



September kicks off more opportunities for expanded programming at Taos Academy! As students are placed in appropriate digital coursework, 21st Century classes, and dual credit, more opportunities for support and elective programming are being offered. See more details in this newsletter and be sure to talk to your child about their personalized schedule. You will 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!

**Labor Day Monday Holiday** – Taos Academy will be closed on Labor Day (Monday, September 6th). This is the only Monday holiday we will take. **Middle school students (5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades) are to attend classes on Friday September 10<sup>th</sup> as a makeup day!**

**EDGE Curriculum:** Students should now have full 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 as suits their 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). Also be on the lookout for info about our Friday Virtual Tutoring starting soon.

**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, Career Pathways, CTE Design Project. and/or Seminar. 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.

**Digital Citizenship Corner:** All students will be exposed to age-appropriate content and discussions regarding Digital Citizenship. Most of our curriculum is borrowed from [Common Sense Media](#). This is a WONDERFUL resource for educators, students, and families. Click [here](#) for this month's Digital Citizenship Tip and click [here](#) for more resources for your family.

**STEM+Art Institute classes:** Classes begin Monday, August 30th for high school and Tuesday, August 31st for middle school. Students must register in the STEM office with Cruz Duran. Materials fee is \$10 for MS and \$20 for HS. Fit Taos is a \$20 fee and requires a permission slip. The last day to

add or drop a class is Wednesday, September 8th. All classes must be dropped IN WRITING by emailing Mrs. Jamie Lucero-Martinez. For questions please contact Mrs. Lucero-Martinez at [jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org](mailto:jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org)

### **E-Sports**

If you are interested in joining our esports program for the 2021-2022 School Year contact Cal van Willigen ([cvanwilligen@taosacademy.org](mailto:cvanwilligen@taosacademy.org)) directly by email! Keep an eye out for more general info to come!



### **Special Education**

If you have a student with special education needs and you do not have a transfer IEP scheduled or completed please contact Jeanette Henshaw ([jhenshaw@taosacademy.org](mailto:jhenshaw@taosacademy.org)) as soon as possible so that we can request records and start services as soon as possible. Any special education concerns or questions don't hesitate to contact me. Jeanette Henshaw

**Shopping that helps Taos Academy** - Taos Academy will not be holding our annual fundraiser, Tapas at Taos Academy, due to the covid19 pandemic. Yet, there are several ways to help Taos Academy raise funds doing what you already do:

1. [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) - Click on "your Charity" in the top left corner of the page. Search for Taos Academy Foundation. Amazon will contribute a percentage of everything you buy at no extra cost to you!
2. [Smith's Groceries](https://www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/i/community/smiths-inspiring-donations)- Smith's Inspiring Donations gives a percentage to the school for the groceries you buy - at no additional cost to you. Go to <https://www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/i/community/smiths-inspiring-donations>  
This site will give you instructions for how to link your Smith's card to Taos Academy Foundation. Every time you shop you will be helping our school!!
3. [Cid's Grocery Store](#) - When you get a chip for using your own grocery bags - look for the Taos Academy jar among the charities to give your chip to. Cid's sends a check monthly, depending on how many chips we collect.

### **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.*

## September Practice - Affective Statements

Affective Statements relate to how a behavior affects you.  
This is a way to relate to people that is not exclusively 'rules-based.'



**ALL RELATIONSHIPS  
ARE at the CORE** →

When I see/hear: \_\_\_\_\_ (state the behavior)

I am feeling: \_\_\_\_\_

because I need: \_\_\_\_\_

(state reason, 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)

Contact Warren Kelly ([hwkelly@taosacademy.org](mailto:hwkelly@taosacademy.org)) or ANY student adviser about RP.



## BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

THE BBBS program is OPEN for new APPLICATIONS

<https://www.bbbsmountainregion.org/>

Keep an eye in this space, we hope to REBUILD our program for HS students to mentor MS students on site.

Contact Warren Kelly ([hwkelly@taosacademy.org](mailto:hwkelly@taosacademy.org)) for more information on BBBS.

