



Welcome back all - we hope everyone had a restful Thanksgiving Break! We are approaching the end of the first semester and the TA teachers and staff would like to say CONGRATS to our students for their hard work this semester. As our students are completing their classes, many of you early and with outstanding grades, remember to take some time to celebrate your accomplishments as a family team. As our mission states, we are a community of learners and it takes this entire community (including parents, students, teachers, and advisors) to support an environment for excellence in learning. THANK YOU ALL!!!



CELEBRATION OF LEARNING - Please join us **Friday, December 10** for STEM+ Arts Institute Celebration at Taos Academy from 4:00-6:00 pm. Culinary Arts class will be providing some refreshments. Video classes will host a premiere event with Q&A. 3-D Art, Digital Art and Science Explorations will all have work from these classes on display as a gallery walk through the STEM building. Music classes will provide two performances in the gym. TA Clubs will showcase their projects and have interactive demonstrations. Don't miss this evening of fun and celebration!

Winter Activities:

Winter Activity Days 2022– January 12, 13, 14 AND February 11, 2022

These days are indicated on the school calendar. ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY. You must pick ONE program for 4 days. Taos Academy will have staff members supervising each location. Students MUST check in and check out with a Taos Academy staff member each day to receive credit for the day. The attached liability forms, and fees are due by **Thursday, December 2nd, 2021**.

1) **Taos Ski Valley**- Students needing lift, lessons, and equipment must fill out the 2021-2022 Student Registration Packet, which includes FOUR forms (Liability Release, Rental Release, Registration, and Medical Release). The cost for the package is \$165 and includes four days. Fees are due by

Thursday, December 2nd, 2021 payable to Taos Academy. Students with Taos passes and personal ski equipment must fill out the MEDICAL form. Transportation is the responsibility of each family.

***Students with passes at other ski areas, please talk to Mr. Cisneros.

2) **High Altitude Fitness** - \$15 for four days- mornings are a choice of at least 2 fitness classes such as spin, yoga, and core workout (schedule available in January). After a lunch break, students swim, hot tub, or use cardio equipment if over 15 years old. (1-3pm). This choice is limited to 25 students. Students must check in and check out with Taos Academy staff daily. Additional paperwork and payment (Checks made payable to Taos Academy) must be turned in no later than December 2nd, 2021. Students choosing this option will participate at the gym for 4 days.

3) **Taos Academy/TYFC** – Students will work at Taos Academy for the morning (middle school), break for lunch, then walk with TA staff to TYFC to either ice skate or swim. High school will go to TYFC in the morning and do Edge in the afternoon. The cost is \$8 for four days of skating (including rentals) or swimming. Students must check in and check out with Taos Academy staff daily. Students need to turn in a signed liability release form and \$8 to participate in the skate/swim option. Additional paperwork and payment (checks made out to Taos Academy) must be turned in no later than December 2nd, 2021.

4) **Taos Academy/Aura Fitness** – Students will work at Taos Academy for the morning, break for lunch, then walk with TA staff to Aura Fitness for yoga. Aura Fitness is at 1337 Gusdorf Road (the same distance as TYFC from the school). The cost is \$25 for 3 days and is limited to a maximum of 20 students. Students must check in and check out with Taos Academy staff daily. Students need to turn in a signed liability release form. Additional paperwork and payment (checks made payable to Aura Fitness) must be turned in no later than December 2nd, 2021. Students choosing this option will participate in yoga for 3 days.

5) **Gutters bowling-** \$40.00 for 4 days. There is a 25 student limit. Students will work on edgenuity in the morning and walk to gutters after lunch.

Transportation for winter activities Jan 12,13, 14 and Feb 11th:

TSV- Parents drop off your child at 8am at Tenderfoot Katies at Base of chair 1 and pick them up at 3:30pm.

TYFC- Middle school students to be dropped off at 8am on campus and be picked up at TYFC between 3 and 3:30pm. Students not picked up at TYFC must be picked up on campus at 4pm.

TYFC- High School students to be dropped off at 8am on campus and picked up at 4pm on campus.

Gutters Bowling- Students to be dropped off on campus at 8am and picked up at Gutters bowling between 3pm and 330pm. Any students not picked up there must be picked up at 4pm on campus.

