed assessments must be administered in-person and on campus. The following is a brief description of upcoming dates and grades that will be testing:

- **Measures of Student Success and Achievement**

The MSSA measures Math and Language Arts proficiency and is required annually.

- 5th - 8th grade NM-MSSA testing days are: Monday, April 1st and Wednesday, April 3rd, 2024.

- **SAT School Day**

The SAT is a national assessment developed by The College Board to measure knowledge and skills that can consistently predict a student's success in college and workforce training programs. The SAT is administered annually to all students in 11th grade.

- 11th grade test date: April 2nd, 2024.

- **Assessment of Science Readiness (ASR)**

The ASR measures science proficiency aligned to the New Mexico STEM Ready! Science Standards. The assessment is required annually for students in grades 5, 8 and 11.

- 5th & 8th ASR testing days are: Monday, April 15th and Wednesday, April 17th, 2024.
- 11th ASR testing days are: Tuesday, April 16th and Thursday, April 18th, 2024.



You're invited to connect with other TA Families and Parents! Several of our awesome Taos Academy parents have started a Family Facebook Group to help learn, connect, and support each other. Please join for great info and a place to ask questions.

HS Student Advisory Council Updates

HIGH SCHOOL PROM



Taos Academy Prom will be held on Saturday, April 27th, 2024 from 8pm to 11pm at Taos Academy. The theme this year is Starry Night. Tickets are now on sale in the STEM office. \$15 per person. All tickets must be purchased in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door. Guests of TA students must provide ID in advance to verify name and age.

*Prom Royalty Requirements: Those interested in tuning for prom court MUST CAMPAIGN in order to be eligible. To register for Prom Royalty court email jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org by April 18th, 2024.

Campaign Dates: April 22nd thru 26th. Voting for prom royalty will take place at PROM.

HS SAC Annual Spring Blood Drive: Thursday, May 9th from 10a.m. to 2p.m. will host our Spring Blood Drive with Vitalant NM. To make an appointment go to vitalant.org. When scheduling an appointment select **Blood Drive Code: TaosACS**

SENIOR Night & Robing Ceremony: An evening to celebrate the graduating class of 2024 hosted by the HS SAC will take place on Tuesday, May 14th, 2023 at 5:30p.m.. Seniors and their families are invited.



SENIOR FUNDRAISER ON APRIL 13th at the WILDFLOWER Theater. Doors open at 5:30pm and the movie will start at 6pm. The movie that will be featured is GREASE. Tickets are \$10 a person and we will be selling baked goods. All proceeds will go toward the Senior class of 2024.



Yearbook

Purchase your Taos Academy 2023-2024 Yearbook today! To Purchase & Customize Your Yearbook

Go to: <https://www.treering.com/purchase?PassCode=101390232849386> and Enter your school's **passcode:101390232849386**. Regular Price is \$21.29*Does not include sales tax, if applicable. Deadline to order is April 19th, 2023 for delivery the week of May 9th. Purchases after April 19th will be delivered to your home address. **Students:** Mrs. Lucero-Martinez is seeking your help gathering Student Activity Photos and Flex Academy Student photos. If you participate in an activity/sport outside of school please email your photos to be included in the yearbook. Last chance for your photos to be included is April 15th, 2023.

**** DUAL CREDIT ****

For all incoming 9th-12th grade students: If you are interested in or curious about taking a dual credit class through UNM Taos or CNM this summer or next Fall, please reach out to Miss Pike ASAP! Students will need to meet one-on-one with the dual credit team to find a class that fits their schedule and aligns with their goals and interests.



UNM Taos Spring Fling is April 12th from 10 am-2 pm! Students, parents, and families are invited to attend the event hosted at UNM Taos Klauer Campus. Food, prizes, and class demos will be offered. *This event focuses on encouraging high school students to take advantage of college opportunities.*



COLLEGE LINK current students, as well as prospective College Link students, should sign up for a meeting with Ms. Pike and Mrs. Meagher throughout April to discuss classes for the next academic year. The sign-up sheet has been shared with all Advisors, and they can help you access it.

SENIORS are approaching a ceremony that is one of our most important rites of passage in the U.S. However, graduation marks the next big step into young adulthood and the world of work and/or post-secondary university studies.

