



# Welcome Letter and Information

The Taos Academy Governing Council, Administration, Faculty and Staff would like to welcome all new and returning students and their families back to school! We are looking forward to an amazing year with exciting additions to our student body, faculty, curriculum, programming and facility. Thank you for joining us as we continue to grow and innovate!

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

Please review the attached 2023-2024 school calendar and supply list that accompanies this newsletter. More information follows below for you to be able to plan ahead. Please feel free to contact Amy Lucero if you have any questions or need further help at 575-751-3109 or [alucero@taosacademy.org](mailto:alucero@taosacademy.org)

*[Check out our website with this information as well as much more at www.taosacademy.org.](http://www.taosacademy.org)*



### **New Family Orientation**

SAVE THE DATE: Taos Academy will be hosting a **New Family Orientation** on August 11<sup>th</sup> from 8 am - 12 noon here on the TA campus. All new families and students, please make plans now to attend this mandatory instructional day to meet your students' teachers and our staff, learn about your child's schedule for the first few weeks, and to explore our academic expectations and policies. Students participating in our College Link program may have an additional training time.

School Starting Dates and Times: **HIGH SCHOOL ONLY**

# HS SCHOOL STARTS THE WEEK OF: Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>

## School starts at 8am and ends at 4pm

**Monday 8/14** - School starts at 8am and concludes at 4pm for **High School only** this week. Students will participate in orientation activities and begin coursework. (CL Seniors only; sign up for CL labs.)

**Tuesday 8/15** - School starts at 8am and concludes at 4pm for High School Only this week. Students will participate in orientation activities and begin coursework. (CL Juniors only; sign up for 3 CL labs.)

**Wednesday 8/16** - This is a **TENTATIVE schedule and subject to change. Schedule will be confirmed in the August newsletter.**

- **Grade 9:** Will be participating in the Rocky Mountain Youth Corp Challenge Course. Students will meet at 8 am at Taos Academy Campus. Pick up is at 3 pm at Taos Academy.
- **Grade 10:** Attend Taos Academy as scheduled with their advisor for meetings and to engage in their assigned TA online coursework.
- **Grade 11:** Will meet at the Rio Grande Visitor's Center in Pilar at 8:30 am to raft the Rio Grande "Racecourse" with Los Rios River Runners. Parents and/or students will be responsible for transportation and lunch.
- **Grade 12:** Attend Taos Academy for advisory meetings, to develop weekly schedules, get set up in classes, and engage in their assigned TA online coursework.



### Thursday 8/17

- **Grade 9:** Attend Taos Academy as scheduled with their advisor for meetings and to engage in their assigned TA online coursework.
- **Grade 10:** Will be participating in the Rocky Mountain Youth Corp Challenge Course. Students will meet at 8am at Taos Academy Campus. Pick up is at 3 pm at Taos Academy.
- **Grade 11:** Attend Taos Academy for advisory meetings, to develop weekly schedules, get set up in classes, and engage in their assigned TA online coursework.
- **Grade 12:** Will meet at the Rio Grande Visitor's Center in Pilar at 8:30 am to raft the Rio Grande "Racecourse" with Los Rios River Runners. Parents and/or students will be responsible for transportation and lunch.

\*\*\* College Link: Ms. Patricia Meagher and Ms. Kelci Pike will be working with you to develop your TA schedules during this Orientation Week based on your UNM classes as well as Enrichment and Capstone obligations.

**PLEASE NOTE that on Monday 8/22 through Thursday 8/25: High School students will NOT be attending TA campus this week.** They will be engaging with online coursework and are required to stay current with their pacing calendar for their digital coursework in Edgenuity. Students are highly encouraged to attend the Student Success Lab at Taos Academy Monday through Thursday from 8-12, if needed.

School Starting Dates and Times: **MIDDLE SCHOOL ONLY**

## MS SCHOOL STARTS THE WEEK OF:

**Monday, August 21st – Thursday, 24th**

**School starts at 8am and ends at 4pm**

**Monday 8/21:** School starts at 8am and concludes at 4pm for ALL middle school students, 5th-8th grades. Students will participate in a full day of orientation activities and begin coursework.

**Tuesday 8/22:** All middle school students on campus at 8 am. 5th and 6th graders will be dismissed at 12 noon for their outdoor leadership activities and overnight camping trip. 7th and 8th graders will remain on campus for the day to continue orientation until 4 pm.

**Wednesday 8/23:** 5th and 6th graders will continue on their outdoor leadership trip. Pickup and location TBA. 7th and 8th graders will be dismissed at 12 noon for their outdoor leadership activities and overnight camping trip.

