



Welcome to September! We are excited to kick off more opportunities for expanded programming at Taos Academy! We have STEM classes, 21st Century learning, enrichment, dual credit, and other out-of-school time programming being offered. See more details in this newsletter and be sure to talk to your child about their personalized schedule. You will also start receiving notices from your child's advisor and 21st century teacher. If you are not hearing from us at least once per week, please be sure to get in touch! Thank you all for such a strong start to our school year!

**Labor Day Monday Holiday** – Taos Academy will be closed on Labor Day (Monday, September 2nd). This is the only Monday holiday that we take during the school year. ***Middle school students (5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades), please plan to attend school on Friday September 6<sup>th</sup> as a makeup day!***

**EDGE Curriculum:** Students should now have access to all their online courses and be working a minimum of 4-5 hours per day Monday through Thursday (or 20 hours per week total on their individualized schedule) to stay on track with the assignment calendar! If you are already falling behind, please get additional time and help through our HS Student Success Lab (open 8-12 M/W) and our MidSchool Plus Program (available 8-4 pm T/Th).

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Classes:** All students except College Link are now enrolled in one of the following 21st Century classes: SmartLab, Leadership, Global Studies, PE/Fitness, or College and Career Prep I-IV. These classes are anchored in the 5 Cs of 21st Century learning: communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and compassion. Assignments for these classes are posted in GClassroom.



more major life activities should be evaluated by the school, on a case-by-case basis, to determine whether they may qualify as having a disability under Section 504. If you have these concerns for your student, reach out to Angelina Vialpando, 504 Coordinator [avialpando@taosacademy.org](mailto:avialpando@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.

Summer progress reports and new digital forms will be posted in the Internship classroom this week.

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](mailto:jweisfeld@taosacademy.org) if you have any questions.

**WELCOME BACK!**





Dual Credit applications have been completed and UNM classes began on August 19. **If students need or want to drop a college course, they must fill out a drop form by Friday, September 6.** After this date, students must complete the course and accept the grade given on both their high school transcript and college transcript.

- There are no UNM classes on Monday, September 2, 2024.
- Please sign out and pick up course textbooks from Taos Academy in the College Link classroom. All books must be signed out in the red binder in the College Link classroom and returned at the end of the semester. If a student does not return the book, they will not be able to enroll in any dual credit courses until the book is returned or replaced.
- September 6th is the last day to add or drop a UNM class. Add/Drop forms need to be filled out before this date and returned to Miss Pike.



#### SENIORS:

-  Please start the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. FAFSA Families of 2025 college students are required to fill out this application for all scholarship and grant applications, work-study, and loans.
-  Make an appointment with **BRIDGES Project** in Taos to discuss/explore scholarship information and other pertinent college application details. <http://bridgesproject.org/>

#### Class of 2025 Scholarship Info



Apply - Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation Due October 2, 2024



The Gates Scholarship: Scholarship Main- Due Sep 15, 2024



Daniel's Scholarship- Due October 18, 2024



Welcome back to a new year of College Link! My name is Patricia Meagher, and I am the College Link Advisor. I look forward to working with the juniors and seniors who are preparing for their next steps in their education journey. I work closely with our counselor, Ms. Angelina Vialpando, to provide students with the time and resources to apply for scholarships as they choose the universities they wish to attend. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [pmeagher@taosacademy.org](mailto:pmeagher@taosacademy.org)

**Juniors and Senior College Link** students are starting off strong this year and we are looking forward to a great year! A few things to keep in mind:

#### **11th Graders**

- Corsava - Check out this awesome resource that helps you figure out what you want (and don't want) from your college experience.
- PSAT - Sign up to take the exam this fall, even if you took the test as a sophomore. Strong test scores as a junior may qualify you for academic honors, including National Merit as well as programs and recruitment for Black, Latinx, Indigenous, rural, first-generation and low income students.

#### **12th Graders**

This is a critical time for seniors. In Advisory we are working on college lists and will be quickly starting to work on college applications. Here are a few extra resources for families:

- Letters of recommendation - This is a good time to check in with your recommenders to make sure they know the deadlines. And if you haven't already, read this guide and then ask your teacher(s) if they'll write a letter on your behalf.
- College applications are live - Start familiarizing yourself with the information you need to gather. One of the most popular applications: The Common Application
- Do you identify as Undocumented or a member of the LGBTQ+ Community? If you're wondering how much to disclose in your personal statement, these guides might help you map out your content.
- FAFSA + CSS PROFILE - These two forms are critical to your financial aid process. All schools require the FAFSA; the CSS PROFILE is only required by some schools and scholarships. Submission windows open on October 1st.
- EOP Application Guide - Educational Opportunity Programs offer extra resources and support to help under-resourced students succeed in college.
- QuestBridge and Posse Foundation - See if you qualify for these great opportunities to win a full ride to college.

## National Honor Society



The National Honor Society will start again this year at the end of September. All students possessing a 3.0 grade point average and a recommendation from a teacher or other adult, may apply.