Here are some great resources for planning for college:

11th-graders

- Values Exercise (video): Spend some time thinking about your core values by working through this simple exercise. Your answers may help drive how you spend your summer ahead.
- How to research colleges without visiting a campus: Learning more about colleges is an exciting and time-intensive process. Make sure to expand your search beyond your local public universities—and use your values as a guide.
- Colleges That Change Lives: As you build your college list, consider this set of 44 schools that focus on providing a personalized, student-centered experience. Listen to this podcast, and check out upcoming events.
- Explore colleges with 800+ lists: Use this fun online, searchable database from CollegeXpress, which covers everything from academic environments to school spirit.
- Think about financial fit: Experiment with the Net Price Calculator to get a rough estimate of what you might likely have to pay for college.

12th-graders

- Continue applying for scholarships. Check in with your counselor to apply for any local scholarships you might have missed.
- Appealing financial aid: Read up on what to do if your financial aid offer doesn't line up with your budget. And make sure to listen to this podcast before writing an appeal letter.
- Making your final college choice: It's decision time! Make sure you check with the college you are attending to make sure all your paperwork and deposits are completed and submitted.



The March progress report has been posted and was due March 8th. May progress reports will be posted the 1st week of May. Both progress reports are required to receive an A grade.

If you are new to TA or you have just started a new internship please come talk to Mr. J. Weisfeld ASAP for an orientation. Internship will not be allowed until each candidate has done an orientation with Mr. J Weisfeld. Only after new students have been oriented, will they be invited to join the Internship Classroom.

All forms and information will be turned in to the Internship Classroom. DO NOT email forms to Mr. J as he cannot turn them in. Only students in the classroom can turn in forms. In order to begin an internship, each student must do an orientation and then accept the invite and submit all digital forms to this classroom. No more paper forms please. Students keep paper copies for their records.

Taos Academy's Internship Program gives elective credit to high school students who are volunteering in the community, participating in a sports program, or gaining job experience. In order to receive credit, students must have the business or organization they are working with and parent/guardian fill out these forms and documentation or hours:

1. [“Memorandum of Understanding”](#)
2. [“Internship Agreement”](#)
3. [Summer](#), Fall ([October](#) and [December](#)), Spring ([March](#) and [May](#)) progress reports (1 for summer, 2 per fall and spring semester)

***If an internship is outside the TA community (not eSports, Science Club,) then follow the below process to turn in forms:

1. Print from the Classroom or get a copies from Mr. J.
2. Fill out forms and get signatures in pen.
3. Download the Google Classroom app.
4. Take photographs of the signed documents then turn each photograph in to the Internship Classroom.
5. Each document **MUST** be turned in to the appropriate dated assignment and will not be given credit until they are in their correct assignment (ie-don't turn in the Memorandum into the Agreement assignment)

*Students/families keep the paper copies for their records.

The “Memorandum of Understanding” is signed by TA’s director and by the business/organization/team at which the student is interning. This document is an agreement between the school and the business and it protects the business while students are participating in the internship.

The “Internship Agreement” is a form that details the volunteer, sports, or job opportunity. It must be signed by the student, mentor, coach or job supervisor, the parent, and TA’s director.

The “Progress Reports” are dated and must be completed by the supervising party-2 for each semester of internship credit (only one progress report is needed for a summer internship) and must include a supervisor signature and hours. Progress reports that are turned late, risk the loss of internship credit.

For Fall/Spring:

Both progress reports turned in on time= A grade

Only one progress report on time= C grade

No progress report=No credit

Summer Progress Reports only require one signature and will be completed once school starts in the fall.

All parties must provide their contact information for the form to be considered complete.

If a form is missing or incomplete, a student will not receive credit for their internship. Contact Mr. Weisfeld at jweisfeld@taosacademy.org if you have any questions.



Middle School Plus: Please make your 4th quarter plans for attendance in our program. Students participate in an Intramural program and a variety of other activities. Students may attend all day or part

of the day. For more information contact Mr. van Willigen.



Special Education Department: As we get ready to wrap up the school year, we are scheduling April and May IEP meetings. Our senior students will attend an Exit IEP meeting with a Summary of Performance to put in place support services for college or on the job training. Look for your child's end of year goal progress notes to come home in the mail with their final transcripts at the end of May or beginning of June.

