



Dear TA Students and Families - This time of year becomes busy with announcements. Please check your Taos Academy email at least once a week so that you stay in the know! If you have questions, do not hesitate to reach out to your students' teachers with any questions you may have. As a reminder, Student-Led Conferences will be held on March 6th or as scheduled with your advisor. We look forward to seeing you then!

Thank you to Oralia Gonzales for a job well done.



As some of you may have already heard, after seven and half years, I have decided to leave my position with Big Brothers Big Sisters. This decision did not come easy.

Working with you and your students at Taos Academy and establishing a strong mentoring program there, is one of the things I will miss the most. Getting to know and work with students at Taos Academy since I first moved here 5 years ago, has been one of the best experiences I could ask for. Great and amazing students come from your school. I am still in contact with several of your students who were my High School Bigs and who are now in college! It was my pleasure and honor to write them letters of recommendation for scholarships and internships, as they began their new chapter in higher education.

BBBS will continue on March 4th, 2020 with interim coordinator Karen Koyote.



RETURNING STUDENT FORMS: As we prepare for the 2020-2021 school year lottery, we need to secure your child's position at Taos Academy. Also, please let us know if you will be enrolling a sibling who is eligible to attend Taos Academy next year. This information is needed to determine how many new students we will be able to accept.

If your child is returning next fall, please complete and submit the "Returning Student Forms" by Thursday, March 30, 2020.

If you know they will NOT be returning, please let us know as well.

****Please be aware that if your forms are not received by March 30, 2020, we will assume your child will NOT be returning and your space will be given away in the lottery.**



LOTTERY INFO Our lottery process opens on March 3rd and closes April 3rd for the school year 2020-2021. Lottery drawing April 6th.



Music Class Concert -Friday, March 6th at TA GYM at 5:30- 7:30 pm. BOTH Middle School and High School classes are performing. Donations are appreciated. All proceeds go to purchase equipment for the classes. **Culinary Arts class will serve snacks and other STEM classes will be represented in a slide show at the concert. Intro to Theater class is having a performance for TA students on Wednesday, March 4th at 3pm in the main cafeteria. Parents are welcome to attend.**

YEARBOOKS - Students are working to finish it by the first week of April. To order your yearbook go to Treering.com and enter Taos Academy and this passcode: 101390232849386. Students can create 2 custom pages of their own online or purchase additional custom pages for just .99 per page! Tree Ring will plant a tree for every yearbook sold.



SWEET SLIDE DONATIONS – If you have not turned in your donation for the annual Sweet Slide fundraiser- or collected pledges for the event, please do so ASAP!!_We made \$500 at the Taos Ski Valley bake sale. About half of the donations and pledges have been turned in so far. Winners for the raffle tickets will be drawn Wednesday, March 4th and winners will be notified by phone. The advisory group that raises the most money will also receive a PIZZA PARTY. There is a GRAND PRIZE awaiting the student who raised the most money as well. **SO GET YOUR PLEDGES IN NOW!**



STEM+Art Institute Classes available – STEM Institute classes are a wonderful opportunity for

students to work with talented professionals in our community. Class sizes are small and space is limited. To sign up, pay **\$10 materials fee(\$20 for FIT Edventure)** per class, to Cruz Duran in the STEM Building. This materials fee will reserve a space in the class. Space will only be reserved when the fee has been paid. These classes are graded electives and are posted on the final report card.

Current third quarter STEM+Arts Institute classes end on Thursday, March 5th.

NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASS SCHEDULE was sent through email by March 2nd and is attached here. Classes start March 10. Last day to drop a class is March 24, 2019. and must be done IN WRITING to Mrs. Jamie Lucero-Martinez. Middle school fourth quarter STEM +Art classes end April 30th.

- **FITaos field trip class** on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12-4p.m. requires a registration form and a liability release form signed by a parent BEFORE a student can participate.
- We are in need of parents to do 15 minute observations in the STEM+Arts classes as part of our assessment of the program. Observers fill out a simple checklist about what they see or hear while in the class. It would be helpful if observers could observe in 2-3 classes. Observation can be done Monday-Thursday 12:30-4:00. Please contact Ms. Lucero-Martinez if you can observe.
- HIGH SCHOOL STEM+Arts: 18 week classes (Remain the same). Classes end April 30th.



STUDENT SUCCESS LAB – Closed from March 13th through Spring Break.