Students must maintain the required grade point average as well as commit to working at least 10 service hours per school year.

See Mrs. Meagher for more information and an application if interested.



Hello! Ms. Angelina Vialpando is the school counselor at Taos Academy for the 2024-25 school year and they are excited to provide counseling services to all students.

School counselors help all students in the following areas:

- Academics: Apply academic achievement strategies
- Social Emotional Learning: Manage emotions and apply interpersonal skills
- Career and College Plan: Postsecondary options (higher education, military, work force)

We want to assure you that your students will be supported and encouraged by the teachers and staff, however if situations come up that need another layer of support, the school counseling office is here for them as well. If you have any concerns about your student, please feel free to contact the school counseling office. Email is the best way to reach us.

- Angelina Vialpando, [avialpando@taosacademy.org](mailto:avialpando@taosacademy.org)



**9/2 - No School - Labor Day**  
**9/6 - Middle School Day**  
**9/9-9/10 Picture Day**  
**9/12 Blood Drive 10am-2pm**  
**9/16 - Make-up Picture Day**  
**9/09 - Governing Council Meeting 5:30**  
**9/25 - Community Council Meeting 4:15**



**10/14 - 10/17 - Student Remote Learning Week**  
**10-14 - Governing Council 5:30**  
**10/15 - PSAT**  
**10/16 - Parent Conferences**  
**10/17 - Community Open House**  
**10/23-10/24 Lion's Club Vision Screenings**  
**10/30 - Community Council 4:15**

**PARENT ADVISORY –5:30 –7:00**

**Wednesday August 28th, 2024**

**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.*

**TA Community Council Meeting Info:**

**Join with Google Meet**

**Taos Academy Community Council**

**Wednesday, August 28 · 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#**

**Organizer: Taos Academy Public Calendar**

**Taos Academy Public Calendar**

**Meeting Agenda:**

**5:30 Attendance - Jamie Lucero-Martinez, Mary May, Dr. D. Moodley, Kelsey Connel, Billy Pepper, Dorota Witney, Tami Martinson, Jason Weisfeld, Nicole Sanchez Pacheco, Melissa Salazar, Emmett Moulton, Deborah Branchal, Mishel Cho, Marisol Sanchez-Pacheco(7), Ixchel Dudek(7), Zia Bittermann(6), Royce Trujillo-Vigil(7), Calvin Willigen, April DeHerrera, Forest Dudek, Lisa Joseph, Dr. LaBella, Amy Trevino**

**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:**

**Progress Reports - All teachers will be sending introduction letters, syllabi, and progress information this week. Please accept invitations to Google Classroom and check emails**

**Advisory - updates we encourage students to participate in MS+/SSL. Additional access to advisor support**

**% advisory outdoor trip - Fun with outdoor painting gallery walk to celebrate and appreciate their work. Students presented work to their peers.**

**Active engagement with Edgenuity.**

**STEM Institute:**

**Course offerings, registration,etc.**

**FAEA updated information - Taos Academy was awarded for the 24-25SY. The rate is based upon our average enrollment of 5-6 grade students on the 40th and 120 days of school.**

**Assessment**

**MAP - Upcoming dates from September 11th-17th**

**PSAT Oct 15, 2024. Free for all 10th graders, \$18 fee for 11th graders must pre-register.**

**Parent reports - NM-MSSA, NM-ASR, and SAT family reports are going home by backpack mail tomorrow for HS and Wednesday for MS.**

**September at a glance: Labor Day, Picture Days,Senior Sunrise**

**Parent Comments and Questions:**

**Family facebook group - flyers are in the front office. Parent support is available.**

**Public calendar needs constant updating- meetings and activities are not showing.**

**Orientation for returning families-with updates on changes in addition to emails.**

**Families appreciated the outdoor learning potluck. Parents were able to meet each other and build relationships.**

**SEL group regarding dress code and free lunches. What is the status? Updates and communication. Free lunch for SB4 possible discussion on how this impacts charters.**

**Parent Townhall - Support for returning parents- communication**

**Restorative practices - Student request to bring back "Rcards"parent support getting prizes**

**Lunches? Parent committee possibility of joining the SHAC.**

**Next meeting agenda items: October end of quarter, Text messaging system?**

**Equity Council: Agenda - No Items for August Meeting**

**Traci Filiss Executive Director**

**Jamie Lucero-Martinez - Program Lead**

**Cruz Duran,- Multilingual Learning,**

**Tami Martinson - Economically Disadvantaged**

**Elizabeth LeBlanc, Tanya Martinez-Gurule - Disabilities**

**Other needs - student representation by HS SAC Rep.**

**Attendance:**

**We are working through year two of equity councils and refocusing our work statewide as we realize the impact the Pandemic has had on our schools and community. These guiding questions will be used to assist our council in redirecting our focus as students return to in-person learning.**

**The School prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates. Individuals may report concerns or questions to the Title IX Coordinator. A full version of the School's Policy Statement and Notice as well as the Grievance Procedure can be found at <https://www.taosacademy.org>.**