

4/1/2019

Dear TA Parents and Students -

We are quickly approaching the end of the school year. April is a full month with Standardized State testing, the Gala (a celebration of learning), 8th grade Graduation, dances, and more. See all activities in the April calendar below. As we approach May, I want to remind everyone to closely follow the Edgenuity assignment calendar and stay in contact with advisors. The spring can be a hard time to rally for the last push, so please help us keep all students on track and successful in the completion of all courses!




RETURNING STUDENT FORMS WERE DUE LAST MONTH!

Returning Student



As we prepare for the 2019-2020 school year lottery, we need to secure your child's position at Taos Academy. If your child is returning next fall and you have not returned your forms, please complete and submit the "Returning Student Forms" by Monday APRIL 1st, 2019 - NO LATER! Lottery closes this week and we must prepare for the drawing. ALL open positions will be filled with new students on April 8th, 2019.

	<p>Spring 2019 Standards-Based Transition Assessment of Mathematics and English Language Arts *</p>
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STATE TESTS: PARCC has a NEW name: Spring 2019 NM Transition Assessment or NMTA. This test bridges towards a new standardized test that will be adopted in the future for our state. Testing remains MANDATORY.

<p>NM 2019 Transition Assessment (Formally PARCC) - NMTA</p>	<p>MS 4/22, 24, 29 (3 days) HS 4/23, 25 (2 days)</p>	<p>Grades 5-11 School-wide effort!</p>
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NMTA is made by Pearson. It will look and feel like a shortened version of the PARCC. It is 2/3 as long as last year's test. The NMTA is aligned to the Common Core Curriculum. Edgenuity is aligned to both the Common Core and the technical features of the Pearson test.

This is an important test. It shows how your child compares to his or her peers on a norm-based nationally scaled assessment. The general results are used to evaluate the Taos Academy as a school.

Parents, please make sure your child comes to school well rested. Students, bring a water bottle, eat a

good breakfast and bring snacks. Your child will need to plan to be on campus for a full academic day from 8am-4pm. The Edgenuity assignment calendar has been adjusted for these weeks so that students have more time to complete their work.

TA students are well-prepared and ready to show what they know!

The NMPED Website has the most up-to-date info on this NMTA test:
<https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/assessment-3/spring2019mathela/>



The PARCC is still the best place for practice tests at your grade level at
<https://parcc-assessment.org/practice-tests/>



FRESH LUNCH MENU – The Taos Academy student’s advisory has developed a light lunch and snack program. All items are \$3.00 – CASH ONLY – NO CREDIT!!

April 1: Green Chili Chicken Posole

April 8: Vegetable or Beef Lasagne

April 15: Chicken Salad Sandwiches

April 22: Green Chile Mac and Cheese

April 29: Handheld Chicken Pot Pies



Yearbook is now INTERACTIVE!! - Videos will be available on your printed copy of the yearbook through a FREE app on your phone! Find the highlighted photos and open the app on your phone. Point your phone at the photo and a video plays! You can get this exciting new yearbook online. Just go to treering.com and click on Buy Yearbook, click on NM put in the school pass code (below), click on Taos Academy Charter and follow prompts from there.

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You can add you own pictures to two pages for FREE. If you want more than two pages customized, you pay a little extra for each of the pages. Don't miss this chance to get your interactive Taos Academy Yearbook!!

STEM+Arts Observations - As part of our process of assessing the STEM+Arts program, we need parents and staff to observe in the STEM+Arts classes. We have developed an observation checklist to make observations easier. Observations take about 15 minutes per class. Classes are from 12:30-4:00pm. Please contact Karin Moulton if you are able to come to Taos Academy campus to do an observation. CLasses end Thursday, May 2nd.



Volunteer Opportunities!

1. Taos Academy volunteers each year to help set up the Empty Bowls project at the St. James Church each year. If you would like to volunteer to help one or two days for about 2 hours each day, please e-mail Karin Moulton at kmoulton@taosacademy.org.
2. We also need volunteers to help set up, serve, and clean up the potluck at the Gala night (see information below). Contact Ms. Moulton to volunteer at kmoulton@taosacademy.org.

