



Dear TA Students and Families - We are at the halfway mark! Congratulations to our students, staff, and families for making it this far. It's time to take a moment to reflect on the amazing progress our students have made and to celebrate their successes at our **Student-Led Conferences**. These will be held on Thursday, March 6th or as scheduled with your advisor. Please remember that we strive to connect with 100% of our learning community. Please make an appointment if you have not already done so.



**SPRING BREAK** is almost here! Taos Academy's Spring Break starts Friday, March 14th and we return to class on Monday, March 24th. Remember that the Edgenuity clock stops over the break, so it is a great time to get caught up (or to work ahead). ENJOY!!!!

**RETURNING STUDENT FORMS:** As we prepare for the 2025-2026 school year, we need to secure your child's position at Taos Academy. An email will be sent out which contains the returning student forms. Please complete the forms no later than April 3rd. Failure to do so may result in a loss of your student's position.



**LOTTERY INFO** Our lottery process opens on March 3rd and closes April 3rd for the 2025/2026 school year. Lottery drawing is April 9th at 10:00 am.



**Please join us for our third quarter STEM+Arts night and concert!**

**Where:** Taos Academy

**When:** Thursday, March 6th, 2023 4pm to 6:30pm

**Who:** STEM+Arts classes, TA Families & Community

**What:** Food, Live Performances, Science Fair, and so much more!

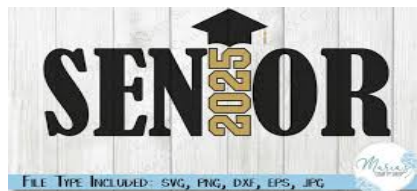
**4th Quarter STEM+Art Institute Classes** – STEM classes are a wonderful opportunity for students to work with talented professionals in our community; class sizes are small and space is limited. To sign up, please email Cruz Duran at [cduran@taosacademy.org](mailto:cduran@taosacademy.org) or sign up in the STEM Building registration begins March 6th. A \$10 materials fee is required to reserve a space in the class. STEM classes are graded electives and are posted on the final report card.

NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSES start March 11th. The last day to drop a class is March 25, 2025 and must be done IN WRITING to Mrs. Jamie Lucero-Martinez at [jluceroartinez@taosacademy.org](mailto:jluceroartinez@taosacademy.org).



**Please mark your calendars! New Mexico's Statewide Student Assessment dates are approaching. All listed assessments must be administered in-person and on campus - All TA students need to plan to participate and show what you have learned this year! These assessments are mandatory. Make-up testing will be scheduled as needed.**

- March 27th & April 1st - 11th graders will take the Assessment of Science Readiness (ASR).
- March 26th & 31st - 5th and 8th grade students will take the Assessment of Science Readiness (ASR).
- April 7th & 14th - Measures of Student Success & Achievement (MSSA) in Math and English Language Arts will be given to all students in grades 5-8.
- April 8th: SAT - All 11th graders are required to take the SAT in preparation for college or career. Students will be assigned to one of these two testing dates.
- April 29th - May 6th -Spring MAP testing - This short-cycle assessment measures students growth over the course of the year and helps us make sure students are making adequate progress towards grade level goals. Testing will be held April 30th & 5th for middle schoolers; April 29th & May 6th for high school students.

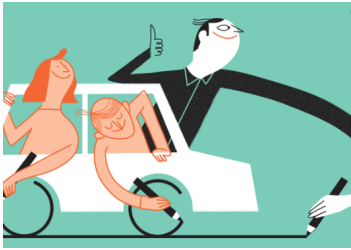


**Seniors and Senior class families: The following deadlines have passed or are approaching for participation in events and ceremonies.**

- Friday, May 16, at 2:00 - Graduation

- The Robing Ceremony/Senior Night is Tuesday, May 13, at 5:00
- All photos for the yearbook and senior slideshows are due! Thank you to everyone who has sent in photos!
- Senior Fundraiser - Bake Sale at Cid's, April 11, 2:00 - 6:00 (donations and volunteers needed!)
- Prom will be held at TA on April 26th, 2025, from 8-11 p.m.
- Bilingual Seal presentations TBD
- May 13th All coursework and finals must be completed by 4 p.m.
- May 15th Senior Lunch/Graduation Rehearsal

## MS 21st-Century Classes



Current third quarter 21st Century Classes for 7th & 8th grade finish on March 5th and new fourth quarter classes begin March 10th. Please check your progress reports for your student's current grade and any missing assignments!