NM State Required Testing (NM-ASR, NM-MSSA, PSAT(10), and SAT - Taos Academy is administering the New Mexico Assessment of Science Readiness for 5th, 8th & 11th Graders March 9th-12th. This assessment scores student achievement in science and is aligned to the NM STEM Ready Science Standards.

New Mexico's Measures of Student Success & Achievement (NM-MSSA) is the summative end of year assessment in **Math & ELA** test will be administered to **Middle School 5-8 April 6th-15th. High School - 11th grade will take the SAT April 14th, 10 grade will take the PSAT April 21st & 23rd. End of Course Exams in social studies and science will be given to HS students April 23rd.** We work hard to limit the number of tests and impact of testing time. Please arrange appointments outside of our testing schedule. Students will not be released from a testing session unless in the case of an emergency. If a student is absent from the testing session, he/she will need to make that test up before the testing window closes.

If you anticipate an absence during this time please let Amy Lucero and the student's advisor know immediately. The statewide assessment is required by law, and all eligible students are expected to participate in the assessment. If you have any questions please contact Ms. Filiss for an appointment at tfiliss@taosacademy.org.

Please note that during the main two testing weeks, Edgenuity course calendar will slow down to allow students to focus on doing their best and showing what they know on NM-ASR, NM-MSSA of Math & ELA, PSAT, and SAT. We will also work to add back in time during the school day where possible.



TECHnology Update

Spring has arrived and along with the season change we begin to prepare for Spring assessments such as NM-ASR(Science), NM-MSSA of Math & ELA, SAT, PSAT, 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.

Reducing Anxiety Sites/Apps

<https://www.headspace.com/how-it-works>

<https://www.stopbreathethink.com/>

<https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/>

<https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/test-anxiety.html>

Test Prep

<https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/essential-standardized-test-taking-tips-for-parents-3194598>

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

TECH Team members:

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Middle School PLUS

Middle School Plus: Please make your 4th quarter plans for attendance in our program. Sign up in the main office and make your payment to reserve your spot. Students participate in an Intramural program

and a variety of other activities. Students may attend all day or part of the day. For more information contact Ms. Joseph or Mr. van Willigen.



MS Student Advisory Council:

MS Student Advisory Council continues to meet during lunch on Wednesdays. We are kicking off our annual Pennies for Patients fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and the link for our online campaign is <https://events.ils.org/pages/nm/TaosAcademy-2020>. Please feel free to go to this link to donate to our cause, or share it on your social media to maximize our fundraising efforts. Fifth through eighth graders are welcome to join us on Wednesdays in Purple Lab. We're planning a final fun event for MS SAC members in April or May, to be announced!



Our induction ceremony is finally on the horizon! We will be inducting all new members on Wednesday, April 1st at 4:30 pm in the main building's cafe. We're delighted to be welcoming so many talented leaders into our society. Additionally, NJHS will be selling PIZZA for \$2 per slice on March 1st and 25th this month. If your student is counting on pizza as their primary source of lunch, we strongly encourage them to fill out our pre-order request form so that their order takes priority and we order the correct amount. The NJHS has decided on Stray Hearts as its main recipient for any fundraising efforts this school year, so all proceeds from pizza sales will go directly to them. Please contact Miss Sam (ssamoiel@taosacademy.org) or Miss Estelle (elaure@taosacademy.org) with any questions. We look forward to seeing all of you there!



CHESS CLUB will meet March 12, and 26 (Thursdays--no meeting March 5 due to Mr. Martinson being at a conference and no meeting March 19 due to Spring break) in the cafeteria from 4:00 to 5:15. Coach Tim will be teaching experienced and novice players. All levels welcome. Contact Mr. Martinson (timmartinson@taosacademy.org) for more information.



21st-Century Classes

Current third quarter 21st Century Classes are finished March 5th and new fourth quarter classes begin March 9th.

From SmartLab: What is OK to share online? What makes a strong password? What is your digital footprint? What is cyberbullying and what do you do when it happens? These are some of the many questions that we are working on in our Digital Literacy curriculum in the SmartLab. We hope to build keen, critical-thinking leaders in the 21st century. We want thinkers, not just users! After we complete the Digital Literacy component of the class we will move on to producing a variety of STEM+Arts projects.

7/8 Leadership - $\frac{7}{8}$ Leadership improved their Google Slides Presentation making skills and will now partner with 5th and 6th graders to share that expertise. This is “4th level leadership” - that is - leadership that creates more leaders.

