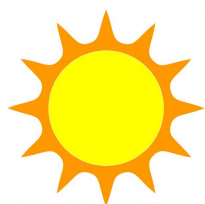




Dear TA Students and Families - We are almost at the halfway mark! Our staff, students and families have been so hardworking and resilient through this time and we are so proud of you all. It's time to take a moment to reflect on how far our students have come and to celebrate their successes at our **Student-Led Conferences**. These will be held on Friday, March 4th or as scheduled with your advisor. Families have the option of meeting virtually or here on our campus with their child's teachers.



SPRING BREAK is almost here! Taos Academy's Spring Break starts Friday, March 11th and we return to class on Monday, March 21st. 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 2022-2023 school year, we need to secure your child's position at Taos Academy. An email has been sent out which contains the returning student forms. Please complete the forms no later than April 1st. You can pick up a packet from Taos Academy campus or you can scan and email the digital copy back to alucero@taosacademy.org.



LOTTERY INFO Our lottery process opens on February 28th and closes March 28th for the 2022/2023 school year . Lottery drawing is April 5th at 10:00 am.

****Please be aware that if you do not complete the survey by April 1, 2022 we will assume your child will NOT be returning and their spot may be given away in the lottery.**



**Please join us for our third quarter STEM+Arts night and concert! More information to follow.
Taos Academy Multipurpose Building Thursday, March 10th, 2022 5pm to 7pm**

STEM+Art Institute Classes available – STEM Institute 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, pay **\$10 materials fee** per class, to Cruz Duran in the STEM Building or via mail. This materials fee will reserve a space in the class. Space will only be reserved when the fee has been paid. These classes are graded electives and are posted on the final report card. **Current third quarter STEM+Arts Institute classes end on Thursday, March 10th.**

NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASS SCHEDULE will be sent through email by March 7th. Classes start March 22nd. Last day to drop a class is March 29, 2022 and must be done IN WRITING to Mrs. Jamie Lucero-Martinez. Middle school fourth quarter STEM +Art classes end May 6th,2021 with our celebration of learning event.

- HIGH SCHOOL STEM+Arts: 14 week classes (Remain the same). Classes end May 6th,2022.



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

- **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 and 8th grade ASR testing days are: Monday, April 11th, 2022 and Monday, April 18th, 2022.
 - 11th grade ASR testing days are: Tuesday, March 29th and Thursday, March 31st, 2022.
- **Measures of Student Success & Achievement (MSSA)*** The MSSA is the summative assessment in math, English language arts, and Spanish language arts for students in **grades 3-8,** aligned to the New Mexico Common Core Standards and Common Core Español Standards for SLA. The assessment measures a student's grade level proficiency and progress toward college and/or career readiness.
 - Middle school 5th thru 8th grade testing days are: Monday, March 28th and Wednesday, March 30th, 2022.
- **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 **grade 11.** The SAT is a single day administration for standard administration with no accommodations. Students will be notified which day or dates they will test.
 - 11th grade test dates: April 13th, 14th, 19th, 20th.



Restorative Practices: How to Offer and Accept an Apology

(from www.bryan-harris.com)

Offering and Accepting an apology is important.

1. It allows both parties a chance to understand the real issue at hand. This is the **cognitive** part of the conversation – an acknowledgement of the *problem*.
2. It allows both parties the chance to understand the feelings involved. This is the **emotional** part of the conversation – an acknowledgement of the *feelings*.
3. It allows for both parties to move beyond the immediate issue to the **restoration** of the relationship.

Two of many ways to Offer an Apology

- I know that _____ made you feel _____. That was wrong.
- I realize that _____ was wrong. Next time I will

Two of many ways to Accept an Apology

- Because you know that _____ hurt me, I can accept your apology.
- I'll accept your apology because....

If someone is genuinely seeking to apologize, keep the conversation brief and direct.



Digital Citizenship Corner

March is Women's History month. We encourage you to have discussions at home about women's history and why, in 2022, it might be important to specifically celebrate women's history. [Here are some digital resources](#) for exploring Women's History. Please follow our [Taos Academy Facebook page](#).

