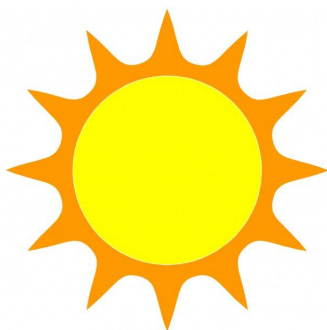




Welcome to September! We are excited to kick off more opportunities for expanded programming at Taos Academy! We have STEM classes, 21st Century learning, enrichment, dual credit, and other out-of-school time programming being offered. See more details in this newsletter and be sure to talk to your child 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 4th). This is the only Monday holiday that we take during the school year. *Middle school students (5th through 8th grades), please plan to attend school on Friday September 9th 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).

21st 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.



STEM+Art Institute classes: Classes began Monday, August 28th for high school and Tuesday, August 29th 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 Thursday, September 9th. 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

Blood Drive- Taos Academy will be hosting a blood drive with Vitalant on Tuesday, September 12th, 2023 from 10-2pm. The bloodmobile will be in the front of the building. Appointments can be scheduled online at vitalant.org. Students aged 16 and older may participate. Please pick-up a permission slip in the STEM office .



CHESS CLUB: We are bringing back our Chess Club with Mr. Tim! Starting this coming week, on Wednesday, September 6th from 4-5 pm, students are welcome to join us in the Main Cafe for chess play and practice. After this, Chess Club will meet every Monday and Wednesday from 4 pm - 5 pm.

Youth Coding League:

Future and current coders, lend us your skills! Coach Bill Hood from True Kids 1 will be coaching this year's Youth Coding League. For more information, please see our [Participant Contract](#). Practice will begin the week of September 11th as follows:

- Grades 5/6: Tuesday 1:30-3:30
- Grades 7/8: Thursday 1:30-3:30

Please turn all forms into Ms. E!



Special Education

Students with an IEP have met with their direct Services Case Manager. All services as well as Ancillary (Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Language Pathologist, Counseling) will start the first week of September. If you have a student with Special Education needs and have not provided Taos Academy with documentation, please bring IEP documentation to the front desk. Sarah Bradley, Special Education Director will contact you as soon as possible. If you have any special education concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to contact us:

Sarah Bradley, Special Education Director, sbradley@taosacademy.org

Jeanette Henshaw, Special Education Coordinator, jhenshaw@taosacademy.org

Patricia Meagher, Gifted Education Coordinator, pmeagher@taosacademy.org

Megan Tanner, Special Education Teacher, mtanner@taosacademy.org

David Thibadeau, Special Education Teacher, jdtibadeau@taosacademy.org

504 Overview Information

Each student suspected of having a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or 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

Shopping that helps Taos Academy -

1. [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.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!!



Our Community School is already making huge impacts on the well-being of our students and families. We look forward to sharing the key practices and strategies we are employing to transform our school and want your participation in and help with our plans. We are planning our Annual Community 101 meeting October 12 with a Community Activity Day to celebrate our work in the Six Key Practices of a Community School. More information will be available closer to the event date.

Our Site Based Leadership Team is looking for membership from our community, families, and students to serve this school year and in future years.. This leadership position at Taos Academy can make a huge difference to our Community School. Your voice will help lead the direction of our Taos Technology Center and Community School. Meetings average two times per month during the school year and we review our strategic plan as it relates to the Six Key Practices for Community Schools.

SBLT meetings are held on campus or virtually. We also need help with activities and events supporting the Taos Technology Center and TA Community School. We have many activities and events to choose from and internship opportunities are available for high school students.

We look forward to your involvement and input with the continuation of our Community School journey. Please contact Community School Coordinator, Lisa Joseph, ljoseph@taosacademy.org or CS Liason/Operation Manager, Dr. Traci Filiss, if you have any questions or want to find out how you can be a part of this exciting journey of continuous improvement in transforming our Community School that promotes child well-being.

Hello Taos Academy Community! I am Mark Richert, the new Dean of Students this year. I look forward to teaming with the great staff at Taos Academy to continue building a safe, inclusive culture that values all of our students and adults. I will continue with Mr. Kelly’s “R Card” initiative to recognize responsible, respectful actions and words that move us toward more trusting relationships. Students or staff can earn fun little prizes when they are recognized for these positive actions and words.

TAOS ACADEMY: Restorative Practices

People are happier, more cooperative and productive when those in positions of authority do things with them, rather than to them or for them.



September Practice - Affective Statements

Affective Statements demonstrate how another person's behavior affects emotionally.

Sharing that emotional information makes a personal connection that can motivate the other person to cooperate - because you are sharing on a human level.

Basically - All you need to practice an affective statement is identifying and describing your emotions to others - AND knowing how to describe what you need as a result.

When I see/hear:_____ (state the behavior)

I am feeling this: _____ .

I need this from you: _____ . OR

What I'd like is / would you be able to / I am going to ask you to:

_____.



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)

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

Contact Mr. Weisfeld at TA during his office hours or at jweisfeld@taosacademy.org if you have any questions.

WELCOME BACK!





Dual Credit applications have been completed and UNM classes began on August 21. **If students need or want to drop a college course, they must fill out a drop form by Wednesday, 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 4, 2023.
- 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 2024 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 2024 Scholarship Info



<https://www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org/apply/>



<https://www.thegatesscholarship.org/scholarship>



Welcome back to a new year of College Link! My name is Patricia Meagher, and I am the new College Link Advisor. I am looking forward to working with the juniors and seniors who are preparing for their next steps in their education journey. I will be working closely with Ms. Angelina Vialpando to provide students with the time and resources to apply for scholarships as they choose the universities they would like to attend. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at 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 your 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.



Hello! Ms. Melissa Montoya and Ms. Angelina Vialpando are the school counselors at Taos Academy for the 2023-24 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
- Melissa Montoya, mmontoya@taosacademy.org



9/4 - No School - Labor Day

9/8 - Middle School Day

9/11 - Governing Council Meeting 5:30

9/22 - Teacher In Service (No School/No SSL)

9/27 - Parent Advisory



10/9 - Governing Council/ In School Indigenous Peoples Day

10/12 - Community Activity Day/Open House/TAPAS

10/13 - End of First 9 Weeks

10/17 - STEM Art 2 begins

10/25 - Parent Advisory

10/27 - Student Led/Parent Conferences