## Internships:

**NEW: All HS students will receive an invitation to the Internship Google Classroom. All paperwork and information will be in this classroom. In order to begin an internship, each student MUST accept the invite and submit all paperwork to this classroom.**

**Past pending internships will be added to the Internship Classroom.**

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 Responsibilities"
3. Fall and Spring progress reports (2 per semester) **New\*\*\*\* a supervisor-signature and total hours have been added to the progress report. Students no longer have to provide this on a separate piece of paper.**

The first two forms are due within the first few weeks of each semester to the Internship Program Coordinator, Jason Weisfeld and will be submitted to the Internship Classroom. The forms are available in the Internship Google Classroom in Doc format and in PDF format on the school website under the "Resources-Forms" tab, along with a copy of the Internship Handbook.

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 100 hours of internship credit and must include a supervisor signature and total hours to date.

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




## WELCOME BACK!



Dual Credit applications have been completed and UNM classes began on August 23rd. **If students need to drop a college course, they must fill out a DROP form by September 10.** 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 6, 2020.
- Please pick up course textbooks from Taos Academy in the College Link room.
- September 10th is the last day to DROP a UNM class, so DROP forms need to be filled out before this date.

## SENIORS:

- 
 Please start the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**.  
<https://fafsa.ed.gov/> Families of 2021 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/>
- 
 To look into **New Mexico State University**, please visit <https://admissions.nmsu.edu/> and connect with **Jake Rardin, Admissions Advisor** .



**Meet the new College Link Team!** Erica Olson - Hensley will be primarily coaching the College Link Juniors while Robin Shawver will be assisting the College Link Seniors. Kelci Pike is our Early College Dual Credit Coordinator and will be doing all things UNM for the students. We are all here to support students as they earn dual credit through UNM-Taos and look towards their futures after Taos Academy.



9/6 – No School - Labor Day

9/8 and 9/10 - Middle school grades have school on Wednesday and Friday this week.

9/13 – Governing Council Meeting 5:30

9/24 - Teacher In Service (No School/No SSL)

9/28 - Parent Advisory



- 10/4-5 Lion's Club KidSight Program Eye Exams
- 10/8- Community Activity Day/Open House/TAPAS
- 10/11 - Governing Council Meeting/School day for Middle School students
- 10/14 - End of First 9 Weeks
- 10/18 - STEM Art 2 begins
- 10/22 - Student Led/Parent Conferences
- 10/26 – Parent Advisory

PARENT ADVISORY –5:30 –7:00  
Tuesday August 31st, 2021  
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.*

## Parent Advisory/Equity Council

Join with Google Meet 

[meet.google.com/upc-gces-pcc](https://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 - Warren Kelly(Dean of students, 11th grade parent), Dr. Traci Filiss, (Director,8th grade parent), Elizabeth Leblanc(Principal,7th grade parent),**

**Jamie Lucero-Martinez(Jeanette Henshaw(SPED Coordinator,12th grade parent), Kristeena Smith(9th grade parent), Russell Phillips(9th grade parent), Marina Garcia(6th,9th parents), Xochitl Wodrich(5th,7th grade), Monica Artiaga(5th,7th parents), David Kreighauser(10th**

parent), Ricardo Martinez(9th grade parent), Marc R, Adriane Reynolds, Cruz Duran(STEM Admin,8th,11th grade)

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.

**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.

**5:45–7:00 Discussion items:**

- **ARP/ESSER 111 (Federal COVID relief funds) Funding review:**
  - Third round of funding, previously expended on improving ventilation and HEPA air filtration for all areas.
  - New building to expand learning space for students. Career Technical Education Building, CTE. Will provide additional learning areas to space students safely.
  - MERV-19 filter replacement
  - Hired additional staff to support students- Counseling, emotional support
  - \$580,000 over the course of three years
- **COVID safety protocols update:**
  - Fully masked inside buildings
  - Recommended masks- unvaccinated outdoors
  - Distancing by arms length
  - TA is using temperature kiosks for all who enter the campus
  - **What are the protocols for exposure?**
    - **Vaccinated and exposed - come back unless you are having symptoms**
    - **Unvaccinated and exposed - 10 day quarantine even if there is a negative test.**
    - **Direct exposure = within 6' for 15+minutes.**
- **Instructional update:**