Gala 2019

TA ANNUAL “GALA NIGHT” and POTLUCK is a celebration of learning and dining.

Parents, friends, and community members are all invited to come to a gallery to showcase student work and performances on **April 26th from 5:00 to 7:00**. We will be celebrating the opening of our new multi purpose building, as well as accomplishments of excellence. Come and see what your student have created in their enrichment classes, 21st Century classes, and STEM+Arts Institute classes. Each advisory group is assigned a part of the meal to bring (entree, salad or side dish, dessert, or drinks). Volunteers needed.

Potluck Assignments- Please bring the following according to advisory:

Mrs. Joseph’s and Mr. Van Willigen’s classes — sides and salads

Mr. Cisneros’ and Mrs. Emanuelli’s classes— dessert and drinks and ice

Mr. Weisfeld’s and Ms. Samoiel’s classes—main dish

Ms. Densow’s College Link –bowls and plates, utensils, napkins, cups.

It is a fun night for all - bring your friends and family! See you there! Come join the fun and bring a dish to share!



TECHnology Update

Spring has arrived and along with the season change we begin to prepare for Spring assessments such as NMTA, MAP and Cumulative Exams. The technology team is dedicated to finding online resources to

assist you and your students with both preparation and coping strategies. We have found the following sites and apps to be useful:

[Headspace](#)

[Stop Breathe Think](#)

[Pacifica](#)

[HS-Overcoming Test Anxiety](#)

[kidshealth.org Test Anxiety](#)

[Edulastic](#)

[Pearson](#)

[Understanding Assessment](#)

[Handling Testing Anxiety](#)

If you have a specific, technology related question, please, feel free to contact any of the following TECH Team members:

Collin E. Miller - cmiller@taosacademy.org

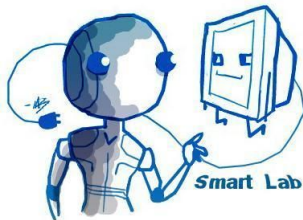
Kelci Pike - kpike@taosacademy.org

Jamie Lucero-Martinez - jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org

Cal van Willigen - cvanwilligen@taosacademy.org

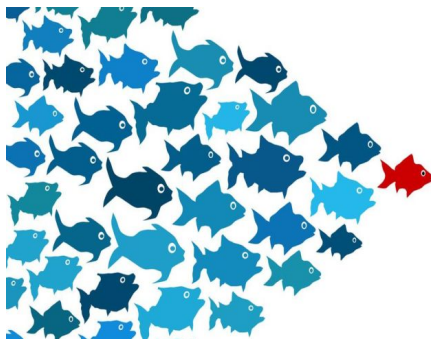
Patti Kravitz - pkravitz@taosacademy.org

21st-Century Classes



From SmartLab: Instructors for the fourth quarter of SMART Lab are Jamie

Lucero-Martinez, Karin Moulton, and Tim Martinson. Over the next 9 weeks students will work in pairs and create two projects with presentations using software and technology including: Frames (Animation), Microsoft Flight Simulator X, Adobe Premiere (Video/Audio editing), Game Design, GIS maps, and more.



From 7/8 21c Leadership: Overview of the course

- 1. What is change, growth and purpose?- Aristotle*
- 2. What is the role of the arts in leadership?*
- 3. Draft and present an EQ Charter*
- 4. Embody 21c skills and employ SMART goals*
- 5. Collaborate with the CAV PODER program.*

Pretty snazzy. **Looking forward to it - H W Kelly**



Rosetta Stone update: Please note that you must be 100% done with your foreign language course by **Thursday, May 9 @ 4:00pm**. This is the Thursday before finals week. In order to be on target, you need to be at about **75% complete by April 1st**. Please make sure you are putting in **about 3 hours a week** in Rosetta Stone. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your adviser. If you have technological issues with the program, please consult RS tech support at <http://support.rosettastone.com>

8th Grade Passage to HS Ceremony

Taos Academy is proud to invite you to the 8th grade passing ceremony Thursday **May 1st, 5:00-6:00 PM at TA Gymnasium**. Cake and drinks will be provided by TA. We would like to extend our congratulations to you and your child for a job well done.

