



## Welcome Letter and Information

The Taos Academy Governing Council, Administration, and TA Faculty 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!

Given our current health orders, Taos Academy will be starting the year off with virtual/online instruction at least until Labor Day or until the state orders are lifted, allowing for on campus instruction. Students and families will be contacted for a virtual orientation meeting via Google Meets. Advisers will be reaching out during our Inservice Week (August 3rd-7th) to connect with all families and ensure we have the information we need to get started!

Please find the attached 2020-2021 calendar and supply list. Check out our website with this information as well as much more at [www.taosacademy.org](http://www.taosacademy.org) or follow us on Facebook to stay connected.

Below is an overview of the month for you to plan. More information will follow next week. 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)

**Teacher InService Week (August 3rd -7th):** We will be reaching out to new families and calling to conduct Wellness Checks. We will be scheduling 1:1 meetings with each new family to ensure that your parent TA gmail and Edgenuity Family portal is ready and working. We will also be sharing out a TA Family Handbook for Virtual Learning and a recorded New Family Orientation.

**HS Orientation (August 10th-14th):** We will be working primarily with our HS students this week. Your student's adviser will be reaching out via phone and email to get them into their classes, the check Next Step Plans, and to make sure they can get into their TA gmail. Students will have access to and be able to work in their classes. They will also have their first two Advisory meetings to meet their teacher, fellow students, and get used to Google Meets format.

**MS Orientation (August 17th-21th):** HS students will keep working on their digital curriculum and will reach out to their advisers if they need help; however, we will be working primarily with our HS students this week. Your student's adviser will be reaching out via phone and email to get them into their classes, the check Next Step Plans, and to make sure they can get into their TA gmail. Students will have access to and be able to work in their classes. They will also have their first two Advisory meetings to meet their teacher, fellow students, and get used to Google Meets format.

*Taos Academy will be starting our full schedule with 21 Century, enrichment, and other classes beginning Monday, August 25th for middle school students and beginning Tuesday, August 26th for high school students. STEM classes will begin in early September. All classes will be accessed through Google Meets. Watch your email for the links to participate.*

Our [Community Resources](#) list has information about meal services, counseling and other community support for families and students during remote learning. It is updated weekly and will also be posted on our website.

### **Meal Services:**

- **Taos Municipal Schools:** Serving BREAKFAST/ LUNCH MEALS for all Taos youth under 18 years of age. STARTING MONDAY 7/27 THROUGH FRIDAY 8/7/2020. Pick up Grab and Go meals between 10 am-12 noon at Taos Middle School ONLY. There is no bus service of delivery during this virtual learning time.
- **ALM Food Pantry** - Serving Angel Fire, Cimarron and Eagle Nest families. Please call 575-425-1722..
- **El Pueblito Methodist Church “Shared Table”** - Food distribution occurs on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of every month, all year long from 11:00 – noon in El Prado and also from 2:00 – 3:00 in the Talpa Community Center. Address: 1309 Paseo del Pueblo Norte, El Prado, NM 87529. Phone: 575-758-3166. Email: [elpueblitoumc@gmail.com](mailto:elpueblitoumc@gmail.com)
- **St. James Episcopal Church** - Food Distribution begins at 12 noon each Thursday. If you have an urgent need for food when the Pantry is closed, email [TaosFoodPantry@gmail.com](mailto:TaosFoodPantry@gmail.com) and arrangements will be made when possible. Phone: 575-758-2790 Emergency: 575-779-1382. Address: 208 Camino de Santiago, Taos, NM 87571.
- If you need to arrange further **Food Assistance for your family** with children 0-18, please call: 575-779-6715 or email [taosfoodhelp@gmail.com](mailto:taosfoodhelp@gmail.com).

### **Stay Connected:**

- **Kit Carson: FREE Internet and Computer**
  - <https://kitcarson.com/internet/internet-form-for-students>
- **Comcast:** Two months of free home Internet!
  - <https://apply.internetessentials.com/> (works on mobile phone)
- **List of Free WiFi Spots in town:** [TEC Access Points](#)
  - This list of 70+ access points across Taos County will be updated weekly and is also available on our website.

**UNM Taos classes begin August 17, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year, and UNM Friday Early College Program classes begin Friday, August 21st.** UNM Taos classes will be virtual for the Fall 2020 semester, most will be asynchronous and a few will be synchronous. Dual Credit students please check your email for more information, and if you have any questions, please contact Ms. Cobey Senescu, [csenescu@taosacademy.org](mailto:csenescu@taosacademy.org)

## **GET INVOLVED**



**8/10/20** - Governing Council meeting at 5:30.

### **GC Meeting**

Monday, August 10• 5:30 – 8:00pm  
Monthly on the second Monday

 [Join with Google Meet](#)

[meet.google.com/omw-fokh-wqo](https://meet.google.com/omw-fokh-wqo)

[Join by phone](#)

(US) +1 434-886-0036 PIN: 395 591 388#

**8/25/20-** Parents interested in joining the Parent Advisory/Equity Council, please attend a virtual meeting on Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. Link below:

### **Parent Advisory/Equity Council**

Tuesday, August 25• 5:30 – 7:30pm  
Monthly on the fourth Tuesday

 [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#

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

Amy Lucero - Administrative Secretary: 751-3109 [alucero@taosacademy.org](mailto:alucero@taosacademy.org)

Elizabeth LeBlanc - Director of Teaching And Learning: 751-3109 [eleblanc@taosacademy.org](mailto:eleblanc@taosacademy.org)

Traci Filiss – Director/Superintendent: 751-3109 [tfiliss@taosacademy.org](mailto:tfiliss@taosacademy.org)

**We look forward to seeing you via Google Meets for a new and exciting year at Taos Academy!!**



*August*

**08/03-08/06** Teacher in Service (No School)

**08/10** - Governing Council Meeting

**08/10** - High School First Day

**08/17** - Middle School First Day

**08/25** - Parent Advisory Meeting (Virtual)