



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 8th, 2025.

- **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.

- March 26th -April 1st, 2025. Make-up testing will continue as needed.



The Northeastern New Mexico Regional Science and Engineering Fair was held March 22nd, 2025, at New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas, New Mexico. Taos Academy was represented by STEM Research and Development instructor and sponsor Laura Tenorio and eleven students; All first, second and third placers have qualified for the New Mexico State Science and Engineering Fair. The results are as follows:

**Junior Division (Middle School)**

- Tanis Bower - 1st Place, Energy and Transportation,
- Noah Wodrich - Honorable Mention – Chemistry

**Senior Division (High School)**

**1st place:**

- Idania Gutierrez -Environmental Engineering
- Mario Moraga-Flores - Biochemistry
- John LeBlanc - Materials Science
- Kylee Mondragon - Cellular and Molecular Biology
- Evan Pena - Senior Chemistry
- Eliana Sanchez - Animal Sciences
- Cash Wodrich - Energy and Transportation

**2nd Place:**

- Joel Saltzman - Senior Physics and Astronomy

**Special Awards**

- Climate Change Award: Cash Wodrich, Tanis Bower
- American Chemical Society Award: Tanis Bower
- \*Best in Show\* - Trip to the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), Columbus, Ohio, May 11-16, 2025. Congratulations Dillan Uphoff!

## **HS Student Advisory Council Updates**

### **HIGH SCHOOL PROM**



Taos Academy Prom will be held on Saturday, May 3rd, 2025 from 8pm to 11pm at Taos Academy. The theme this year is Renaissance Masquerade. 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 and complete the Principal verification form.

**\*Prom Royalty Requirements:** Those interested in running for prom court **MUST CAMPAIGN** in order to be eligible. To register for Prom Royalty court email

[jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org](mailto:jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org) by April 24th, 2025.

Campaign Dates: April 28th thru May 1st. Voting for prom royalty will take place at PROM.

**HS SAC Annual Spring Blood Drive:** Thursday, May 6th from 10a.m. to 2p.m. will host our Spring Blood Drive with Vitalant NM. To make an appointment go to [vitalant.org](http://vitalant.org). When scheduling an appointment select **Blood Drive Code: TaosACS**

**SENIOR Night & Robing Ceremony:** An evening to celebrate the graduating class of 2025 hosted by the HS SAC will take place on Tuesday, May 13th, 2025 at 5:30p.m.. Seniors and their families are invited.



### **SENIOR FUNDRAISER - BAKE SALE!**

**APRIL 11th!**

**2:00 - 6:00**

**at Cid's**

**Donations gladly accepted!**

**If donating, please individually bag a few items for sale!**

**All proceeds will go toward graduation festivities for the Senior class of 2025.**

### **Yearbook**

Purchase your Taos Academy 2024-2025 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

\$23.85\*Does not include sales tax, if applicable. Deadline to order is April

19th, 2025 for delivery the week of May 10th. 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 10th, 2025.

## **\*\* DUAL CREDIT \*\***

**For all incoming 9th- 12th-grade students:** If you are interested in taking a dual-credit class through UNM Taos or CNM this summer or next Fall, you must meet with Miss Pike before finals week. **A spreadsheet for times to meet with her will be sent to students once the UNM schedule is published.** 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. *Parents are highly encouraged to attend these meetings!*



**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 will be 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 was posted in the classroom and announcements were made in 2 separate morning meetings and was due March 8th. If students did not submit their March progress report then they will receive a C grade on their TA transcripts for spring semester.

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 into 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 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 into 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](mailto:jweisfeld@taosacademy.org) if you have any questions.

## Middle School

**Middle School Plus:** Please make your 4th quarter plans for attendance in our program. Students participate in 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
Jeanette Henshaw	Special Education Coordinator
Patricia Meagher	Gifted Coordinator/Teacher

<a href="mailto:sbradley@taosacademy.org">sbradley@taosacademy.org</a>
<a href="mailto:jhenshaw@taosacademy.org">jhenshaw@taosacademy.org</a>
<a href="mailto:pmeagher@taosacademy.org">pmeagher@taosacademy.org</a>



## National Honor Society

Members of our Taos Academy chapter did an awesome job this past March 1 volunteering at the Town of Taos' Annual Dr Seuss Event.

A lot of amazing balloon animals were handed out to excited kids, as well as some very artistic face painting.

Members will have opportunities to donate their time and efforts to our next events: A Bake Sale at Cid's from 2:00 - 6:00 on April 11, as well as setting up/cleaning up Prom and Graduation Events.

Baked good donations will be gladly accepted!

Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday, April 3 at 12:00 in CTE I.