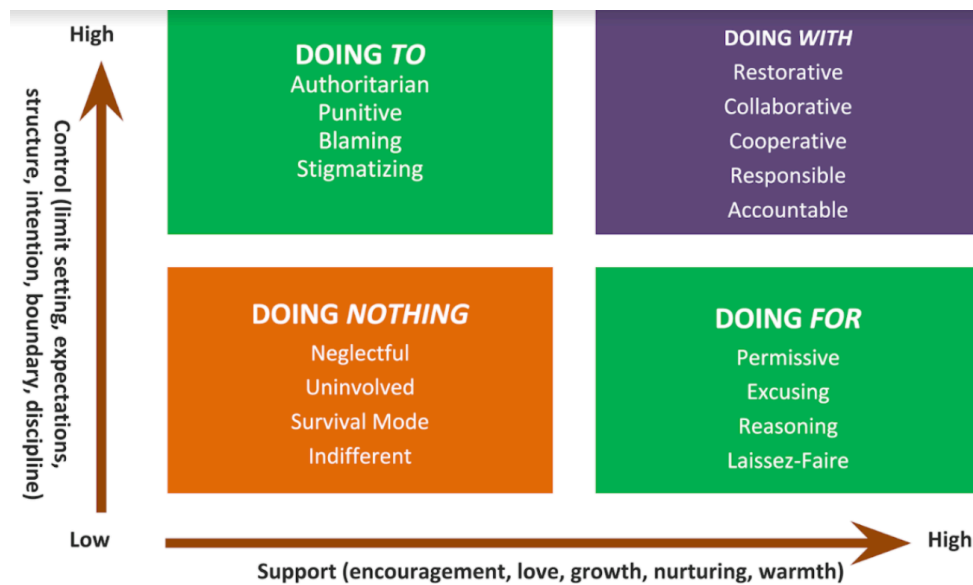
**Purchase your Taos Academy 2024-2025 Yearbook today!** To Purchase & Customize Your Yearbook. Customize two free pages by April 1st! Add all your own photos on two pages to represent your year. Go to: [www.treering.com/validate](http://www.treering.com/validate) and Enter your school's passcode: 101390232849386 or scan the QR code. Regular Price softcover \$23.85\* Does not include sales tax, if applicable. Deadline to order is April 1st, 2025 for delivery the week of May 10th, 2025.

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 to [jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org](mailto:jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org)

## Restorative Practices = Restorative Communication.

Staff, students and families -

When you are trying to communicate, which feels best?



Do you prefer that others:

- Tell you what to do. Blame or punish without understanding. (?) - Doing TO
- Ignore the issues, do nothing, let it go, change the subject. (?) - Doing NOTHING
- Speak *for* you, only do what feels good, not hold you accountable. (?) - Doing FOR
- Speak up *with* you, listen even while disagreeing. - Doing WITH
- Accept that feelings matter, whatever they may be. (?) - RESTORATIVE

## Career Cruising

### Students and Parents!

**Career Cruising is an excellent way to find career and college information - all in one place!**  
**Students have access to their Career Cruising portfolios at all times.**

#### Resources include:

**Learning inventories, researching careers, post-secondary requirements for specific careers, college details and requirements, and goal-setting worksheets.**

**Your child has an established account and has been trained to navigate the site. Their advisors work on this skill weekly.**



### 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 will also be held during our March 26th and April 30th meeting. Contact Deborah E. Branchal, Community School Coordinator at [dbranchal@taosacademy.org](mailto:dbranchal@taosacademy.org) to

have your child participate in this exciting program. **Look for the next meeting agenda to be distributed before the March 26 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.

## National Honor Society



The Taos Chapter of the National Honor Society has been busy this semester! The chapter co-sponsored a Winter Carnival on February 15, raising money for the Class of 2025 Graduation. Several members participated in the planning and execution of the event. Shout out to the Student Advisory Council and Ms. Lucero-Martinez for co-sponsoring and running the Carnival. Ms. Lucero, we could not have done it without you!

Members also participated in the Town of Taos Annual Dr. Seuss event, which was held at Bataan Hall on Saturday, March 1. Members made hundreds of balloon animals and painted many, many children's faces. Whew! Fast, furious, and lots of fun!