21st-Century Classes



Current third quarter 21st Century Classes for 7/8th grade finish on 9th and new fourth quarter classes begin March 21st. 5/6th grade students will remain in their current classes until the end of the school year.



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 on 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 descriptions 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) in order 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](#).

Event: Community Career and College Readiness Fair

Taos Academy, April 1, from 10am to 2pm

Open to: High School Students, Recent Graduates, and Young Adults wanting to return to College and the Workforce (Open to the entire community)

- ★ Local/State Colleges
- ★ Local Businesses
- ★ Career Opportunities
- ★ Internship Opportunities
- ★ Local Scholarships
- ★ Military Recruiters
- ★ Networking
- ★ Door Prizes
- ★ and More



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. So if you have not met with us this year to update your plan please look for an email coming your way to schedule a 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 to myself,

Jeanette Henshaw or Sara Martinez if you have further questions about how we can help and support your child.

Remember if your child has SLD or Dyslexic reading challenges that they should be working in MaxScholar. This will assist them in filling in gaps and building their reading/spelling fluency. They should be working a minimum of 30 min a week at home. Please reach out to Patti and Jourdan with questions about this support program. maxscholar.com (Their username is the beginning of their email & password is max)

Jeanette Henshaw
575-751-3109 x 104

TA Special Education Coordinator
jhenshaw@TaosAcademy.org

Special Education Teachers:
(please reach out if your student has an IEP and needs additional or focused support and help)

Jourdan VanCulin

jvanculin@taosacademy.org

Patti Kravitz

pkravitz@taosacademy.org

School Counseling Corner

School Counselors can provide support in these areas:

Academic Development:

- Failing grades
- Studying and test taking strategies
- Trouble in class
- Post-secondary planning
- Test score review

Career Development:

- Career awareness/exploration
- Interest inventories
- College search and applications
- [Scholarship information and applications](#)

Personal/Social Development:

- Anxiety and Depression
- Self-harming behaviors
- Problems at home/school
- Peer conflicts
- Self-esteem
- Anger management
- Substance use concerns

Sara Martinez- smartinez@taosacademy.org

Schedule an appointment: <https://schoolcounselingtaosacademy.youcanbook.me/>

Melissa Montoya- mmontoya@taosacademy.org

Visit the School Counseling Page for more information:

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



We know our students have been feeling overwhelmed and stressed with all the changes and challenges that have happened over the past couple of years. Anxiety and Depression is reaching crisis levels for all ages. For our students especially, it is a tough thing to balance surviving a pandemic while learning, socializing and just growing up in general.

Please have conversations with your child about their mental health. One of the biggest protective factors for kids is having conversations about tough topics with an adult that they love or trust. We tell students to ask for help before things get bad. Reach out to our school counselors, to your child's doctor and/or seek counseling outside of school.

Here are some resources for parents on mental health

COVID-19 Parental Resources Kit

Ensuring Children and Young People's Social, Emotional, and Mental Well-being
<https://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/stress-coping/parental-resources/index.html>

Top 5 Questions for Parents to ask kids

<https://childmind.org/blog/top-5-questions-for-parents-to-ask-kids/>

How Anxiety Affects Teenagers

Signs of anxiety in adolescents, and how they're different from anxious children
<https://childmind.org/article/signs-of-anxiety-in-teenagers/>

What Are the Symptoms of Depression in Teenagers?

Signs your child might be more than moody
<https://childmind.org/article/what-are-the-symptoms-of-depression-in-teenagers/>

Don't Tell Your Children To Do Their Best by McNerny

<https://loudounnow.com/2022/01/21/mcnerney-dont-tell-your-children-to-do-their-best/amp/>

THE LORENZO DE ZAVALA (LDZ) YOUTH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

<https://www.nationalhispanicinstitute.org/LDZ>

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The National Hispanic Institute (NHI) and the University of New Mexico are partnering to host the 2022 Dionisio "Dennis" Chavez New Mexico LDZ for New Mexico high school students.