Here is an example of one of those slides by Taylor Sutton.

A leader knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way - John Maxwell

9th Grade Global Leadership Announcements

From our WWF Group:

“We are raising money for the World Wildlife Fund and we have accumulated over \$400. However, this isn't even half of our ultimate goal of \$1000. We still have two weeks of fundraising, so help us reach our goal! Money should be brought to advisors, and once an advisory raises \$100, donuts will be brought as a sign of appreciation. The advisory that raises the most money will also be awarded with a pizza party. Thanks for your help and support. Check out the WWF initiatives [here](#).”

From our Substance Abuse Group:

Our project is on the issue of substance and raising awareness around this topic, specifically for teens. We believe that in our community that this is a big issue and we hope to bring some light to it and try to make our world a better place. We are holding a substance abuse prevention meeting on Thursday the 27th with a guest speaker and all students and teachers of Taos academy are welcome to come. There is also an Instagram account that we have made showing the process of this project.



HS Student Advisory Council (HS-SAC): The Student council has planned a Burrito and Bake Sale to raise funds for PROM after Spring Break. All students are encouraged to participate. This year's High School PROM will take place at Martina's Hall on Friday, April 17th from 7-11 p.m. Our theme this year is "Carnival/Street fair" All Taos Academy High School students are invited. Tickets will be available for purchase beginning March 23rd, 2020. If you would like to assist in planning/decorating please join us at our Tuesday meetings at 12:20 in STEM 2. Parents that would like to assist decorating/chaperoning please contact Mrs. Jamie Lucero-Martinez jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org for more information.



Graduation is Friday May 15, 2020 from 2- 4 pm

at the Taos Academy Multi Purpose Building. Graduation rehearsal is Thursday, May 14, 2019, from 10 - 11 am also at the TA Multi Purpose Gym. All seniors must attend rehearsal and graduation.

PARENTS of SENIORS - Please email or bring to school 3-4 adorable baby and kid photos of your senior for our delightful slideshow during graduation. We need these pictures ASAP. Amy Lucero.

Spring Break is almost upon us and our SENIORS are on the downhill side of their last semester in high school! That pinpoint light at the end of the tunnel is now more like a set of high beams coming at them! Everything must be in order by Finals Week to conclude their HS tenure on May 15th. Graduation and getting one's driver's license are two most important rites of passage for 21st Century youth. (Oh...there might be the random tech start-up student who makes his/her first billion by 20.) Other than that, getting the diploma and the 'ride' are the two monumental rewards for passage to young adulthood. Congratulations to all!

PLEASE READ YOUR EMAILS REGARDING FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT GRADUATION.

Caps & Gowns orders are due on MARCH 5th (Thursday). It should take about FIVE weeks for alterations and delivery. If you do not order yours w/Amy Lucero by the end of the day on March 5, you'll have to order separately. Ordering information will be supplied to you. We do not handle any individual orders. Time is running out.



Let's see all members at TY&FC on MARCH 6 from 1:00-4:00 pm...Dr. Seuss's Birthday celebration! This is our second big project for the NHS chapter and it is **required attendance**.

Our commitment to the Town of Taos and our community with this event has spanned several years. We have animal balloon making, face painting, bowling jockeys, and Thing 1 & Thing 2 goodwill ambassadors for this event. The little ones who come are delighted to be there and they think HS students are rock stars!

That's THIS FRIDAY, MARCH 6 from 1:00-4:00 pm at the CYFC. Bring your BEST game for this event. :o)

Internship News:

1st Progress Report is Due March 5th


2nd (final) Progress Report is Due May 5th



At a glance

3/1/18 - New middle school fourth quarter STEM+Art Institute classes emailed to parents and students



3/9 -  Governing Council Meeting 5:30



3/6 Music classes - Concert at TA gym with Jimmy Stadler - 5:30pm.

3/5- Last day of middle school third quarter STEM+Art Institute classes

3/9 - New middle school fourth quarter STEM+Institute classes start

3/9 - 3/12 NM-ASR



3/16 - 3/22



3/31 - Parent Advisory 5:30



Looking Ahead



4/3 - Lottery closes (Drawing on April 6th)



4/13 - Governing Council Meeting 5:30

4/14 and 4/16 SAT

4/17 - PROM 7pm-11pm



4/28 - Parent Advisory 5:30