



Dear Taos Academy Families -

The new semester is off to a great start! Thank you, families, for your hard work and support of your students and thank you, students, for all of your hard work so far. Transcripts have gone out from the fall semester. Please review these closely and let your adviser know if you find any errors or corrections needed. We are incredibly proud of our school-wide outcomes this past semester as well as the individual students who have made our honor roll! Taos Academy is proud to announce that 48% of our students made the honor roll in the first semester. That is an awesome accomplishment!!



**Semester 1 Taos Academy Highest Honors (3.8 or Higher):**

- |                     |                     |                      |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Breier, Eleanor     | Lujan, Katia        | Scarabelli, Caroline |
| Breier, Malcolm     | Maestas, Brooklyn   | Scott Roch, Isla     |
| Breier, Stefan      | Martinez, Alexandra | Sides, Sawyer        |
| Burden, Grace       | Martinez, Amelia    | Streit, Christian    |
| Cordova, DeAnna     | Oviedo, Maia Sofie  | Tafoya, Kaely        |
| Duran, Mariebella   | Pena, Emilia        | Tinl, Sophia         |
| Edmonds, Julia      | Privitt, Devon      | Weinman, Hanna       |
| Gonzales, Charnelle | Reynolds, Fiona     | Weisfeld, Ilana      |
| Griego, Maximilian  | Rychlik, Haddi      | Wodrich, Cash        |
| Kozlovich, Chiara   | Sanchez, Remington  |                      |
| LeBlanc, John       | Sanchez, Rozzlynn   |                      |

**Semester 1 Superintendent's Honors (3.5 or Higher):**

- |                        |                    |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Barraza, Samuel        | Holmes, Blu Cielo  | Pena, Evan               |
| Bittermann, Zia        | Larson, Arabella   | Prentice, Madeline       |
| Burden, Eva            | Lopez, Noah        | Reynolds, Elijah         |
| Case, Nicholas         | Lucero, Rio        | Salazar, Eloy            |
| Chesakov, Veda         | Maestas, Jerzee    | Sanchez, Amaris          |
| Davis-Martinez, Amelia | Martinez, Alexis   | Sanchez-Pacheco, Marisol |
| Espinoza Sack, Solymar | Mitchell, Margaret | Whitney, Gwendalyn       |
| Grine, Nicole          | Montoya, Deidre    | Zak, Gabriel             |

## Semester 1 High Honors (3.0 or Higher)

Atencio, Jerome  
Brown, Dillon  
Calabaza, Alyssa  
Curry, Kaysha  
Dominguez, Ezekiel  
Duran, Jonathan  
Duran, Laylah  
Duran, Leah  
Edmonds, Ryan  
Espinoza, Amaya  
Froeschle, Nikolai  
Garcia Rivera, Yahir  
Gleason, Douglas  
Gonzales, Aurelianna  
Gonzales-Romo, Che  
Goodhue, Santiago  
Gutierrez, Idania  
Herrera Solis, Eric  
Hoffman, Alexander  
Jenkins, Coraline  
Jenkins, Kaleb

Johnston, Augustus  
Lage, Clara  
Lamendola, Benjamin  
Larson, Zoe  
Lewis, Faith  
Lewis, Isaiah  
Madrid, Kaylee  
Martinez, Alexia  
Martinez, Angelica  
Martinez, Trinity  
Martinez, Vrienne  
Martinez-Chavez, Emylee  
Medina, Abrianna  
Miera, Estevan  
Montoya, Yuri  
Moore, Nickalette  
Munoz, Isaac  
Ndiaye, Khalifa  
Olson, Oliver  
Ortega, Delena  
Prentice, Sky

Rodriguez, Mason  
Romero, Nonie  
Roque Aragon, Carolina  
Rosas, Analy  
Rose, Liliana  
Saltzman, Joel  
Saltzman, Noah  
Sandoval, Nathanael  
Siegele, Rocco  
Stockes, Sequoyah  
Talachy, Nadali  
Tresaigh, Kameko  
Tresaigh, Kohana  
Trevino, Edward  
Trevino-Brown, Sofia  
Trujillo, Ernesto  
Valdivia-Luna, Michelle  
Varos, Benjamin  
Vigil, Francisco  
White, Leila  
Wodrich, Noah



