



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 17th, 2024 from 3:30 - 6:30 pm.

Students, families, and community members are all invited to our Fall Festival Open House. 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. Please come and join us for all or part of this fun time to get together as a community!



TA Community School Update



Taos Academy Community Council meetings are held on campus or virtually on the last Wednesday of each month from 4:15-5:30. If you want to be part of the team please contact Deborah Branchal, School Community Coordinator at dbranchal@taosacademy.org.

Student-Led Conferences will be held on Wednesday, October 16th. These will be held in-person or virtually via Google Meets, as it works best for the family and is led by the student around their learning - what's going well, what's challenging, and what's next in their progress and school experience. Please be on the lookout for an email from your student's teachers and please mark this day on your calendars!



Special Education: Both Ancillary and Special Education services are taking place for students. Transfer meetings are being scheduled and we will be reaching out to you soon. If you have a student with an IEP and have not heard from us to schedule a transfer meeting, then please reach out as we may have no documentation on your student. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to sbradley@taosacademy.org (Special Education Director) or jhenshaw@taosacademy.org (Special Education Coordinator) Thank you!

1.



Middle School 2nd Quarter STEM + Art Institute:

STEM Institute October - First quarter classes will end on Thursday, October 10th, 2024. Second quarter STEM offerings will be available for registration beginning Monday, October 7th, 2024. Classes will begin on October 22nd, 2024. 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 29th, 2024 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. FitTaos fee is \$20.

*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, 2024.

STEM+Arts Night and Open House will take place on Thursday, October 17th, 2024 from 3:30-6:30pm. All students enrolled in STEM Institute classes are completing their final projects at the event and participation is part of their grade.



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 1st and 3th Thursday from 12-12:30 in CTE. 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

PSAT/NMSQT®

PSAT/NMSQT: The PSAT/NMSQT will be administered on campus to all 10th graders including FLEX program students and registered 11th graders on Tuesday, October 15th, 2024. 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





Taos Academy's Internship Program gives elective credit to high school students who are volunteering for an organization, gaining job experience or getting mentored. In order to receive credit, students must work for a certified business or official organization.

October progress reports are DUE OCTOBER 11 and are posted in the Internship classroom. October progress reports are due and will not be accepted after Oct 11, 2024 .

Any new student that would like to do an internship for elective credit, must first meet with Mr. J Weisfeld to get a short training on how to complete forms in the internship google classroom. They will then be invited into the classroom. These following forms will then be posted in the classroom as assignments with due dates that students must print (or get a printed copy from Mr. J), get completed in pen, photographed on time and submitted into the classroom in the proper place.

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)

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. All forms must be complete in order to receive credit. .

Contact Mr. Weisfeld at jweisfeld@taosacademy.org if you have any questions.



10/14-10/17 - Student remote learning week
10/14 - Governing Council Meeting
10/16- Parent Conferences
10/17- Community Open House 3:30-6:30pm
10/21 - STEM Art 2 begins
10/30- Community Council



11/05 - Election Day - No School
11/08 - High School Day
11/11 - Governing Council
11/20 - Community Council
11/25-11/29 - Thanksgiving Break (No School)

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:

5:30 Attendance - Dr.Filiss, Dr.LaBella, Jamie Lucero-Martinez, Dr. Moodley, Deborah Branchal,Cruz Duran, April DeHerrera, Lisa Joseph, Mary May, Dorota Witney,Tami Martinson,Kelsea Connell, Cal vanWilligen, Billy Pepper,Jason Weisfeld, Emmett Moulton, Erica Olson Hensley, Gary Goddard, Nicole Pacheco, Rocio Flores, Elvira Crockett(3 Rivers),Aleide Bustillos, Patrick Blea, Carla Blea, Sandy Amado Cabrera, Liz Dominguez, Tanya Gurule,Forest Dudek Eloy Salazar, Marisol Pacheco, Yahir Garcia, Eric Herrera, Enriquez Amado Cabrera, Anylu Bustamante, Daniela Medina, Michelle Valdivia-Luna, Geraldine Dominguez, Sophie Jenkins, Israel Moraga,Carlos Lopez,Ixchel Dudek

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: Students are finishing MAP testing. We are nearing the end of the first quarter. Students have expressed interest in their special projects. Progress reports are going out. Please check emails and progress reports. Student Led conferences October 14-17.
- STEM Institute: End of the first quarter for middle school STEM classes is **Oct 11, 2024** . STEM Night/Open house is Thursday, October 17th from 3:30-6:30pm. New MS courses will be posted October 7th. New course includes Native American Studies course. We are also working on a Music class.
- Assessment:
 - Tuesday: October 15th.-10th grade PSAT no cost. 11th graders may take the PSAT again cost is \$18 register in the STEM office.
 - MAPS testing completed this week.
- **WE NEED SUPPORT Decorating a float for Homecoming - Come help us Tuesday, October 1st at 5:00-** Homecoming parade at 5:00 Wednesday, October 2nd, starting at the Agricultural Center. Also join families for a Carnival at THS Thursday October 4th.
 - SPIRIT DAYS: Monday - Support Tacky tourist Tuesday - role reversal (Dress as your teachers), Wednesday - PJ and stuffed animal day, Thursday - career day, Friday community colors day.
- October at a glance:
 - FLEX (Remote) week (October 14th - 17th),
 - Student led conferences (October 14th - 17th)
 - PSAT Tuesday: October 15th
 - Open House Thursday, October 17th 3:30 - 6:30.
- Parent Comments and Questions: Native American History class - Appreciate the opportunity for students elective class.
- Next meeting agenda items:

Equity Council: Agenda -

- Hispanic Heritage Month
 - Guest speaker:Aleide Bustillos
 - Student presentations - Student Experience Poem and Remedios presentation.

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.