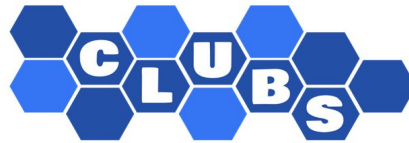


The Intramural program has been a huge success as evidenced in that at least half of our students on optional days are participating. If your student has been impacted in a positive way because of this program please let Ms. Joseph know through an email testimonial. We had a presentation from the Espanola Wildlife Center. The students enjoyed the wonderful animals and learned about raptors and reptiles. Students have also been improving their bowling since we have been three times now. Please remember to pay for MS Plus afternoon and contact Ms. Joseph or Mr. V with questions.



MS Student Advisory Council: We are hosting our Spring Middle School Dance on Thursday, April 11, from 6:30 to 8:30. Tickets are on sale before school and during lunch (see Mrs. Martinson, Ms. Amy or a student council member). Tickets are \$3 each, or two for \$5. You may bring a guest who is from another school, but they must be a middle school student, and their ticket will cost \$5. Also, you can buy glow sticks from us at Jimmy's concert in May for just \$1 each to add glow & fun to that awesome concert. If you want to help out or help plan, join us on our Mon or Wed meeting in the Blue Lab at 12:20. We hope you come join us. If you have questions or want to help chaperone please contact Mrs. Martinson. (tmartinson@taosacademy.org).

HS Student Advisory Council: We are hosting the TA Prom on Saturday, April 13th from 7-11 @TA Gym. We will be decorating on Friday, April 12th beginning at noon. If you are interested in assisting with decorations or chaperoning please email Mrs. Lucero-Martinez. We will host a blood drive in conjunction with Vitalant on Thursday May 2nd, 2019 from 10-2pm in the Gym. If you are a student between the ages of 16-18 and would like to donate please see Mrs. Lucero-Martinez for a permission slip. Parents and community members are encouraged to participate. Appointments can be made at www.vitalant.org



CLUB LECTIO SCRIPTO will have its final meeting of the semester on Thursday, April 4. The club will resume bi-weekly meetings in the fall!



CHESS CLUB will meet Wednesdays April 3, 10, and 17 in the main cafeteria, from 4:00 to 5:15. Whether you already play, or you want to learn how, come and play fun games and club tournaments. You may contact Mr. Martinson, timmartinson@taosacademy.org for more information.



National Junior Honor Society: Our students have been busily tutoring the Middle School Plus students and have also distributed food at Shared Table. We are so proud of the work our students have done and will spend the rest of the school year preparing for fresh inductees in the fall. Thanks so much to all our fabulous students, who have shown great compassion and leadership skills.



NHS will be planning to add some new community projects along with individual projects to complete and fulfill membership requirements for our chapter next SY 2019-20. Tick-tock! End of school is nearing and we want to have a strong finish so keep up those GPAs and do your personal BEST! Thank you for your amazing work on the projects: Lighting of LeDoux St. and Dr. Seuss's Birthday Celebration at the Youth and Families Center. Your commitment and modeling are exemplary for all TA students. Your efforts have been praised and recognized by the Town of Taos as well. A special thanks to our two adult supporters: Mrs. Marie Neubert and Mrs. Monica Corral.



HIGH SCHOOL PROM – Saturday, April 12th from 7 – 11pm at the Taos Academy Gym. The theme is “Game Night”. Tickets are on sale for \$15 for one and \$25 for two in advance, Tickets will be \$15 per person at the door. You may purchase tickets at the front desk with Ms. Amy Lucero. Students do not have to bring a date – they may come with a group of friends. Students should "Dress to Impress" and that means formal attire. There will be lots of fun: dance competitions, games, and lots of photo opportunities as well as snacks and beverages free of charge. Prom Court nominees must be present by 8 p.m. in order to keep your name on the ballot. Voting will take place from 8-10 p.m. Prom King and Queen along with their court will be announced at 10:15 p.m.

