



Welcome back, TA Community!

We hope that everyone had a restful, gratitude-filled Fall Break! We are approaching the end of the first semester and the TA teachers and staff would like to say CONGRATULATIONS to our students for their hard work. As our students are completing their classes, please remember to take some time to celebrate their accomplishments! **Don't forget that after winter break we have our Winter Activity Days. These days are instructional days on our school calendar and they are a great way to start the second semester at TA!**



STEM Arts Theatre Performances

On Wednesday, **December 11th, 2024**, Taos Academy STEM+Arts presents Dinner Theatre featuring "The Poe Plays" and "Check Please: Take 3." Doors open at 4:40 pm and performances begin at 5:00 pm in the Main Lab.

Celebration of Learning:

Thursday, December 12th, 2024 2:00-4:00 pm. Taos Academy will be hosting our Celebration of Learning evening. Please join us to celebrate our students' hard work in an afternoon filled with student presentations.



FINAL EXAMS: As a reminder, all final exams must be taken at TA, in our proctored setting. Students should be working over these next few weeks to make sure that they have:

- complete notes for all classes
- 100% of coursework up to the final completed
- ALL projects, lab reports, essays, and performance tasks done

Final exams will not be opened by the Advisor until each item has been done.

Final exams will be held on Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, and Thursday (December 16-19).

Monday and Wednesday are middle school days for testing and Tuesday and Thursday are high school days, just like our regular school schedule.

Please note: *When students are all done with their cumulative exams, they are done for the semester, and will need to be picked up. Thank you!*

WINTER ACTIVITY DAYS

Please review the option that best suits your needs and goals and let us know your choice by signing up [HERE](#) if you have not done so already. As a reminder, these are required school days. Drop off and pick up are at Taos Academy each day.

1) **Skiing/Snowboarding at TSV:** Monday, January 6th - Friday, January 10th. If you have a pass and gear, please simply show up and check in with our TA chaperones when you arrive, during the day, and before you leave. If you need a pass and gear, TSV's school program includes a lift ticket for each of the five days, rental gear, and a mandatory half-day lesson that students must commit to attending each day. Please fill out the needed forms and pay using this link [before](#) Dec. 13th: Cost: \$175.

You must register your child for the ski program via this JotForm link:

<https://form.jotform.com/taossnowsportsschool/2025-taos-academy-self>

2) **Free Ride Option:** If you already have a pass at any other ski area in our region, your own gear, and a responsible adult who will vouch for you, you can also ski or ride at the area of your choice for these three days. Send a picture of your pass to document these days!

3). **Snowshoeing:** We have 10 snowshoes available for students, but if you have your own pair, then we can take more students! January 7th (Tuesday) & January 8th (Wednesday) on campus -- these will be the days for students to complete cumulative exams if they had extensions granted by their advisor before the break. January 9th and 10th we will meet at a trailhead (TBD based on weather conditions) for a day of snowshoeing. Students will need to dress appropriately and bring lunch!

4). **On Campus Rotation:** January 7th (Tuesday) & January 8th (Wednesday) on campus -- these will be the days for students to complete cumulative exams if they had extensions granted by their advisor before the break.

January 9th (Thursday) HS activity day on campus.

January 10th (Friday) MS activity day on campus.

The schedule for activity days TBA, but we will have some fun options for students - all of which will be on campus!



STEM+Arts Institute classes end December 12th, 2024. New classes will be announced January 13th and will begin January 20th, 2025. There will be absolutely no registration prior to January 13th. Please join us for the Celebration of Learning on Thursday, December 12th from 2:00-4:00 pm!



Special Education: Wow, this semester has flown by! All of our ancillary services will end this semester the week before finals on December 12th and will begin again the week after Winter Activities on January 13th. Goal Progress notes will be sent home in January with Fall Transcripts. If you have any questions or concerns or need extra support going into finals please reach out to us.