Additionally, members are sponsoring a Fundraiser Bake Sale on Friday, April 11 at Cid's from 2:00 - 6:00.

We are asking for donations to the bake sale as well as seniors who are not members of the Honor Society to help man the tables.

All proceeds will fund the Class of 2025 Graduation events.

### **HS Student Advisory Council Updates**

#### **HIGH SCHOOL PROM**



Taos Academy Prom will be held on Saturday, April 26th, 2025 from 8pm to 11pm at Taos Academy. The theme this year is Renaissance Masquerade. Ticket sales will open March 24th. All tickets will be sold 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 principal/parent verification form.

\*Prom Royalty Requirements: Those seniors 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 10th, 2025. Campaign Dates: April 21st thru 25th. Voting for prom royalty will take place at PROM.



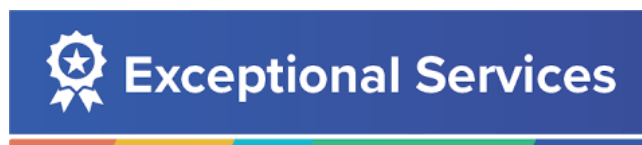
# College Link

## 11th-graders

- How to Create a College List (with tracking spreadsheet): It's go-time. This is a perfect time to pick up the pace of building your college list with these resources.
- Keep building your college list:
  - ScholarMatcher: Awesome search tool for low-income/first-gen students.
  - The Hundred-Seven and College Equity Index: Excellent resources for Black students.
  - College Advising for Undocumented Students.
  - I'm First: Guide for first-generation college students and their families.
  - Tips and Campus Pride: Resources for the LGBTQ+ community.
  - Women's colleges: Seven reasons you should consider a single-sex school.
  - HBCUs and TCUs: Essential tips when considering one of these institutions committed to serving underrepresented students.
  - American Indian College Fund: List and description of tribal colleges and universities.
  - AICAD: List of 42 colleges of art and design that allows you to search by major and by region.

## 12th-graders

- How to understand your financial aid award letters: Make a spreadsheet to compare financial aid packages from multiple schools.
- Appealing financial aid: If you've been accepted to college but the financial aid package isn't what you'd hoped, read through this guide and listen to this podcast as you plan your appeal.
- Making your final college choice: Plan visits to colleges where you're accepted (if needed) to make your final college choice. And revisit your original Corsava preferences to see how your college options measure up.
- What to do if you're deferred or waitlisted: Review your application and determine whether you want to write a letter of continued interest.



## Special Education Services:

We have met with all the incoming families. If you are a new family to TA and have not met for your transfer IEP meeting, please reach out. We are scheduling our last round of annual meetings now and will email or call to set up an annual review of services. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your students progress or support, feel free to reach out to your child's advisor as well as

the Special Education team, Sarah Bradley (Special Education Director), Jeanette Henshaw (Special Education Coordinator), Patricia Meagher (Gifted Coordinator), Patti Kravitz (Max Scholar reading support teacher).

## SCHOLARSHIPS

**Here are the March Scholarship Opportunities:**

- **Mayflower 1620 Scholarship- due March 2nd**
- **Centinel Bank Scholarships- due March 3rd**
- **Soy Nuevo Mexicano Scholarship- due March 21st**
- **Taos Community Foundation Scholarship- due March 10th**

**[Click here to access these scholarships and more!](#)**



Here are some mental health resources!

Please reach out to Ms. Vialpando if you need support.

### [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#)

- Established in 1987, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) is a voluntary health organization with a mission to make suicide prevention a cause everyone can support. The organization leverages research, education, and advocacy to empower those affected by suicide.

### [Center for Young Women's Health \(CYWH\)](#)

- The Center for Young Women's Health (CYWH) is affiliated with the Boston Children's Hospital. This educational entity is committed to providing girls and young women with research-backed health information, educational programs, and conferences.

### [Crisis Text Line](#)

- Feeling overwhelmed? Text HOME to 741741 anytime, anywhere in the U.S. A trained



Crisis Counselor will connect with you right away to offer support. They'll listen without judgment and help you navigate from a tough spot to a calmer place.



Happy March! If students are doing the same internship, they just need to complete a March and May progress report this semester to continue to get elective credit. **March progress reports are due March 7th**

- If students start a new internship, they **MUST** complete another Internship Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding and turn it in the internship classroom.

