



Thank you, all, for the awesome turnout at October's Fall Festival and at our Student-Led Conferences! We had a great time hearing directly from our students, enjoying their performances and videos, and sharing fun, food, and games together. Thank you, everyone!!!

### Notice from Dr. Filiss

Dear Taos Academy Community, I am writing today to let everyone know that I will be taking a leave of absence beginning November 1st, 2024 and returning February 1st, 2025. The interim Head Administrator (Superintendent) is Christie Berg [cberg@taosacademy.org](mailto:cberg@taosacademy.org). Dr. Mae LaBella [mlabella@taoacademy.org](mailto:mlabella@taoacademy.org), Taos Academy Principal, will continue to be the main point of contact for any questions or concerns you may have. I hope you all have a wonderful Holiday season and I will see you again after the first of the year. Best, Dr. Traci Filiss

### National Honor and Junior National Honor Society News



The National Honor Society, in conjunction with the National Junior Honor Society, will hold its Induction Ceremony on Monday, November 4 at 5:30 p.m. in the Main Cafeteria.

Please join us for this event that celebrates both academics and service. Membership dues are \$10.00 each year, and students are expected to perform ten hours of community service each school year. This community service is sponsored by our chapter of the NHS/NJHS and members will be supervised by Taos Academy staff.





We are halfway through our first semester of the school year!

Seniors, **scholarships** begin to open up this semester and the beginning of the first of the next semester. Ms. Vialpando and Mrs. Meagher have been providing you with information about college applications and college entrance exams along with some local scholarships. This takes lots of time and exploration. FAFSA will open December 1 and all college applications should be started by now!

The Spring 2025 UNM-Taos class schedule is available online. Browse your options then schedule a meeting with Miss Pike and Mrs. Meagher to plan and register for your dual credit classes that will begin in January. Remember, check your Career Cruising and transcripts to make sure you find dual credit classes that meet your graduation requirements and also interest you.

Next, if you have not taken a UNM placement assessment for a core class, you need to get this done in order to qualify for Math or English classes at UNM next semester. Reach out to Miss Pike or call UNM student services for the information needed to get this done.

### **College and Career Planning Information**

**Seniors, please apply to colleges as soon as possible.** Early Decision deadlines are coming up in November and December.

**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 48 business hours.



### **Seniors!**

Remember you need to send Mrs. Meagher, Ms. Messerole, or Ms. May FIVE pictures of yourself for the end of the year slideshow. Pictures should be: Baby, toddler, middle school, high school, and senior photo!

Make your family and teachers cry at how much you've grown!

Due: Feb 1



**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.

**School Counselor ProTip: Aim to apply for 1-2 scholarships per month.**

**PLEASE [visit the Scholarships page](#)** on the Taos Academy website regularly as you will find the most up to date scholarships info.



*Final progress reports for the fall semester are due the 1st week in December. Please be on the lookout for these deadlines! If a student misses a progress report, they will risk not getting credit or earning a C instead of an A for the Internship credit*

**For NEW INTERNSHIPS:** If students are interested in starting an internship, they must meet with Mr. Weisfeld to see if they qualify. If they do, then 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 convert all paper forms into digital forms that will be turned into this classroom. Paper forms will then be kept by students as a record. No paper forms will be turned in and no emailed forms are needed.

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) 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.
  - 2) 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.
  - 3) 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 the above forms must be completed within the first few weeks of each semester and turned into the Internship Google Classroom. All parties must provide their contact information for the form to be considered complete.

Contact Mr. Weisfeld at [jweisfeld@taosacademy.org](mailto:jweisfeld@taosacademy.org) if you have any questions.



**Athletic Internships:** Students who have competed in a Fall Sport need to submit a Fall Sports Progress by November 1st. If you miss this deadline, please reach out to Ms. Lucero-Martinez or Ms. Olson Hensley. All athletes participating in a winter sport or activity need to contact Ms. Lucero-Martinez, [jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org](mailto:jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org) or Ms. Olson Hensley, [eolsonhensley@taosacademy.org](mailto:eolsonhensley@taosacademy.org) ASAP at to arrange their sports internship.



**11/5 - Election Day NO SCHOOL**  
**11/8 - High School Day**  
**11/11 - Governing Council Meeting @ 5:30 pm**  
**11/20 Community Council Meeting @ 4:15 pm**  
**11/25 – 11/29 – Campus Closed for Thanksgiving Break**



**12/09 - Governing Council Meeting @ 5:30 pm**  
**12/12 – STEM Art + Ends & Celebration of Learning**  
**12/13 – 12/19 – Finals week – End of Semester**  
**12/18 - Community Council Meeting @ 4:15 pm**  
**12/23 – 1/3 – Winter Break**

TA Community Council MEETING 4:15 –5:30

Wednesday September 25th, 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, September 25th · 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#

**Meeting Agenda:**

**4:15 Attendance - Jamie Lucero-Martinez, Lisa Joseph, Tami Martinson, Kelsea Conell, Mary May, Jason Weisfeld, Dr. Moodley, Mishell Cho, Robert Smith, Billy Pepper, Erica Olson-Hensley, Cal vanWilligen, Emmett Moulton, Debbie Branchal**

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:
  - Middle school progress reports went out. Student survey for feedback, 7th graders have Science Labs next week.
  - High School progress reports will go out next week.
  - Students are having plagiarism discussions and the use of GAT Shield (teacher tool to monitor computer use).
  - MS school student council -begins next week.
  - Rosetta stone deadline is December 5th. All students should be at 34% complete for a one semester class 50% by end of term.
  - NHS/NJHS Co-induction ceremony is Monday, November 4th at 5:30pm in the gym.
- STEM Institute: Today is the last day for Middle School students to add or drop a class.
- Assessment: PSAT all 10th results should be available by Dec.5, ASVAB- for 10-12th will be offered on Dec 13, 2024 . No cost. May be used to demonstrate competency.

- MAP Data and goal setting for all students by advisory. MS+/SSL goal setting and reflection. My Path to focus on instructional areas of need.
- SPIRIT DAY: Thursday, October 31st - Costume dress day- Must follow dress code, no depiction of weapons or anything illegal.
- Community Schools: A few parents have signed up to participate on the site based leadership team. Debbie participated in the Taos County council meeting yesterday to get ideas and hear what the issues are within the community. Health and Housing are the focus.
- November at a glance:
  - No School on Election Day
  - HS Day Friday, November 8th
  - Fall Break - November 22-29, 2024
  - TACC November 20th, 2024
- Parent Comments and Questions:
  - None
- Next meeting agenda items:

**Equity Council: Agenda - Next Meeting -November 20th**

- Native American Heritage Month

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