Have a great finish to your semester and a wonderful December break. Sincerely - Sarah Bradley and Jeanette Henshaw.



National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society News

Our joint Induction Ceremony this past November 4 was a great success - thank you to all who participated. Our hard-working chapter president, Amelia Martinez, along with our chapter vice-president, Grace Burden, are working hard to help arrange volunteer opportunities for our members. If you have any suggestions for volunteer opportunities, please send them to Mrs. Meagher to pass along to our Honor Society members. A big thank you to all of our families who donated to the NJHS Food Drive to support the St. James Church food pantry program.



High School Student Advisory Council - Our council has begun working on the return of the Kindness Wall. The interactive art wall features quotes and positive affirmations. Students and staff may take items from the

wall that resonate with them and leave inspiring notes for others. Our Final meeting for the semester is on Tuesday, December 10th @12pm. It is not too late to join the council. Please contact Mrs. Jamie Lucero Martinez about participating.



Class of 2025 Updates

There will be a mandatory Family Meeting on
Thursday, December 5 at 4:00
Items for review:

[Cap and Gown Ordering](#) Information
Graduation Ceremony schedule and logistics
Important deadlines
Next Step Plans
Senior awards and recognition

Attending this meeting is highly encouraged to ensure your student's smooth and memorable graduation experience.

Refreshments provided!



All students taking dual credit courses need to submit their applications for the Spring 2025 semester **before December 12th**. Both students and parents **MUST SIGN** the application forms and the UNM Contract and return them to us before the deadline. The first day of UNM classes is January 20, 2025.

As we approach the end of this first semester, students (and parents) must be aware of their academic status. **SENIORS** are nearing the end of their high school tunnel, so there's no wiggle room. Credits needed for graduation have to be in order and on target to be completed so that they graduate in May.

Please make sure to read your emails and note upcoming events like Cap and Gown orders, assessments, etc. Senior meeting will be December 5th at 4:00 in the Main Cafe.

College and Career Planning Information

Seniors, please apply to colleges as soon as possible. Deadlines are coming up in December and January.

Reminder to ask for letters of recommendation ahead of time. Teachers and staff are happy to write letters for you but please give them as much time as possible and a minimum of 2 business days.

College Entrance Exams - The majority of colleges and scholarships do not require college entrance exams, however, we are seeing some as test optional. In order to take the exams you must register and pay on your own. Taos High School has testing sites for both ACT and SAT. NOTE: 11th graders will be required to take the SATs in the spring, this exam will be held at Taos Academy. Ms. Angelina Vialpando is available to help with registration and provide fee waivers for eligible students, stop by the counseling office or email avialpando@taosacademy.org



Seniors, please apply to colleges as soon as possible. Once accepted you will have the opportunity to apply for scholarships at the specific colleges you are accepted to.

Complete the FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid –Most colleges and many scholarships require you to have completed the application. Filling out the application: Reach out to Angelina Vialpando if you need help with this application avialpando@taosacademy.org

School Counselor tip: Apply for 1-2 scholarships per month.

Visit the Scholarships page on the Taos Academy Website regularly as you will find the most up-to-date scholarship info: <https://www.taosacademy.org/Scholarships.aspx>



TA Community School 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.

Look for the January 29th meeting agenda to be distributed before the meeting. Review the minutes from the last meeting at the end of this newsletter.

D. Branchal



December progress reports are due December 9th and are to be turned in to the Internship Classroom in digital form. If students miss this date, they might not receive credit for this semester. Those of you that turned in your October Progress Report on time and turn in your December progress report on time, will receive an A.

If students are interested in starting an internship, they must meet with Mr. Weisfeld to see if they qualify. If they do, they will be invited to the internship classroom and will be given the required paperwork. In order to begin an internship, each student MUST accept the invite and complete the paper forms. Then the student will take photos or scan the complete forms that will be turned in to this classroom as PDF assignments. Paper forms will then be kept by students/families as a record. No paper forms will be turned in and no emailed forms will be accepted.

