



October Newsletter

Welcome to fall, Taos Academy! It is hard to believe that we are already in October and moving toward the end of the first quarter of the school year. You have all accomplished so much in such a short time! Students should be getting closer to or past 50% complete with their first semester courses and approaching the halfway point for their Rosetta Stone language classes as well.

It is also a time when students who are behind may need intervention to get back on track. This is the purpose of the **Student Success Contract**. The Student Success intervention allows us to closely monitor the student's work habits, understanding, and technical skills to better serve your child. Please contact your student's advisor if you have any questions or concerns. Let's keep our learning going strong into the second part of the semester!



You're Invited... FALL FESTIVAL OPEN HOUSE: Thursday, October 12th, 2023 from 5 - 7 pm.

Students, families, and community members are all invited to our Fall Festival Open House. This is our second year hosting this event and it will be held outside on the TA field. We will be having food by our Culinary Arts class, showcases of our STEM +Arts classes, and fun activities organized and run by your awesome TA teachers. Pick up your Krispy Kreme Donuts as well. Please come and join us for all or part of this fun time to get together as a community!

Fall Picture Day

Southern Exposure will be on campus October 4th and 5th to take student portraits. All FLEX Academy students need to take their photos when scheduled by their advisor. No early ordering is necessary. You may view photos and order online at <https://southernexposurephoto.com/Collections/20007>

TAOS ACADEMY Restorative Practices

The fundamental premise of restorative practices is that people are happier, more cooperative and productive, and more likely to make positive changes when those in positions of authority do things with them, rather than to them or for them.

October Practice - Affective Statements Part TWO - Identifying Emotions and Needs

Affective statements build our ability to communicate our **emotions** and our **needs**. Here's the format

When I see/hear: _____ (state the behavior) ← **Identify what is Happening Objectively**

I am feeling: _____ ← **Identify your Feeling**

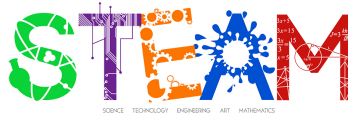
because I need: _____ ← **Identify your Need**

(personal need for order, respect, honesty, etc.)

AND what I'd like is / would you be able to / I am going to ask you to: _____ (name the action)

Feelings	Needs
Afraid	Choice
Tense	Honesty
Annoyed	Community
Tired	Purpose
Confused	Cooperation
Worried	Safety
Hurt	Growth
Uneasy	Stability
Overwhelmed	

Contact Mark Richert mrichert@taosacademy.org for a larger conversation.



Middle School 2nd Quarter STEM + Art Institute:

STEM Institute October - First quarter classes will end on Thursday, October 12th, 2023. Second quarter STEM offerings will be available for registration beginning Monday, October 9th, 2022. Classes will begin on October 17th, 2023. All classes are a quarter elective credit and grades are posted on transcripts. All classes follow Taos Academy policies. Last Day to drop a class is October 26th, 2023 and must be done in writing to Ms.

Lucero-Martinez -no exceptions. jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org Please register in the STEM office with Ms.

Cruz Duran cduran@taosacademy.org . Materials fees will be \$10. This will assist in covering some materials cost for classes or help repair borrowed equipment.

*STEM Instructors may drop students for low participation with two written notices to parents/students. No instructor initiated student drops will be made after November 7th, 2023.



National Honor Society
(Grades 10 - 12)
&
National Junior Honor Society
(Grades 7 - 9)

Applications are now being accepted from qualified students for potential membership in the Taos Academy Honor Societies.

Qualifications for membership include at least a 3.0 grade point average, as well as a desire to participate in service projects.

Applications are due by Friday, October 16, 2023

The Induction Ceremony for new members will be held on Monday, October 30.

Applications for National Honor Society will be accepted by Mrs. Meagher either in person or at pmeagher@taosacademy.org

Applications for National Junior Honor Society will be accepted by Mr. Pepper either in person or at bpepper@taosacademy.org



HS Student Advisory Council (HSSAC): Calling all 9th through 12th graders. We need you on our Student Advisory Council. If you are interested in supporting our TA students and community please join us. We will meet every 2nd Tuesday and 4th Thursday from 12-12:30 in the Media lab. Times are subject to change to meet student representatives schedules. We can discuss your participation to fit your schedule if you have any conflicts. Please contact Mrs. Jamie Lucero-Martinez jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org or Ms. Melissa Montoya mmontoya@taosacademy.org



PSAT/NMSQT: The PSAT/NMSQT will be administered on campus to all 10th graders including FLEX program students and registered 11th graders on Thursday, October 19th, 2023. Please arrive no later than 8 a.m. Student guides are available online at <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt>. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Jamie Lucero-Martinez at jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org or Ms. Angelina Vialpando at avialpando@taosacademy.org



[Class of 2024 Scholarship Info](#) - click here for more information!



October Progress Reports are due the 10th of October. Forms are available to print from the classroom and Mr. Weisfeld will make paper copies available on the 3rd of October. Students will then turn in photos of the completed progress report in to the October Progress Report assignment in the internship classroom .