**School Delays or Closings:** Just a reminder that Taos Academy does not necessarily follow Taos Municipal calendar for delays or closings. Please be sure to access our calendar online and watch for weather delays or closings on local news stations. Emails and robo calls will also be sent out to all TA families to notify them of any closures or delays. *For weather-related closures, we will follow our virtual learning day processes - please be on the lookout for communication from your teachers!*



**Friday School:** Back by popular demand, we will be opening our doors on Fridays starting next week from 8 am to 1:30 noon for additional student support. Students are welcome to join us for all or part of the time to get targeted help with projects, essays, or lab reports or to simply get caught up for the week. No appointment needed!

## Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) in Action: Student Voice and Choice

Beginning February 5th, 24 Taos Academy students will spend four half-days during the semester in off-campus workshops at the Wildflower Theater. Using Harvard Professor Marshall Ganz' "Public Narrative" model, students will explore what they need to feel safe and engaged at school. In May, these students will share the results of their efforts with the Governing Council, administrators, and staff. Dean of Students, Mark Richert, is coordinating the project, with co-facilitation by counselors Melissa Montoya and Angelina Vialpando; Educational Assistant Jimena Ballesteros; teacher Tom Duke; and Christina Neubrand from UNM-Taos HIVE.



Congratulations to our State Championship team in the fifth New Mexico Governor's STEM Challenge 2024. This team was selected by Freeport McMoRan. This year forty-one teams around the state participated and twenty-six industry partners judged. Taos Academy is a five time state champion in this state academic competition!

Congratulations to:

- ★ Idania Gutierrez
- ★ John LeBlanc
- ★ Ariana Maestas
- ★ Estevan Miera
- ★ Joel Saltzman
- ★ Elianna Sanchez
- ★ Angel Valencia
- ★ Mario Vargas
- ★ Benjamin Varos
- ★ Cash Wodrich



## Re Enrollment and Lottery

Taos Academy will be opening our lottery process next month. We have grown each year by the recommendations from our parent and student body. Thank you for your support and please share some of the successes your children have done. Just a few successes to share:

- Ranked as one of America's Best High Schools by US News and World Report 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. Also, for the first year America's Best Middle School in 2020!
- Received recognition as a High Performing NM school since 2013.
- Dual Credit options = college credits are earned by TA students in our early college program and we continue to explore more ways to work with our partners at UNM.
- Increased academic support and enrichment through our Middle School Plus Program, Student Success Lab, STEM classes, and Enrichment classes in Math and LA.
- Expanded extra-curricular classes and clubs: music, robotics, chess, Honor Society, writing workshops. Ranked 2nd in NMAA E-Sports state competition.

- Flexible programming to support student and family needs: Flexible scheduling and expanded programming to build a 4.5 day week schedule. Students can work on campus, in a blended setting to meet family needs, or a totally virtual option in our FLEX Academy.



### **National Honor Society News**

Members will be participating in two school-sponsored events this semester. The first will be Dr. Suess Day on Saturday, March 2, 2024 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Students will be helping with a myriad of activities such as making balloon animals and face painting. Additionally, our chapter will be sponsoring a clean-up day in April to celebrate Earth Day. Students are also undertaking individual service projects.

Shout out to our NHS officers who are doing an outstanding job this year:

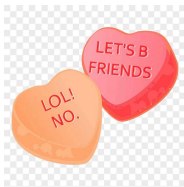
Mariebella Duran, President

Ilana Weisfeld, Vice President

Charnelle Gonzales, Secretary

Rozz Sanchez, Treasurer

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication!



**Taos Academy High School Student Council** is raising money for PROM!

Candy Grams and Rose grams are for sale. \$1 for lollipop grams and \$3 for rose grams. Purchase through a student council member.

Delivery on 2/14 and 2/15.