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.

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 in to the Internship Classroom in to the correct assignment.

\* 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.



### At a Glance

**3/6- Student Remote Day/ Parent Teacher Conference and STEM Night**

**3/10- Governing Council Meeting @ 5:30 pm**

**3/14-3/21 Spring Break**

**3/11- STEM+ Art Q4 Begins**

**3/26 - Community Council Meeting @ 4:15 pm**



### Looking Ahead

**4/14 - Governing Council**

**4/30 - Community Council Meeting @ 4:15**

TA Community Council MEETING Minutes 4:15 –5:30  
Wednesday February 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, January 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, Dr. Mae LaBella, Deborah Branchal, Erica Olson-Hensley, Dr. Moodley, Tanya Martinez-Gurule, Emmett Moulton, Lisa Joseph, Kelsea Connell, Tami Martinson, Dr. Filiss, Dorota Witney, Robert Smith, Jason Weisfeld, Billy Pepper, Emilia P, Analiyah M, Sofia T, Miles Bonny, Mary May

**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:
  - Principal update - Upgrading to EdgeX in the next school year. More class options including foreign languages. Students are trying the classes and providing updates and feedback to staff.
  - 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: None
- Community Schools: Twirl activities for children will take place during March and April community council meetings, Jackets from KOAT have arrived- email [dbranchal@taosacademy.org](mailto:dbranchal@taosacademy.org) if a student jacket is needed, Mrs. Branchal is attending the monthly meetings with 100% community to represent TA. Weekly food bags are available for students on Thursday afternoons.
- Returning Student Forms emailed by March 3rd due April 3rd. Lottery April 9th
- March at a glance:
  - College and Career fair will be held tomorrow, February 27th.

- Thursday, March 6th
  - Student Led conferences- Remote day- no advisories, on-campus MS+ and SSL will be available from 8am-12pm contract and SSP students must attend. Please make your conference appointments with your student's advisor.
  - STEM Night 4-6:30pm all STEM classes will be participating
- Student Activity Updates:
  - Honor society and student councils will participate in the Town of Taos' Dr. Seuss birthday celebration at Bataan Hall Saturday, March 1st from 1-4pm.
  - Winter carnival was successful. \$756 was raised for PROM decor and honor society events
  - NHS and Senior class will host a bake sale at Cids on Friday, April 11th from 2-6pm
- Parent Comments and Questions:
- Next meeting agenda items: Budget

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

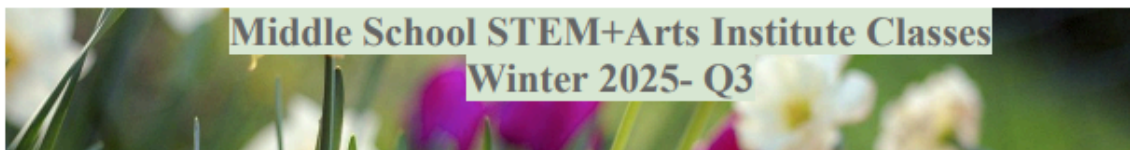
### **At Risk Council**

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)

- Discussion: Accessibility, Inclusion, Quality, Collaboration How are these happening at Taos Academy? How do families define these?
  - **Accessibility**- Tami resonated with her- everyone has the ability to participate and be included. Robert- Edge ensures equal access.
  - **Quality** - Sofia- Factory, Erica- quality of our facility and grounds, high sense of pride, students work hard and are willing to submit quality work and improve on work. Everyone from front office to principal, teachers and educational assistants. Mary M- student projects are high quality, students are putting in time and effort to demonstrate learning.
  - Inclusion - Emmett- Taos academy does well with grouping classes together and following students creates a community and tight knit relationships, connected as a group- cohort that follows students through their time at TA. Kelsea- Edgenuity gives students a platform, equitable education as students have the same access across school.
  - Collaboration - Lisa - When parents and families feel they have a voice in child's education they feel supported, teachers feel they are partners in education with families and other staff, feeling comfort and safety to do their best. Connected to inclusion. Analiah- working as a team instead of separate. Students kept as a group will work together. Billy - collaboration- wrap around support. Kelsea- most collaboration in school setting she has ever experienced, working together to help students succeed
- Today, February 26th: Black History Month Celebration - Presentation Dr. Moodley
  - Presentation by students: Emilia Pena and Analyeah Montoya
  - Ms. Olson-Hensley experience living in West Africa- Clothing and culture matching sets
  - Ankara Bracelets- demonstration
- Upcoming:
  - March 26th: Women's History Month Celebration
  - 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.**



