



## **October Newsletter**

Wow, it's hard to believe that we are already in October and moving toward the end of the first 9 weeks. Students should be getting closer to or past 50% complete with their first semester courses. It is also a time when students who are behind in work may need intervention to get back on track. This is the purpose of the **Student Success Contract**. The Student Success intervention allows us to closely monitor the student's work habits, content understanding, and technical skills to better assess the most appropriate response to the lack of progress. Please contact your child's advisor if you have any questions or concerns. Let's keep our learning going strong!

### **You're Invited... FALL FESTIVAL OPEN HOUSE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8th, 2020 3 - 6:30 pm.**

Students and families alike are invited to our Fall Festival Open House. Held outside on the field, this event celebrates our return to school and the coming of fall. We will be having a food truck run by Common Grounds, a Krispy Kreme Donut sale, performances by our STEM Music and Theatre classes, and fun activities organized and run by your awesome TA teachers! Come and join us for all or part of this fun time to get together as a community!

**Student-Led Conferences** will be held on Friday, October 22nd. These will be held in-person or virtually via Google Meets, as it works best for the family and is led by the student around their learning - what's going well, what's challenging, and what's next in their progress and school experience. Please be on the lookout for an email from your student's teachers and please mark this day on your calendars!

## **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.*

### **October Practice - Affective Statements Part TWO - Identifying Emotions and Needs**

Affective statements build our ability to communicate our **emotions** and our **needs**.

Here's the format

When I see/hear: \_\_\_\_\_ (state the behavior) ← **Identify what is Happening Objectively**

I am feeling: \_\_\_\_\_ ← **Identify your Feeling**

because I need: \_\_\_\_\_ ← **Identify your Need**

(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)

Feelings	Needs
Afraid	Choice
Tense	Honesty
Annoyed	Community
Tired	Purpose
Confused	Cooperation
Worried	Safety
Hurt	Growth
Uneasy	Stability
Overwhelmed	

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.

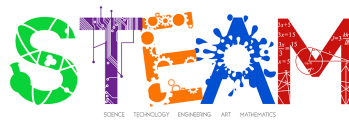
Contact Warren Kelly ([hwkelly@taosacademy.org](mailto:hwkelly@taosacademy.org)) for more information on BBBS.

### Digital Citizenship Corner



We hope to partner with families in keeping our students safe and informed about their online activities. This month we are highlighting the popular social media platform Discord. Click here for the [“Parents’ Ultimate Guide to Discord”](#).

If you would like to be a parent representative on our Digital Citizenship team, please contact Lee Shawver at [lshawver@taosacademy.org](mailto:lshawver@taosacademy.org).



### **Middle School 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter STEM + Art Institute:**

STEM Institute October - First quarter classes will end on Thursday, October 14th, 2021. Second quarter STEM offerings will be available for registration beginning Monday, October 4th, 2021. All classes are one elective credit

and grades are posted on transcripts. All classes follow Taos Academy policies. Last Day to drop a class is October 26th, 2020 and must be done in writing to Ms. Lucero-Martinez -no exceptions. [jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org](mailto:jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org) Please register in the STEM office with Ms. Cruz Duran [cduran@taosacademy.org](mailto:cduran@taosacademy.org) . Materials fees will be \$10. This will assist in covering some materials cost for classes or help repair borrowed equipment.

\*STEM Instructors may drop students for low participation with two written notices to parents/students. No instructor initiated student drops will be made after November 9th, 2021.



**HS Student Advisory Council (HSSAC):** Calling all 9th through 12th graders. We need you on our Student Advisory Council. If you are interested in supporting our TA students and community please join us. We will meet every 2nd and 4th Thursday from 12-12:20 in the Media lab. We can discuss your participation to fit your schedule if you have any conflicts. Please contact Mrs. Jamie Lucero-Martinez [jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org](mailto:jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org)

**PSAT/NMSQT:** The PSAT/NMSQT will be administered **on campus** to all 10th graders including flex virtual academy and registered 11th graders on October 13th, 2021. Please arrive no later than 8 a.m. Student guides are available through advisors. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Jamie Lucero-Martinez [jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org](mailto:jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org)



**School Counselor:**

Hi Everyone, My name is Melissa Montoya, and I am the new Rehabilitation Counselor. I am located in the school counselor's office and the hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from 7:50am to 4:50pm. Please stop by my office anytime. I look forward to meeting and working with you this school year! If you need to contact me please feel free to do so at [mmontoya@taosacademy.org](mailto:mmontoya@taosacademy.org).

# COLLEGE CORNER UPDATES



Web address to register for the SAT is: [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org)

Registration fee waivers are available for eligible students.



Please go to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, FAFSA, and begin the application for the 2022-2023 college year. <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

The completion of the FAFSA is required of all college students!



We hope everyone is making (virtual) appointments with the BRIDGES Project organization, (575) 758-5074, <http://bridgesproject.org/>, to explore their resources for college-bound students.



One of our College Link Seniors was recently announced as a Semi-Finalist for the National Merit Scholarship. Congratulations to Elliot Molz!!!

Seniors have been looking into different scholarship opportunities and creating lists of deadlines for college applications and scholarships.