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.



12/05 - Senior Class Meeting
12/09- Governing Council
12/11- Dinner Theatre
12/12- Celebration of Learning
12/16- 12/19 Finals Week
12/18 - Community Council
12/23-1/03 Winter Break



1/07-1/08 - Return from Winter Break

1/09-1/10 - Activity Days

1/13 - Governing Council

1/14 - MS Plus

1/20 - STEM +Art Begins

1/29 - Community Council

TA Community Council MEETING 4:15 –5:30

Wednesday November 20th, 2024

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, November 20th · 4:15 – 5:45pm 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, Dr. D. Moodley, Tanya Martinez-Gurule, Mishel Cho, R. Vigil, TJ Hise Jr., Cruz Duran, Deborah Branchal, Mary May, Lisa Joseph, Kelsea Connell, Tami Martinson, A. Medina, A. Bustamante, J. Valdez, A. Valencia, Laura Tenorio, Erica Olson -Hensley, Cal vanWilligen, Emmett Moulton

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.
- **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.

Meeting Agenda:

4:15-5:30 Discussion items:

- Instructional Update: Rosetta Stone classes on December 5th, Classes end on December 12th,
 - Winter Activities Week! Ski w/ school program cost \$175 which includes lift ticket, rentals, lessons. Only five scholarships are available. Please email Ms. Pike for more information. Students need to register by December 13th using the link in the google form. Students with their own pass to any local ski resort may upload their pass to register for skiing. Students choosing this option must have their own equipment or pay for rentals. Payment is due upon registration. Students not participating will have on-campus activities. The schedule will be released soon.
- Finals week is coming December 16th-19th. Encouragement to succeed notices have been sent to all students with grades below 65%.
- No Friday school this week. Teachers are on break as well. Edgenuity requests must be done in advance.

- STEM Institute: Fall STEM classes will end on December 12th.
- Assessment:
 - 10th grade PSAT scores have been sent home with students. Students had the opportunity to review the data in advisory. Families wanting more information on how to prepare for the 11th grade SAT should use the links provided by the College Board report. Cut Scores Math(480) and Reading/Writing(430).
 - Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, ASVAB will be offered on Friday, December 13th at 8am. The assessment is available to all 10th-12th graders at no cost. The scores may be used to demonstrate competency for graduation in all core areas.
- Community Schools:
 - Contact Deborah Branchal regarding the need for winter jackets. Email sizes. Donations are being accepted.
 - Connection St. James food pantry. Students in need may contact their advisory or email Ms. Branchal. Bags with dry goods will be available on Thursdays.
 - Flyers were sent out regarding community meals for Thanksgiving and fellowship meals available over the next week.
 - Taos Feeds Taos applications are available for those in need. Please email D. Branchal.
- December at a glance:
 - Fall Break - November 22-29,2024, No Friday school this week.
 - Celebration of Learning December 12, 2024, 2-4pm
 - Finals Week
 - TACC December 18th
- Parent Comments and Questions:
 - Resets over break?
- Next meeting agenda items:

Equity Council: Agenda --November 20th

- Native American Heritage Month - Community presentation by Tarynce Hise, Native Studies instructor and Aspen Song kids
 - Poetry Reading -TJ, Royce
 - Drumming presentation - Tarynce Hise, Royce, TJ
 - Traditional dance - Fancy Shawl- Amber ,Head Boy Dancer-Devin

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: Jamie Lucero Martinez, Dr. D. Moodley, Tanya Martinez-Gurule, Mishel Cho, R. Vigil, Tarynce Hise, Aspen Song Kids representatives,TJ Hise Jr., Cruz Duran, Deborah Branchal, Mary May, Lisa Joseph, Kelsea Connell, Tami Martinson, A. Medina, A. Bustamante, J. Valdez, A. Valencia, Laura Tenorio, Erica Olson -Hensley, Cal vanWilligen, Emmett Moulton