### **Senior Updates!**

- Submit your Photos for the yearbook no later than February 29th.
- All seniors and early graduates must meet with Jamie Lucero-Martinez to verify competencies. Please make an appointment.

- Robing ceremony and Senior Night is May 14th, 2024
- Mandatory Commencement Rehearsal and Senior Lunch - Thursday, May 16th, 2024
- **Graduation is Friday, May 17, 2024 @ 2 pm at Taos Academy.**

More details to follow



Mr. J Weisfeld will hold an orientation meeting in the first week of February for new and continuing internships. If you are continuing the same internship from last year, you will only need March and May progress reports for this semester.

**NEW:** All new internships must be done with an actual business, sports team, or official organization to receive credit, unless otherwise arranged with Mr. Weisfeld.

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. 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. Spring [March](#) and [May](#) progress reports

All the above forms must be completed within the first few weeks of each semester and turned in to the Internship Google Classroom as PDFs/photos. All paper forms will be made available by Mr. J Weisfeld. He will meet each semester with interested students and hand out required forms.

All parties must provide their contact information for the form to be considered complete. All hours must be signed off by the official supervisor. 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.



## 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](mailto:ljoseph@taosacademy.org) to have your child participate in this exciting program. **Look for the next meeting agenda to be distributed before the February 28th 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](mailto: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.

# February

- 2/12 - Governing Council**
- 2/14 - Valentine's Day**
- 2/16 - Teacher In Service (No School)**
- 2/19 - In School President's Day Observation**
- 2/28 - Community Council: CS/Parent Advisory/Equity Council**
- 2/29 - Career and College Fair 9-11:30**



- 3/1 - End of 3rd 9 weeks**
- 3/3 - Student Led Parent Conferences**
- 3/4 - Governing Council**
- 3/7 - STEM Night**
- 3/8-3/15 - Spring Break**
- 3/8 - STEM + Art 4 Begins**
- 3/22 - Teacher Inservice (No School)**
- 3/27 - Community Council: CS/Parent Advisory/Equity Council**

TA Community Council MEETING 4:15-5:30

**Wednesday, January 31, 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](https://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, Gwen Thibadeau, Megan Jenkins, Kelci Pike, Steve Falconi, Mark Richert, Billy Pepper, Tami Martinson, Estelle Laure, Cruz Duran, Kenny Shannon, Tanya Gurule-Martinez, Jason Weisfeld, Adrian Reynolds, Kimberly Talachy, Nicole Pacheco, Misshel Cho, Carla Blea, Ty Burden

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

- **Community Schools:** Review of Key Practice 4
- **Parent Advisory:**

PD SWIFT presentation Megan Jenkins and Gwen Thibadeau- A review of how to check the parent portal. Important reports on attendance and how to read the progress report were reviewed.

- STEM Director's Report - Last day to add or drop a class in STEM is today. Students must drop classes in writing.

- STEM Night is March 7th. Last school day before spring break.
- HS Student council will be fundraising for PROM costs. Members are selling rose and candy grams. Delivery of grams will be February 14th and 15th. \$1 for 2 blowpop grams, \$3 per rose, \$5 custom card and flower. Anyone is welcome to purchase.
- Senior Trip- Seniors will be hosting a bake sale at Cid's on February 13th. The group is looking for donations of baked goods and invites everyone to stop by the bake sale. Contact Kelci Pike for information.
- National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society will be participating in the Town of Taos Dr. Seuss event on March 2nd at the Youth and family center.
- **Equity Council:**
  - Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Framework Inventory Review: what programs or activities are in place or planned
    - Suggestions: Role play practice for understanding different cultures.
    - Service Projects - SEL, Leadership, Diversity clubs, etc.
    - Leadership class partnerships with other schools around the world.
    - Fundraising for student projects
  - Action: Include programs from Review in the advisement **package - Tabled until after work sessions.**
  - Volunteers for work session

- **Next Meeting Agenda Items**

TA Community Council MEETING 4:15-5:30

Wednesday, February 28, 2023

Key Practice 5: Culture of belonging, safety, and care

State testing

Equity Council CLR framework

## **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?