- **Fall Outdoor Edventures** - taught by Field Institute of Taos - **Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:15-3:50**. If you like field trips, this is the class for you! This program is a unique blend of environmental education and outdoor adventure that is fun, educational, and physically challenging. We will thoughtfully engage students while exploring connections to the natural world through active, hands-on activities. Topics include: Ecology, natural systems, teamwork and leadership, outdoor recreation, natural and cultural history, energy systems, survival skills and more. Activities may include (weather permitting): hiking, biking, fort-building.

**Permission Slips required (\$20 fee)**

- **Culinary Arts** —taught by Claudia Abeyta— **Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-2:15**  
Class is an experiential class where students learn how to combine flavors and ingredients in order to fully express their creativity. We will focus on technical skills and foundational techniques throughout the class to help you become a truly great chef.
- **Electronics and Programming** - Taught by Bill Hood - **Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-2:15** Students will become familiar with constructing their own circuits! We introduce programming to the very circuits the students have created. This is a preparatory course and prerequisite for Unity.
- **Music** - taught by Billy Archuleta - **Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-2:15** If you enjoy music and want to learn more about it and how to play it on your own, this is a great opportunity for you to do so. We will have fun working together to learn the different aspects of music from the basics of music theory, how to read a music staff, what time signatures are, and what is a “whole” note and a “half” note. We’ll learn about some of the different instruments used to make music, and how to play them. This class will give you the basic skills you need to play the instrument of your choice. Who knows, you may find that you’ll want to learn more than one instrument. So, I want us to have fun learning and discovering as much as we can about music. Are you ready?

March 11 - May 1, 2025

- **Science Explorations** - taught by Laura Tenorio - **Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:15-4:00**. Can a drinking straw save the world? Learn skills and ways to apply Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) to real-life situations. Make your own solutions to community problems, and learn about STEM careers using drones, straws, and anything we can get our hands on to make STEM come alive!
- **Art** - taught by Izumi Yokoyama - **Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:15 - 4:00**. This class invites students to explore elements of art. Students will develop an understanding of how to express ideas through artistic creation. Communicating and learning meaning through visual arts can be exciting and empowering. Students will develop technical skills in drawing, painting, sculpture, and other art mediums. No previous art experience required.
- **Native American Studies** - taught by Tarynce Hise - Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:15 - 4:00. Taos Pueblo/Yakama/Nez Perce Native American history through the Indigenous Peoples perspective. This class is open to all MS students. Come learn about the land and its history in a unique way.
- **Theatre** - taught by John Biscello - **Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:15 - 4:00**. Enter the marvelous multi-verse of acting and drama, and bring to life the characters that live inside you. Through a variety of dramatic games, exercises, improv and movement, develop your performing skills while working with an ensemble in staging skits, scenes and short plays. A range of styles and genres, from comedy, tragedy, mystery, sci-fi, satire, and more, will be the mash-up ingredients in our creation of live theater...all you need to bring is a sense of play and the spirit of imagination.

**Middle School STEM + Art Institute:** First quarter STEM offerings will be available for registration beginning March 4, 2025. All classes are 0.25 elective credit and grades are posted on transcripts. All classes follow Taos Academy policies. Last Day to drop a class is March 25, 2025 and must be done in writing to Ms. Jamie Lucero-Martinez -no exceptions. [jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org](mailto:jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org) **ALL registration must be done in the STEM Office with Cruz Duran. Materials fees will be \$10 for all courses. Fee payment is required for registration.** This will assist in covering some materials cost for classes or help repair borrowed equipment. Space is limited. **\*If a course is dropped by the student a fee credit will be given towards another course. No Refunds.\***

**REMINDER:** MS Students may not take the same course consecutively. Students wanting to repeat a course will be placed on the waitlist until after the first day of classes. If there is room in the class after the first day then students on the waitlist will be added based on the order they signed up. No changes will be made after the drop date.

\*STEM Instructors may drop students for low participation with two written notices to parents/students. No instructor initiated student drops will be made after April 7th, 2025. **No fee credit toward future courses.**

March 11 - May 1, 2025