Also, families, please check your emails in the upcoming couple of weeks. TA will be contacting you to set up in person or virtual appointments for the STUDENT LED CONFERENCES which happen at midterm. This is when your student discusses his/her progress, future goals, and gives details on their UNM class experiences. In addition, students can discuss internships and college searches and scholarships.



We are happy to announce that the Taos Academy chapter of the National Honors Society is up and running! This month Ella Aquino was announced as our chapter's President and Elliot Molz our Vice President of Service, Quinn Wilson our Vice President of Mentorship, Sam Sides our Secretary and Induction Coordinator, and Delilah

Duran our Treasurer. All incoming members will be informed by October 8th, and our Induction Ceremony will be held after school Tuesday, Oct 26, 2021 .



October progress reports are due October 7th and must be submitted in to the Classroom in digital form.

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 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 the photos need to be uploaded into 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 ok if the the supervisor is a parent or a member of the TA community) and total hours.

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.

## MS+

Middle School Plus is offered from 8:00-4:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students attend with either the 5th and 6th grade cohort or the 7th and 8th grade cohort. Lisa Joseph, Cal van Willigen, Jourdan Van Culin, Erica Olson Hensley, Tim Martinson, and Giovanna Paponetti provide a program based on the needs of participating students. A broad range of activities are offered to support students socially and academically. Program components include an incentive program that rewards students for meeting behavioral and academic goals, intramural activities with Patti Kravitz, field trips, support for student course work, and anti-bullying activities. Collaboratively developed activities provide a rich environment for students to interact with each other and staff. Contact Lisa Joseph or Cal van Willigen with any questions.



## ESPORTS UPDATE

Here is the updated schedule for games happening THIS MONTH!

**Tuesdays:** League of Legends, FIFA 21, Splatoon 2™

**Wednesdays:** SMITE, Super Smash Bros.™ Ultimate

**Thursdays:** Rocket League, Madden NFL 21

Games will begin Tuesday, October 4th!

WATCH THEM WITH US LIVE ON OUR VERY OWN TWITCH CHANNEL:

<https://www.twitch.tv/taosacademyesports>



10/8- Community Day/Open House/Tapas  
10/11 - Governing Council Meeting  
10/13 - PSAT/NMSQT all 10th grade +registered 11th  
10/14 - End of 1st 9 weeks  
10/18 - STEM Art 2 begins  
10/22 - Student Led Parent Conferences  
10/26 - Parent Advisory



11/8 - Governing Council Meeting  
11/12- Teacher In-Service (No School)  
11/16 - Parent Advisory  
11/19- 11/26 - Thanksgiving Break NO School

PARENT ADVISORY –5:30 –7:00  
Tuesday, September 28th, 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 -Dr. Traci Filiss, Tanya Gurule & Angel Valencia(Student), Marina Garcia, Jennifer Archuleta, Racheal Gurule, Marc R, Adriane Reynolds, Elizabeth Leblanc, Warren**

**Kelly, Jeanette Henshaw, Jamie Lucero-Martinez, Monica Schenck, Xochitl Wodrich, Peggy Duran, Cruz Duran**

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:**

- **Open House- October 8th, 2021 - Discuss parent/community support**
  - Fall Festival 3:00 to 6:30pm at TA. Krispy Cream donuts are on sale until Thursday. Watch your email for information on ordering or contact the front office. Music class and theatre STEM classes will be presenting.
- **Digital Equity Survey**
  - Emailed link to survey. Please complete the survey. Questions regarding internet capable devices, What type of device? Do you have a stable internet connection?, etc.
  - If not completed by Open house you may complete the survey at the event.
  - Please complete one survey per student
  - Kit Carson may be present to provide internet service information.
- **Student Led conferences - October 22nd, 2021 guided by students**
  - Teacher comments, family input, discussion on supports and celebrations
  - 100% participation - Accommodations can be made
  - Option of in-person or google meet to complete the conference.
  - Please check for email for scheduled time from advisory teacher
- **Restorative Practice - Affective Statements Identifying emotions and needs Family Style - Warren Kelly - see SUPPLEMENT below.**
  - Scenario brainstorming of HOME SCENARIOS.  
Group discussion -Using **Affective** statements. Situation example: Student receives “warning” for not completing 20+ hours in Edgenuity or grades below 70%.
- **Senior Events**
  - Senior Sunrise October 19th
  - Blood drive November 9th
  - SATs offered at THS monthly
  - Ordering of regalia and senior items will take place in November.
  - HS Student advisory council will be planning and organizing senior events including PROM. This includes fundraising. Volunteers and support is needed from families. If you are interested in supporting our efforts contact Jamie Lucero-Martinez.
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- **State testing**
  - PSAT/All 10th grades will be taking the PSAT in person on October 13th. Student guides were sent home. One practice test is included in the booklet.
  - SAT is given in April to all 11th graders.
  - NWEA MAP in Math and reading is complete. Students will share results at Student led conferences.
- **Facility changes**
  - Taos Academy is in the process of adding a 2900 square foot building. Construction has started on the Career Tech Ed, CTE building. Project has begun.

**Next meeting agenda items:** October 26th meeting, facility, prep for finals, November events, update on fundraising from foundation,

## **Equity Council: Agenda -**

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

**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.**

- **Recruitment - Ongoing will create a sign-up for Community Day on 10/8/21**
- **Switch placement with PAC for October**
- **Meet in person once per quarter.**