**Thursday 8/24:** 7th and 8th graders will continue on their outdoor leadership trip. Pickup and location TBA. 5th and 6th graders will return to TA campus for the remainder of their orientation week from 8 am til 4 pm.



*Please note: Families will be responsible for transportation to and from camping sites. In addition to the items on their gear list, students will need a sack lunch.*



### **ALL STUDENTS:**

## **Monday, August 28th – Thursday, August 31st**

Beginning the week of August 28<sup>th</sup>, students will attend TA on their regularly scheduled days. Middle school students attend campus on Monday and Wednesday; high school students attend Tuesday and Thursday from 8 am to 4 pm. College Link will be scheduled around the UNM schedule.

**\*PLEASE NOTE: September 4th is Labor Day and the school is closed. This week only, middle school students will attend Wednesday 9/6 and Friday 9/8.**

### ***OTHER ACTIVITIES:***

- Mid School Plus Program will be offered from 8-4 Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting Tuesday, August 29th.

- Student Success Lab will be offered from 8-12 Mondays and Wednesdays, starting Monday, August 28th.

- Probationary Enrollment: Per TA policy and in the purposes of academic excellence

*All students with a GPA lower than 2.0, having failed two or more core academic classes and/or not meeting proficiency in any academic area will be placed on probationary enrollment and must attend either MidSchool Plus or HS SSL on their off days. Students and families should plan for them to be on campus from 8 am to 4 pm in addition to all Fridays from 8am to 1:30 pm.*

Additional tutoring times and STEM classes may also be part of your child's skills and credit recovery plan. You will receive an email and phone call from your child's adviser to begin their Student Success Plan, which runs all semester.

- STEM+Arts Institute classes will begin the week of August 28th. Schedule TBA. Material fee is \$10 for Middle School and \$20 for High School. Fee payment is required upon sign-up. Scholarships are available.



## Taos Technology Center and TA Community School Update



### What is a Community School?

- A locally driven school transformation strategy over many years time that promotes child well-being
- A system that ensures the right students/families have access to the right support at the right time
- An evidence-based approach that is driven by local voice and results in whole school transformation
- Also rigorous community-connected classroom instruction - culturally and linguistically responsive

Our TA 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 to take place over two events. The first event will be held with the Site Based Leadership Team (SBLT) in August and the second will be held on October 12 with a Community Activity Day to celebrate our work in the Six Key Practices of a Community School. We hope you will join us!

Our Site Based Leadership Team is looking for membership from our community, families and students to serve next year. This leadership position at Taos Academy can make a huge difference to our Community School. We want your voice in leading the direction and the operation of our Taos Technology Center and Community School. You would need to meet on average two times per month to review our strategic plan as it relates to the Six Key Practices for Community Schools over the course of the school year. During each meeting we will review one of the key practices, our plan, data pertaining to our goals and activities, and evaluate if we are being effective in meeting the identified needs of our students and our community.

There will be a special focus on equity and student voice in all of our meetings as we want to meet the needs of all of our students and families in a culturally and linguistically responsive manner. If you don't want to attend SBLT

meetings in person or virtually and would prefer to help with activities and events supporting the Taos Technology Center and TA Community School, please let us know what you want to help with. We have many activities and events to choose from. Sign ups for participating will be available for events and activities at the start of the school year.

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](mailto:ljoseph@taosacademy.org) or CS Liaison/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.

## **GET INVOLVED**

### **Parent Advisory/Foundation Board Meeting**

Parents interested in joining the parent advisory council or foundation board, please attend our first meeting on Wednesday, August 23rd at 5:30.

If you have any questions feel free to call or email the contacts below:

Amy Lucero - Front office manager: [alucero@taosacademy.org](mailto:alucero@taosacademy.org)

Traci Filiss – Director/Superintendent: [tfiliss@taosacademy.org](mailto:tfiliss@taosacademy.org)

## **Special Education**

We have held all our meetings for the year! Seniors, please check your email and complete the survey so we are able to contact you next year. Also don't forget to migrate your files to a personal account. If you need copies of testing, accommodations pages, 504s, or other documents, please reach out and we can leave official printed copies at the front desk, mail them out to colleges, and/or send you digital versions.

If you are joining Taos Academy for the next school year and have an IEP, please assist us in getting the transfer process started by dropping off or sharing digitally your last evaluation and current IEP. If you have any questions or want to check in I am happy to meet with you in person and am here most of the summer.

Jeanette Henshaw

TA Special Education Coordinator

[jhenshaw@taosacademy.org](mailto:jhenshaw@taosacademy.org)

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