If you would like to bring a guest from another school (you are allowed up to 3 guests) you must follow the following criteria:

- guest must have a pre-paid ticket.
- guest will be given an ticket to be presented at the dance, stating whose guest they are.
- A photo ID/transcript showing date of birth for each non Taos Academy guest is required to be presented upon entering the dance.

This is a drug and alcohol free event for high school students only. Featuring DJ Krim. Please come – it should be a night to remember!!

Spring Leadership Days - May 10!

More information will be shared via email soon.

High School: Students will be taking a bus to Bandelier National Monument to explore the rich history and enjoy the natural beauty with a hiking tour.

Middle School: Students will need to be dropped off at the Amole Canyon trailhead for a fun day of hiking, games and outdoor leadership activities. Students will then need to be picked up by the end of the day.

*Times and directions will be coming shortly. This is just a heads up as we look ahead to May.



Class of 2019

Graduation is Friday May 17, 2019 2- 4 pm

at the Taos Center for the Arts. Graduation **rehearsal** is Thursday, May 16, 2019, (time TBA) also at the TCA. All seniors must attend rehearsal and graduation. Seniors are planning a special activity for themselves with their fundraising profits this year. Congratulations to an amazing class of TA Seniors!



COLLEGE LINKers are preparing for the BIG LIGHT at the end of the high school tunnel. SENIORS are approaching a ceremony that is one of our most important rites of passage in the U.S. (Oh...and there's getting that driver's license, too!) However, graduation marks the next big step into young adulthood and the world of work and/or post-secondary university studies. Over the years, the bridge that our program builds has provided students with time management skills and engendering strong personal accountability with a foundation for what happens next in life. Students have the experiential opportunity to immerse in the college classes and learn invaluable life skills of reliability, collaboration, self-reflection, personal responsibility, local to global citizenship, etc. And, research has shown that 50% of college Freshmen in the U.S. drop out of college in that first year...due to lack of time management, for starters!

As the 21st Century unfolds, students are creating their own programs of study in college to incorporate the academic skills and social and civic awareness tenets of TA's mission statement and commitment to students' preparation. This isn't their parents' high school experience...or mine. But, TA was developed and chartered as a non-traditional school and it is ahead of the curve on many levels of 21st C. education. A recent NPR report stated that the number of 'contract' workers is surpassing regular employees in the workplace. That is due to more flexible work conditions from home, etc., through the use of technology. That requires balance of a different sort and opens the door to creative problem solving and innovation not yet in practice. So...parents, buckle your seatbelts and know you have taught your children well. (Apologies to Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young.) They are the catalyst for change in this new century.

NOTE: Rosetta Stone should be 75% complete by April 1, 2019. Make sure to work at least 3 hours a week in the subject. And...please remember that RS closes the week before TA finals week.

INTERNSHIP HOURS (completed paperwork) is due to Mrs. Moulton ASAP if not already done!



4/1- Returning Student Forms Due

4/8 – Lottery Drawing on April 8th

4/9 – Governing Council Meeting 5:30

4/12-TA HS PROM 7-11@ Taos Academy Gym

4/22-4/29 - State Testing (formerly PARCC) MS days : 4/22, 4/24, 4/29 HS days: 4/23, 4/25

4/24 –Parent Advisory 5:30

4/27 - Taos Grow Day and Gala Celebration



5/1 – 8th Grade Passage to HS Ceremony 5:00-6:00

5/2- Jimmy Stadler’s Music Class concert - 6pm at KTAO

5/3- MAP testing - April 2, 3, 7 & 8 Wed, Thur, Mon, Tues

5/11- MS Spring Dance 6:30-8:30

5/13 – Governing Council Meeting -

5/13-5/16 – Finals Week

5/17 – Graduation @ TCA 2:00 – 4:00

5/17 - Last Day of School