As always, we are here to support your child's academic success. Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Sarah Bradley | Special Education Director | sbradley@taosacademy.org |
| Jeanette Henshaw | Special Education Coordinator | jhenshaw@taosacademy.org |
| Patricia Meagher | Gifted Coordinator/Teacher | pmeagher@taosacademy.org |



National Honor Society

There are still many opportunities both in school and outside in the community to make sure all members have the required ten service hours completed by the end of May!
Check with your Advisor to see upcoming service opportunities!

Counselor's Corner

College and Career Planning

Parents and Guardians, your role is huge when it comes to supporting your student's exploration of College & Career opportunities at any age. Please visit our counseling page for

updates and information to get students ready for their next step.

<https://www.taosacademy.org/Counseling.aspx>

Juniors College Planning:

- Studying for the SATs-Juniors will take it on April 2nd. This will open the door for college and scholarships. To study for the SATs you will first create a College Board account here <https://account.collegeboard.org/login/signUp> After that you can take practice tests which link up to Khan Academy to study. They also have many scholarship opportunities through College Board by completing tasks. <https://pages.collegeboard.org/big-future-scholarships>
- Students can also set up an appointment with Bridges Project. They give individual attention in planning for senior year and college. Reach out to them directly. This is a great time to get started <http://bridgesproject.org/students/#workwithus>
- Understanding Financial Aid is another step to help you learn about how to fund your education after high school. <https://studentaid.gov/h/understand-aid>

For Seniors College Planning:

- Apply for college and scholarships. Your school counselors can help edit essays, get your transcripts ready, and answer any questions about applying for college and/or scholarships. Deadlines for many local scholarships are in April, don't wait, you can't win scholarships if you don't apply. Most scholarships require 2 reference letters (ask teachers who know you well, coaches, boss etc), personal resume, transcripts. Bridges Project sent [this list over](#) for local scholarships or visit the TA scholarship page: <https://www.taosacademy.org/Scholarships.aspx>
- Apply for Financial Aid by completing your FAFSA: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>



<https://www.nmeaf.org/money-mondays>

The NM Legislative Lottery Scholarship is available to all NM graduates. The scholarship will now pay 100% of tuition at any NM college or university. It will begin the second semester of college but there are many scholarships that are called Bridges to Lottery that will pay for the first semester. Once a student is accepted to a college/university they will award the scholarships automatically. Here is the website with complete information. <https://hed.state.nm.us/financial-aid/scholarships/legislative-lottery>



Taos Academy Community School and Council Update



Families are invited to attend TA Community Council meetings to learn about our Community School, Parent Advisory, and Equity Council. You may attend in person or with the google meet. Training for parents is offered at the beginning of the meeting starting at 4:15 from TA teachers. Your children are welcome to attend with you. If they are students, they may participate in the meeting, work on Edgenuity, or use a computer for an educational game. STEAM-based education in collaboration with TWIRL is available during the meeting. Contact Lisa Joseph, Community School Coordinator at ljoseph@taosacademy.org to have your children participate in this exciting program. **Look for the next meeting agenda to be distributed before the April 24 meeting. Review the minutes from the last meeting at the end of this newsletter. We look forward to your participation!**

We are asking you to email ljoseph@taosacademy.org with any questions you may have about our community school and share any insights you have about how we can better support and serve our TA families. Please let Ms. Joseph know of your availability to volunteer in our school and what kinds of help you can provide to us



- 4/1-4/30 - State Testing Window TBA - No Extended Leave Granted.**
- 4/08 - Governing Council**
- 4/19 - Teacher In-Service (No School)**
- 4/24 - Parent Advisory**
- 4/27 - A Starry Night HS Prom**



- 5/03 - STEM Art+ Ends / Activity Day / Gala**
- 5/08-5/14 – Finals Week**
- 5/9 - Blood Drive**
- 5/13 Governing Council**
- 5/14 - Senior Robing Ceremony @5:30p.m.**
- 5/15 - 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony @5:30p.m.**
- 5/17 - Last Day of School for Seniors (½ Day) Graduation @ 2:00**
- 5/20-5/21 - Outdoor Learning**
- 5/22-5/24 - Teacher In-Service**
- 5/? - Summer School Orientation TBA**

TA Community Council MEETING Minutes 4:15-5:30

Wednesday, March 27, 2024
Taos Academy: On Campus and Virtual
110 Paseo Del Canon West Taos, NM

575-751-3109

Taos Academy Community Council Meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of each month. The TA Community Council is a forum for community input, parent voice and family participation. The mission of the committee is to help move the organization forward with strategic planning, quality assurance, and family service. Please review the norms, roles and agenda to further understand the structure of the meeting. Thank you for your partnership!