Mr. J Weisfeld already held an orientation meeting in August for new and continuing internships so if you missed it or have more questions, you must meet with Mr. J in person. If you are continuing the same internship from last year, you will only need progress reports for this semester. If your internship from the summer or for the fall semester is new, then all forms must be completed and turned into the classroom.

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 forms. Then the student will take photos or scan the complete forms that will be turned in to this classroom as 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. [Summer](#), Fall ([October](#) and [December](#)), Spring ([March](#) and [May](#)) progress reports (1 for summer, 2 per fall and spring semester)

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.

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

Turning in forms late (unless with a legitimate excuse) may result in no credit or deferred credit.

All parties must provide their contact information for the form to be considered complete.

All hours must be signed off by the official supervisor (please do not put your schedule just your hours).

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.

MS+

Middle School Plus is offered from 8:00-4:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students attend with either the 5th and 6th grade cohort or the 7th and 8th grade cohort. Cal van Willigen, Tami Martinson and Ben Mortensen provide a support service based on the needs of participating students. A broad range of activities are offered to support students socially and academically. Program components include an incentive program that rewards students for meeting

behavioral and academic goals, intramural activities with Patti Kravitz, field trips, support for student course work, and tutoring opportunities. Collaboratively developed activities provide a rich environment for students to interact with each other and staff. Contact Cal van Willigen (cvanwilligen@taosacademy.org) with any questions.



10/4 and 10/5 Picture Day 9-12p.m.
10/9 - Governing Council/ In School Indigenous Peoples Day
10/11 - 40th Day
10/12 -Community Activity Day/Open House/Tapas
10/13 End of 1st 9 Weeks
10/16 - Picture Retake Day
10/17 - STEM Art 2 begins
10/19 - PSAT/NMSQT (10th Grade)
10/25 - Parent Advisory
10/27 - Student Led Parent Conferences



11/09 - Blood Drive Hosted by Student Council w/Vitalant
11/10 - Teacher In-Service (No School)
11/13 - Governing Council/ In School Veterans Day
11/29 - Parent Advisory/ Winter Activity Planning
11/17-11/24 - Thanksgiving Break (No School)

TA Community Council MEETING 4:15-5:30
Wednesday, September 27 2023
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

[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, Elizabeth LeBlanc, Ty Burden, Tanya Martinez Gurule, Carla Blea, Nicholl Sanchez-Pacheco & Scott Pacheco (parents of Marisol Pacheco-Sanchez), Megan Jenkins, Billy Pepper, Steve Falconi, Jennie Begley, Dorota Witney, Cho Misshel (parent of Royce Trujillo-Vigil), Cal Van Willigen, Patricia Meagher, Gwen Thibadeau, Liz Romero, Tami Martinson, April DeHerrera, Jason Weisfeld, Erica Olson-Hensley, Kenny Shannon, Kelci Pike, Melissa Montoya, Mark Richert

4:15-5:30 Discussion items:

- **Community Schools**
 - Key Practice #1: Powerful Student and Family Engagement
 - October 12, 2023 - Open House Event from 5 pm -7 pm
 - STEM Night Celebration & Showcase
 - Community Schools Introduction to the community
 - Krispy Kreme Donut Sale! Order on the website or get them at the event - all proceeds go to the Taos Academy Foundation
- **Parent Advisory:**

- CCP (Career and College Preparation)& 21st Century Learning - directly teaching research skills, modeling using all resources from digital to community experts.
- Support for Students: Guided notes are also available, especially for first year or incoming learners. We encourage students to attend MidSchool Plus and Student Success Lab. Asking for help is important!
- Questions about how to support students: We will be having some additional trainings for families on Edgenuity. Keep an eye out for more info on these. Another best practice is to sit down with your student and see what their classes look like - ask about their notes, take a quiz, review a lecture and see what they are doing in their coursework.
- Communications with Advisor and Enrichment teachers - You should have received a welcome letter with contact information. Please reach out anytime there is a question or concern.
- Review Recharter Process with Dr. Filiss - We are entering our 3rd five-year recharter with the Public Education Commission.
 - Highlights: Our demographics are moving closer each year to mirror our community; we are a Spotlight School (in the top 25% of schools for academic performance); other highlights include our dual credit program equity, consistently high 4 year graduation rates. We have met every standard on the Performance Framework for the past two years (SY2122 and SY2223).
 - Parents and families wanting more information or school data can go to nmvistas.org, which shows information on all schools in New Mexico.
 - Athletic Coordinator - Mr. Billy Pepper (bpepper@taosacademy.org) is our new Athletic Coordinator. Please send him any information about sports and activity deadlines, awesome student achievements, and events that should be communicated to our school community about our student-athletes.
 - Please reach out to Ms. Lisa Joseph at ljoseph@taosacademy.org if you have any questions or if you would like to help out at our October 12th, 2023.

- **Next Meeting Agenda Items**

TA Community Council MEETING 4:15-5:30

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

- OWL for next time
- Food and child care may be available. More to come as we work with community partners to develop this.
- Parent Resources & Training by one of our SWIFT teams
- Review of Key Practice 2 and our Strategic Plan

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?