This year's event will host 150 top students in a weeklong leadership experience on the UNM campus June 12-19, 2022, and highlight the legacy of late Dionisio "Dennis" Chavez. The program is made possible with the help of special funding from the New Mexico Legislature introduced by State Sen. Michael Padilla.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

- 10th or 11th grade students
- Must have a minimum of a 3.2/4.0 grade point average (GPA) or better
- Students from the state of New Mexico
- Enrollment in a college-bound high school graduation plan

QuestBridge Scholars Program for Juniors

<https://www.questbridge.org/high-school-students/college-prep-scholars>

The 2022 College Prep Scholars Program application is now open! The deadline is Thursday, March 24. [Start your application today >>](#)

Applying to college can seem daunting, and the prospect of paying for it can seem even more overwhelming. *But it doesn't have to be.* The College Prep Scholars Program equips high-achieving high school juniors from low-income backgrounds with the knowledge, confidence, and resources to apply to top colleges.

Eligibility Requirements

Academically outstanding high school juniors from families earning less than \$65,000/year for a family of four.

Why apply as a junior? Being a College Prep Scholar is a notable distinction that shows our college partners that you are a competitive candidate for admission. In addition, your application will automatically carry over for the National College Match when you're a senior, giving you a head start on applying for a full four-year scholarship to our college partners. *College Prep Scholars are nearly five times more likely than other applicants to receive full four-year scholarships through the National College Match.*



The March progress report has been posted and is due March 3rd. Turn it in to the Google Classroom in digital form.

If you are new to TA, ask your advisor to invite you to the classroom or email Mr. J Weisfeld to request an invite to the classroom. All forms and information will be done in this classroom and are editable. In order to begin an internship, each student MUST accept the invite and submit all digital forms to this classroom. No more paper forms please (uploaded photos to Docs of paper forms are the best).

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 fill out these three forms and documentation or hours:

1. "Memorandum of Understanding"
2. "Internship Agreement Responsibilities"
3. Fall and Spring progress reports (2 per semester)

***If an internship is outside the TA community, then forms need to be printed, filled out and signed then they must be photographed and pasted on to a doc and then turned in to the Classroom. Students/families keep the paper copies for their records.

All the above forms must be completed within the first few weeks of each semester and turned in to the Internship Google Classroom.. The forms are available in the Internship Google Classroom in Doc format.

The "Memorandum of Understanding" is signed by TA's director and by the business 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 coordinator of the TA Internship Program, 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-and must include a supervisor signature (digital signatures and initials. It is ok if the supervisor is a parent or a member of the TA community) and total hours.

Both progress reports turned in on time= A grade
Only one progress report on time= C grade
No progress report=No credit

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.



Purchase your Taos Academy 2021-2022 Yearbook today! To Purchase & Customize Your Yearbook Go to: www.treering.com/validate and Enter your school's passcode:101390232849386. Regular Price is \$17.61*Does not include sales tax, if applicable. Deadline to order is April 1st, 2022 for delivery the week of May 9th.

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.



At a Glance

- 3/3 - End of 3rd 9 weeks**
- 3/4- Student Led Parent Conferences**
- 3/7- Governing Council**
- 3/11-3/18 Spring Break**
- 3/21- STEM+ Art 4 Begins**
- 3/25- Teacher Ins. (No School)**
- 3/29- Parent Advisory**



Looking Ahead

- 4/1 Community Career and College Readiness Fair**
- 4/11- Governing Council**
- 4/22- Teacher In Service (No School)**
- 4/26- Parent Advisory**

PARENT ADVISORY/EQUITY COUNCIL: 5:30 –7:00

Tuesday February 22nd, 2022

Taos Academy

110 Paseo Del Canon West

Taos, NM

575-751-3109

Taos Academy Parent Advisory Meetings are held the last Tuesday 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.

meet.google.com/upc-gces-pcc

Join by phone: (US) +1 505-445-7678 PIN: 407 440 787#

Organizer: Taos Academy Public Calendar

Taos Academy Public Calendar

Recorded Meeting

Meeting Agenda:

5:30 Attendance - Dr. Filiss, Warren Kelly, Jamie Lucero-Martinez, Cruz Duran, Lee Shawver, Tanya Gurule, Megan Mitchell, Manuela M, Lisa Joseph, Patti Kravitz

Norms - Respect time, come with solutions, win-win, champion a committee. This is a virtual Parent Advisory and Equity Council meeting for Taos Academy. Due to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) this meeting is being conducted in a Google Meet format.