## *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.



## Counseling - Taos Academy

### Juniors College Planning:

- Studying for the SATs-Juniors will take it on April 8th. This will open the door for college and scholarships. To study for the SATs you will first create a College Board account here [Account Sign Up - College Board](#) 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 counselor 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. Visit the TA scholarship page: [Scholarships](#)
- Apply for Financial Aid by completing your FAFSA: [FAFSA® Application | Federal Student Aid](#)



<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 Deborah E. Branchal,, Community School Coordinator at [dbranchal@taosacademy.org](mailto:dbranchal@taosacademy.org) to have your children participate in this exciting program. **Look for the next meeting agenda to be distributed before the April 30 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 [dbranchal@taosacademy.org](mailto:dbranchal@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 Mrs. Branchal 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.**

**4/14 - Governing Council**

**4/16 - Senior Family Meeting 5pm**

**4/30 - Community Council 4:15pm**



**5/01 - STEM Art+ Ends / Activity Day / Gala / Remote Day**

**5/03 - HS Prom 8-11pm**

**5/12 Governing Council**

**5/12-5/15 – Finals Week**

**5/13 - Senior Robing Ceremony 5:30 pm**

**5/14- 8th grade promotion**

**5/16 - Graduation 2pm**

**5/19 - 5/21 - Outdoor Learning / Activities**

TA Community Council MEETING 4:15 –5:30

Wednesday March 26th, 2025

Taos Academy

110 Paseo Del Canon West

Taos, NM

575-751-3109

*Taos Academy Parent Advisory Meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month. The Advisory committee welcomes parent participation. The mission of the committee is to help move the organization forward with strategic planning and quality assurance. Please review the norms, roles and agenda to further understand the structure of the meeting. Thank you and we look forward to ideas related to our mission.*

TA Community Council Meeting Info:

[Join with Google Meet](#) 

Taos Academy Community Council

Wednesday, March 26th · 4:15 – 5:15pm MST

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/kmf-qwdi-hkb>

Or dial: (US) +1 650-667-3280 PIN: 837 295 052#

Attendance: Jamie Lucero Martinez, Deborah Branchal, Jason Weisfeld, Dorota Witney, Dr. Denisha Moodley, Robert Smith, Mary May, Emmett Moulton, Billy Pepper, Tami Martinson, Kelsey Connel, Erica Olson-Hensley, Dr. Mary Diggin, Dr. Mae LaBella, Dr. Traci Filiss, Nicole Sanchez-Pacheco, Cruz Duran

**Meeting Agenda:**

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.
- **At Risk 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.

**Meeting Agenda:**

**4:15-5:30 Discussion items:**

- Instructional Update: Summer School Registration- registration package will be going out early April.
  - Principal update - Getting ready for testing and end of year exams.
    - We are meeting with representatives from “Turn it in” plagiarism checker and how students will be using this application.
    - Senior capstone presentations will take place on May 1st. Students present on their competency of nine essential skills through an area of their choosing. Career and Tech based activities.
    - 8th Grade CAV courses regarding health, reproduction, and healthy relationships are on-going. Class will end on April 10th.
  - State Testing Dates:
    - NM-ASR - Science test March 26-April 1st All 5th, 8th, and 11th grades
    - NM- MSSA - Math, Reading and Writing April 7th & 14th all middle school
    - College Board SAT - Math, Reading and Writing April 8th for all 11th grade
    - End of Year MAP testing - Math and Reading for all grades End of April -May
- Facility Update: Construction in progress, Courtyard sails will be installed next week.

- Community Schools: Twirl activities for students and children, led by Amber, currently we have seven middle school students and two other children participating. Activities will return in April.
  - Four 12th graders will present their Portfolio for Bilingual Seal on April 25th. Students need 2+ years of a foreign language and must demonstrate their ability in
- Returning Student Forms emailed by March 3rd due April 3rd. Lottery April 9th
- April at a glance:
  - Testing
  - Spring Budget
  - Senior Bake Sale On April 11th at Cids
  - Prom date has been changed to May 3rd, 8-11pm
  - 6th grade Gallery Walk Monday, March 31st in STEM 3:00-3:30 TA, 3:30-4 Parents Please sign -in at the office.
- Student Activity Updates:
  - Prom Date Change - Saturday May, 3rd from 8-11pm
  - NHS and Senior class will host a bake sale at Cids on Friday, April 11th from 2-6pm
- Parent Comments and Questions:
  - Budget plan changes include: Edge X(to include foreign languages), Turn-it in, Naviance(Career planning/prep and Next Step Plans), Budget considerations: Request for adjustable chairs for % classes. Worktours software, Teacher resources- MAP options addition to Khan Academy,Khanmigo AI tutoring-guides. magicschool.ai(both free and subscription services)
- Next meeting agenda items: Budget, calendar, FAEA, title funds

#### **Equity Council: Agenda Meeting February 26th, 2025**

### **At Risk Council**

Taos Academy is seeking presenters for our upcoming cultural celebrations. These celebrations will be held during our monthly community council meetings. If you are interested in presenting or have a contact for a great presenter please contact Jamie Lucero-Martinez, At Risk Council -Equity Lead [jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org](mailto:jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org)

- March 26th: Women's History Month Celebration - Guest Speaker - postponed
  - April 30th: Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration

Traci Filiss Executive Director
Jamie Lucero-Martinez - Program Lead
Deborah Branchal,Cruz Duran,- Multilingual Learning
Tami Martinson - Economically Disadvantaged
Tanya Martinez-Gurule-Disabilities
Other needs - student representation by HS SAC Rep.

**Attendance: See Above.**