Aura Fitness- Students to be dropped off on campus at 8am and picked up at campus at 4pm.

High Altitude Fitness- Students to be dropped off at 8am at the HAF gym and picked up at HAF gym.

Students who do not meet the deadline for forms and payment will default to the TYFC option. There is no changing your choice after the holiday break. Scholarships are available. Please contact Ms. Pike if you are in need at kpika@taosacademy.org.

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.

December Practice - Build RELATIONSHIP over the holidays!

1. Go ice skating, snow tubing, skiing or snowmobiling.
2. Build a winter bonfire and make s'mores.
3. Play outside with flashlights after dinner.
4. Go on a winter photo scavenger hunt.
5. Plan a board game tournament. A video game tournament, tournament ...
6. Decorate your home for the holidays together. Decorate bedroom door for the holidays.
7. Have a movie marathon - with popcorn, of course.
8. Make and send cards or create a family email for friends who live far away.
9. Go on a winter hike or ride with friends and family.
10. Complete a jigsaw puzzle.
11. Find and make a new recipe together.
12. Learn a card trick. Tell each other corny jokes you look up (and share with Mr. Kelly later)
13. Read to children. Help at the food bank. Visit a nursing home. Help a neighbor.
14. Get a new haircut or style.
15. Make a crazy music video to your favorite song.



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BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

<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. We are accepting applications. If you have any questions please contact :
Melissa Montoya (mmontoya@taosacademy.org) for information on BBBS.



Purchases that donate to Taos Academy



Sign up once for **You shop. Amazon gives. FREE** and these organizations will donate to Taos Academy

Amazon Smile will contribute a portion of their sales to Taos Academy Foundation. Just follow this link – smile.amazon.com/ch/27-2765965 - type in Taos Academy Foundation for your charity and start shopping!!



Smith's Grocery Store Earn money for Taos Academy every time you use your rewards card. Go to [ww.smithsfoodanddrug.com/inspire](http://www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/inspire) and enroll your Smith's rewards card. Taos Academy's non-profit number is 80215. This does not affect the cost of your purchases, your points or your fuel points.



an easy way to
earn cash for
your school!

Box tops for Education Please submit digital receipts for boxtop credit. Use the following site for more information on how to submit digital receipts.

<https://www.boxtops4education.com/emailgroceryreceipts>



Education Foundation Taos Academy Foundation - Relatives and Friends may want to contribute to our school in your name or you may want to give a donation as a gift to the school. Just go to taosacademy.org and click on the "Donate" button at the top of the home page.



STEM+Arts Institute classes end December 10th,2020. New classes will be announced January 18th and will begin January 25th, 2021. Please join us for the showcase evening Friday, December 10th from 4-6pm.

Digital Citizenship Corner - With our discussions and activities on campus regarding Digital Citizenship, we hope to equip students with awareness of and empowerment within their digital lives. These are great discussions to be having at home -- you'd be amazed how much we can learn of the digital world from our children. Check out this [Family Conversation Packet](#) which includes discussions about Social & Emotional Learning.



Student Advisory Council - We are currently collecting donations for “Blessing Bags” Donations of new personal care items, socks, hats, gloves, gently used books, games, toys, small appliances, etc are being accepted. These donations will benefit The Dream Tree Project and CAV. Donation boxes are in each advisory. Donations will be accepted through December 9th. Please contact Jamie Lucero-Martinez or Sara Martinez if you have any questions.

Middle School Student Council!!!

WINTER BALL!

MS SAC will be hosting a Winter Ball on December 15th from 4pm-6pm. This is for 5th-8th grade only. Semi-formal dress and masks will be worn. Snacks will be provided. Hope you can make it! Dancing, music, fun, cookies, friends, make some new memories this holiday season!!!



All College Link students have met with Ms. Kelci Pike and Mrs. Robin Shawver to go over their spring schedules, graduation requirements, and any other additional information they were looking for at this time.

College Link and dual credit students were asked to register before Thanksgiving Break for UNM classes for Spring 2022. Both students and parents MUST SIGN the application forms as well as the UNM Contract and return to us before December 21. The first day of UNM classes is January 17th, 2022.