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.

Parent Advisory Goals - Parents sharing ideas and concerns, champion a committee, find a place in the school where you can contribute, encourage other parents to participate.

5:45–6:15 Equity Council:

- Monthly Discussions - February - Economically Disadvantaged.
 - Communication to families regarding a culture of equity. Taos Academy is a Title 1 schoolwide. TA focuses on technology to support all students for advancement in digital literacy. Computers, high technology equipment, hot spots availability. TA is intentional on programming to support students with career development and helps to even the playing field for high tech educational options. Dual credit, internships, apprenticeships, STEM courses, leadership courses and opportunities, extra tutoring time, Friday virtual tutoring and support, snacks provided. Taos Academy foundation supports scholarships for those students in need for all courses if a fee is assigned.

- Staff professional learning continues to focus on using restorative practices to continue building strong relationships to support classroom norms and maximize learning time. See February newsletter for more info.
- Structured literacy across the curriculum- Training in a course on structured literacy to support strategies in reading and comprehension. Max Scholar is an online program to support reading and writing to support gaps in these areas.
- Inclusivity training in April - Adrein Lawyer will be leading identity training for staff.
- What's all this about Norms? Restorative Practices - from the Feb Newsletter. We have addressed norms as a school; the mask mandate being lifted, playground safety, public display affection, other COVID safety always comes into play as we continue to move forward with policy. Survey regarding mask wearing has been sent to the TA community. Window is open to respond. Majority of the students are wearing masks during outdoor activities. Comment by Lee - thankful for the leadership team considering the emotional needs of students when adapting mask requirements.
- College and Career Readiness plus Jobs Fair - Will be held at Taos Academy on Friday, April 1st, 2022 from 10a.m. to 2p.m. We currently have 9 area colleges attending in person and multiple businesses that provide opportunities in terms of support for students and community members as well as business/organizations offering internships and job opportunities. Community members and local high school students from area schools are encouraged to attend.

6:15 - 7:00 Parent Advisory Group:

- Student-Led Conferences: Friday, March 4 - Teachers will send invites for individual conferences.
- STEM night Thursday, March 10th - Come see culinary tacos, music concert, science classes prep for regional science fair, computer programming class present coding projects.
- Spring Break: Friday, March 11 - Monday, March 21
- State Testing Begins late March. All students in testing grades are required to participate. Flex Academy students must take these assessments in person.
 - NM Measure of Student Success and Achievement, NM MSSA administered to all 5th through 8th grade students. Test dates are March 28th and 30th. Students must arrive by 8a.m.
 - NM Assessment of Science Readiness, NM-ASR is administered to 5th, 8th, and 11th grade students. 5th & 8th grade will test on April 11th & 13th. 11th grade will test on March 29th & 31st. Make-up tests will take place through May 2nd.
 - SAT - College Board, All 11th grade students. Test dates are April 13-15, and 19-20. Most students will test on one day. Some accommodations will allow students to test over two days.
- Graduation - Friday, May 20th, 2022 at 2p.m. Outdoor ceremony. Graduation will be live streamed. A photographer will also be on campus for pictures. More info to come.
- Returning student forms - Please turn in forms no later than April 1, 2022 either by email or in person. Paper copies of the forms are available in the front office. See email and March newsletter. Lottery availability is dependent on returning student enrollment.

Parent Comments and Questions -

Next meeting agenda items - Tuesday, March 29th, state testing update, career fair, prom/graduation, equity update, Community Schools survey, facility update, EOY prep, summer school, mental health discussion, facebook presence, website updates and information updates online especially pertaining to mental health.

Identify each area of equity council duties for each area.

Traci Filiss Executive Director -
Jamie Lucero-Martinez - Program Lead
H. Warren Kelly - ELL - RP
CruzDuran-Economically Disadvantaged -