Join with Google Meet
meet.google.com/mqi-rcyk-hug
Join by phone

(US) +1 470-241-4954 PIN: 422 662 315#

Meeting Norms: Respect time, come with solutions, win-win, champion a committee and help spread information and resources to students and families.

- Community Schools goals- Increase collaboration with our community partners.
- Parent Advisory goals - Parents sharing ideas and concerns, championing a committee, finding a place in the school where you can contribute, encouraging other parents to participate.
- Equity Council goals - Bridging the gap for servicing subgroups and the needs for equity in educational opportunities. Cultural responsiveness is part of the process for this group and working on a positive school culture.

TA Community Council Meeting Info:

Meeting Agenda:

4:15 Attendance - Lisa Joseph, Dr. Traci Filiss, Jamie Lucero-Martinez, Mishell Cho, April DeHerrera, Melissa Montoya, Nicholl Sanchez-Pacheco, Dorota Whitney, Jason Weisfeld, Kelci Pike, Gwen Thibadeau, Tami Martinson, Mark Richert, Melissa Salazar, Cruz Duran , Steve Falconi

4:15-5:30 Discussion items:

- Community Schools: Review of Key Practice : Powerful Student and Family Engagement - grant application to support salaries to continue community schools initiative. Please complete the survey regarding the community school.

Thank you to Mishell and Melissa for creating and moderating the parent information facebook

group. So far 7 parents have joined the group. Focus transitioning and on-boarding parents. Jamie will send the testing schedule to be posted in the group.

April 24th Meeting- 4:15 April 23rd - Melissa Salazar will handout flyers during pick-up

May 8th meeting - 4:15 focus group with George Otero. May 7 - Melissa Salazar will handout flyers during pick-up

- Parent Advisory:
SWIFT presentation Key Practice 1: Powerful Student and Family Engagement - Supporting your student for the upcoming testing.
- STEM Director's Report - Last day to Add/ Drop a Middle School 4th quarter STEM class is today! Drops must be done in writing to Jamie Lucero-Martinez
- Saturday April 13th senior fundraiser. Come watch Grease at the Wildflower
- April 10th, 5:30-7:30 Middle School Social. \$1334 was raised by the MS student council to provide the event. No cover charge. Games, dance lessons, photo booth, food, etc.
- Saturday, April 27th 8-11p.m. Starry Night Prom.
- Spring testing updates- Testing begins April 1st for Middle School.

- Equity Council:
 - Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Framework community questions:
 1. What is one thing you wish the school knew about the students in the community that would help the school serve them better?
 - a. Individual world view - special situations and where students come from.(MC)
 - b. Affects of Covid on students and how students are still adjusting to the new normal. Changes to relationships and socialization. Long term impacts. Trauma of losing time. (MS)
 - c. Awareness of how students are impacted by the media. What are they watching and the connections.

○ Work session- April 30th 4:15p.m

- Next Meeting Agenda Items
Budget, Calendar, Graduation, Finals, Summer School, Outdoor leadership trips, etc.
TA Community Council MEETING 4:15-5:30
Wednesday, April 24, 2024
May 8 Focus Meeting
Community Schools
Lisa Joseph -Community School Coordinator
SBLT/CS SWIFT Representative-rotational

Presentation on one of the Six Key Practices
Community Partner Collaboration report

Parent Advisory
All TA community welcome
Equity Council
Traci Filiss Executive Director
Jamie Lucero-Martinez - Program Lead
Cruz Duran,- Multilingual Learning,
Tami Martinson - Economically
Disadvantaged
Elizabeth LeBlanc - Disabilities
Tanya Martinez-Gurule
Other needs - student representation by
HS SAC Rep. - Angel Valencia

Focusing Questions:

- Are we aware of the ways in which our equity lens is impacted by our individual, institutional, and systemic biases?
- Does the work resulting from our equity lens foster improvement at all of the following levels: individual, institutional and systemic?
- Do we have structures in place to ensure that the work resulting from the equity lens is collaborative and transparent across the institution?

Next Meeting: April 2024