As we approach the end of this first semester, it is imperative that students (and parents) are aware of their academic status. **SENIORS** are nearing the end of their high school tunnel, so there's no wiggle room. Credits needed for graduation have to be in order and on target to be completed so that they graduate in May 2022.

Please make sure to read your emails and note upcoming events like Cap and Gown orders, assessments, etc.



October progress reports were due October 7th and were to be turned in to the Classroom in digital form. If you missed this date, the best grade you can receive is a C. Those of you that turned in your October Progress Report on time and turn in your December progress report on time, will receive an A.

All HS students got an invitation to the Internship Google Classroom. If you are new to TA, ask your advisor to invite you to the classroom or email Mr. J Weisfeld to request an invite to the classroom. All forms and information will be done in this classroom and are editable. In order to begin an internship, each student **MUST** accept the invite and submit all digital forms to this classroom. No more paper forms please (uploaded photos to Docs of paper forms are the best).

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 Agreement Responsibilities"
3. Fall and Spring progress reports (2 per semester)

NEW If an internship is being supervised by a parent or a member of the TA community, all forms can be filled out digitally and turned in to the Classroom.

***If an internship is outside the TA community, then forms need to be printed, filled out and signed then they must be photographed and put on a doc and then turned in to the classroom. Students/families keep the paper copies for their records.

All the above forms must be completed within the first few weeks of each semester and turned in to the Internship Google Classroom.. The forms are available in the Internship Google Classroom in Doc format.

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 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 December progress report on time= C grade
No progress report=No grade

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 if you have any questions.



- 12/10-Celebration of learning**
- 12/13- Governing Council**
- 12/15 - Middle School Winter Ball**
- 12/15-12/21 Finals Week**
- 12/21 - Parent Advisory/Equity Council Meeting**
- 12/22 - Teacher In Service (No School)**
- 12/23 – 01/12– Winter Break**



- 1/10-1/11 - Teacher in Service (No School)**
- 1/10 – Governing Council Meeting**
- 1/12-1/14 -Winter Activities**
- 1/17 In School MLK Day Observance**
- 1/25 – Parent Advisory/Equity Council Meeting**

If you have any questions feel free to call or
email: Amy Lucero –Admin. Secretary: 751-3109 alucero@taosacademy.org

PARENT ADVISORY –5:30 –7:00
Tuesday, November 16th, 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

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 - Dr. Filiss, Jeanette Henshaw, Warren Kelly, Cruz Duran, Jourdan Vanculin, Lisa Joseph, Tami Martinson, Jamie Lucero-Martinez, Ernesto Trujillo, Elizabeth Leblanc, Tanya Gurule.

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:

Equity Council Meeting:

- Recruitment - Looking for parents and students to join this team to represent all different populations at the school (ELLs, Special Education, Minorities, ethnic, socioeconomic, racial, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and cultural differences.)
- Monthly Discussions - Communication to families regarding a culture of equity. Culturally Responsive Learning in Classrooms.
 - November focus English Language Learners

- Mr. Kelly attempted an activity looking at our attendees' generation in the country, speaking another language, having family in another country... Due to the limited parent attendance the rest of the activity was tabled until more attendance
 - December - Special Education
 - Activities will be continued at this meeting and all parents are encouraged to attend, especially those with Special Needs connections
 - January - Ethnic Subgroups - Native American, Hispanic/Latino
 - February - Economically Disadvantaged
- RP - activity - EL Group supports

Parent Advisory Meeting:

- Winter activity planning-
 - Dates: Jan 12th-14th (Wed-Fri) & Fri Feb 11th
 - Sign up and payments due before the end of this fall semester
 - Skiing - \$165.00 (get a 5th day they can use at their leisure)
 - ½ day activities: Meet at Taos Academy for Edge time
 - Aurora fitness \$25
 - Bowling \$40 (\$10 per day)
 - High Altitude \$15
 - TYFC- ice skating or swimming \$8 (\$2 a day)
 - Scholarships available - Email Ms. Pike or Ms LeBlanc
 - Winter Week Activities are for on campus students
 - Flex students will be doing virtual activities with their advisor)
- STEM Night - TA Showcase Night! Friday, December 10th 4-6pm See all the great STEM presentations and club activities.
- End of term -
 - Rosetta Stone Closes: on Thursday, Dec 2nd
 - 21st Century, Enrichment and Stem Classes close on Friday, Dec. 10th
 - Finals are Dec 15th & 20th for MS and 16th & 21st for HS
 - Final all resets and work must be submitted before their final
 - To prepare can do resets and review notes and work, organizing, highlighting and prepping notes
 - Get a good night's sleep and nutrition the day before.
 - We celebrate successes as students finish a final or class
- Facility Update -
 - New CTE building in permitting process
 - Building is built and ready
 - Building arriving this month
- Community Schools update -
 - TA is designated as a Community School
 - Getting a sense of what the community needs
 - Will be part of PAC discussions each month
 - Events like tonight
 - Help get better digital and entrepreneurial skills
- Other items - Parent survey link: <https://forms.gle/v8yWAKE27HUvCpjTA>
 - Taos Academy has been asked to participate in a study about digital and online learning to better understand the impact of digital learning on student learning and growth. Please read the following invite to participate and follow the link at

the end. Your participation is appreciated and will help guide further innovation in digital and online learning. Thank you 🙏

- MS Student Council is hosting a Winter Ball, Wednesday from 4-6pm
- HS is Sponsoring Blessing Bags and collecting items to donate to CAV
- JrNHS is accepting applications for new members and will be holding initiation in the near future (Most likely in Jan)
- Dec 2nd Jostens Senior Caps and Gowns orders (look for info packet that should be coming home)
- Parent Q and A

Next meeting agenda items: December 21st - Equity meeting for Special Education Focus (all welcome and invited), Winter activity days, and end of semester successes, .

Equity Council: Agenda -

Traci Filiss Executive Director - Present
Jamie Lucero-Martinez - Program lead - present
H. Warren Kelly - ELL, Restorative Practices -Present
Cruz Duran- Economically Disadvantaged - Present

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.

Introductions. Warren, Cruz, Jamie are circle keepers. Jeanette will take notes.

Circle - introduction to restorative practices - **COMMUNITY**

*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.*

Community circle - intention is to thoughtfully get to know one another and make connections. To recognize what we have in common, both successes and challenges, is a hallmark of community.

Warm up - “for who the wind blows”. Change your place in the circle if:

Circle promises -

- a. Speak from the heart - your experience.

- b. Listen from the heart - let go of stories that make it hard to hear each other.
- c. Trust you will know what to say, no need to rehearse.
- d. Say just enough, without feeling rushed, be considerate of the time of others.

Circle Questions -

1. What is going well (at school)?
2. What is a challenge for you and your family?
3. What is something the group would know about you and your family, if we knew you very well?

Closing. Thank you for trying

Introducción. Warren, Cruz, Jamie son modelos del círculo. Jeanette tomará notas.

Círculo: introducción a las prácticas restaurativas - COMUNIDAD

*La premisa fundamental de las prácticas restaurativas es que las personas son más felices, más cooperativas y productivas, y es más probable que hagan cambios positivos cuando quienes están en posiciones de autoridad hacen cosas **con** ellos, en lugar de hacerlo **a** ellos o **para** ellos.*

Círculo comunitario - la intención es conocerse cuidadosamente y hacer conexiones. Reconocer lo que tenemos en común, tanto los éxitos como los desafíos, es un sello distintivo de la comunidad.

Calentamiento - “para quien sopla el viento”. Cambie su lugar en el círculo si:

Promesas del círculo -

Habla desde el corazón, su experiencia.

Escuche desde el corazón: deje las historias que hacen que sea difícil escucharse entre sí.

Confíe en que sabrá qué decir, no es necesario ensayar.

Diga lo suficiente, sin prisa, sea considerado con el tiempo de los demás.

Preguntas del círculo -

¿Qué va bien (en la escuela)?

¿Qué es un desafío para usted y su familia?

¿Qué es algo que el grupo sabría sobre ti y tu familia, si te conociéramos muy bien?

Clausura. Gracias por intentarlo.