- Regular schedule has begun! On campus Monday/Wednesday for MS and Tuesday/Thursday for HS. 3 classes for 5th and 6th graders, 21st Century classes, Language Arts and Math Enrichment classes - hands on classes.
- Optional Days- Middle School+ T/TH 8-4, High School Student Success Lab 8-12, Afternoon study hall. STEM+ Arts afternoon courses
- **FLEX Academy Virtual Instruction:**
  - 35 students - school within a school. Meeting once weekly with an advisor with tutoring support available.
- **STEM Institute:** Last Day to drop a class is September 8th, 2021 and must be done in writing to Ms. Jamie Lucero-Martinez -no exceptions. [jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org](mailto:jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org) **Please register in the STEM Office with Cruz Duran, [cduran@taosacademy.org](mailto:cduran@taosacademy.org) . Materials fees will be \$10 for all courses except Outdoor Edventure(\$20).** This will assist in covering some materials cost for classes or help repair borrowed equipment. **\*If a course is dropped by the student a fee credit will be given towards another course. No Refunds.\***
- **Assessment Updates for Cohort 2022 and 2023:**
  - **Demonstration of Competency Allowances for Cohorts 2022 and 2023: Due to pandemic-related interruptions to standardized testing, PED allows the continuation of the passing of required coursework to demonstrate competency for cohort 2022 and 2023 graduates, as allowed for cohort 2021.**
- **Restorative Practices Introduction and Refresher (W. Kelly):**
  - **What is RP? Building healthy relationships that promote trust**
  - **AFFECTIVE LANGUAGE STATEMENTS:**  
(see the bottom of the document) **Focus on deed not the doer.**
- **Parent Comments and Questions:**
  - Parent- Ricardo Martinez would like to know when and how to provide informed feedback on the CTE program and ESSER 111 with consideration to previous feedback.
- **September at a glance: Labor Day - No school** Monday, September 6th, 2021. Will be replaced with full day MS on Friday, September 10th, 2021. In school during Monday federal holidays throughout the year.
- **Next meeting agenda items:**
  - **Open House- October 8th, 2021 - Discuss parent/community support**
  - **Student Led conferences - October 22nd, 2021**



## **Equity Council: Agenda -**

<b>Traci Filiss Executive Director -</b>
<b>Jamie Lucero-Martinez - Program lead -</b>
<b>H. Warren Kelly - ELL, Restorative Practices</b>
<b>Cruz Duran - Economically Disadvantaged -</b>
<b>- Disabilities -</b>
<b>??? - Student -</b>

**Attendance: Dr. Traci Filiss, Jamie Lucero-Martinez Cruz Duran, Warren Kelly, Jeanette Henshaw, Monica Schenck, Rasa Lila O'Donnell, Ricardo Martinez, Xochitl Wodrich.**

**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.**

- Open discussion to change or confirm EC focus for Fall Semester - Current focus on SEL, RP, Mental health. Possibly revisit the Inventory and discuss redirecting our focus.
  - Mental health support and increased communication skill building activities for students. Connections without being physically there.(Cruz)
  - Commitment to RP- Diversity of school community- Bring families together to discuss. Come to agreements on our approach
  - Fact Sheet - <https://race.unm.edu/assets/documents/yazzie-martinez-english.pdf>
  - Focus on Mental support as a result of the pandemic and increase on social emotional aspects (Monica)
  - Transition/lingering trauma regarding pandemic- How do we meet with our families to assess needs? How do we convene with our peers at this time? Community focused school under these conditions. Mental health focus (Ricardo)
  - Mental Health - affects how students learn through trauma. Building a healthy community. Meals at school? (Xochitl)
  - Structure and support for families for subgroups- EL, Special Education, diverse ethnicities. Focus on acceptance and being appreciated.
  - Student comments- "It is okay to be different and no one will laugh at me"(Traci from student)

- Discussion - Recruitment or selection of new representatives -Revisit at the September 28th meeting and vote on the October 26th meeting.

“We should hold community and institutions together in spaces, and shift power to students and families. This requires intentionality so that we provide space for students and families in our decision-making.” How are we incorporating this at TA? Monthly Parent Advisory meeting, quarterly equity meetings, parent nights. Focus on SEL, student voice, mental health next year? Return to assigned parent per advisory. Possible monthly change or quarterly change.

### **Parent Restorative Practices Index:**

#### **8/31 What is RP?**

*Restorative Practices is a system of formal and informal processes that build and sustain a culture of kindness, respect, responsibility and justice. This is achieved through emphasizing the importance of trusting relationships as central to building community and repairing relationships when harm has occurred.*

*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.*

#### **8/31 Affective Statements relate to how a behavior affects you (a way to relate that is not simply ‘rules-based.’)**

When I see/hear: \_\_\_\_\_ (state the behavior)

I am feeling:\_\_\_\_\_

because I need:\_\_\_\_\_

(state reason, 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)