Taos Academy Parents,

Happy New Year to all! I hope everyone had a restful break and enjoyed time with your families. Thank you for your generosity in contributing to our Staff appreciation fund. TA staff enjoyed a wonderful evening and spectacular meal together at the St. Bernard. What a nice way for us to celebrate a successful first semester! Much thanks to Jean Meyer and the staff at the St. Bernard for their gracious hospitality.

2017-18 Semester 1: What a great start to the year, TA students! Out of 731 Edgenuity core classes taken by our students, 693 were completed successfully - that is a passing rate of 95%! While Taos Academy students did a great job in their digital curriculum, they were also busy excelling in other areas. TA students also took 97 Dual Credit/UNM classes with a passing rate of 100% and over 500 elective classes. Nicely done!
High Flyers in 1st semester:
Congratulations to the following students for earning a GPA of 3.5 or higher this Fall - that is a B+ average or more. Wow! Way to go!!!

Dane Patrick  Obsydion Slater  Annali ese Bush
Maz Griego  Mikayla Martinez  John Ryan Himes
Lucia Naylor  Hannah Aby  Zach Benton
Berkeley Kast  Alicia Rael  Brina Stow
Ilana Weisfeld  Najwa Bilal  Mattias Donaldson
Sage Ferrel  Jade Pacheco  Kima Nelson
Alexandra Martinez  Madison Salmons  Cade Harris
Sawyer Sides  Jeremy Duran  Makaiah Breeze-Glauser
Zoie LaMure  Chloe Rojas-Grainger  Alexis Romero
Kailey Kelly  Gennys Moulton  Sierra Lindsey
Julianna Ford  Salome Aby  Zoe Mangum
Alex Waggoner  Sophia Maloney  Teresa McGarity
Hana O’Brien - Ishikawa  Madison Summers  Noah Schoder
Neal Young  Marcus Dumitrescu  Sage Slater
Sam Sides  Chase Kiker  Mekaela Konz-Morlan
Elliot Molz  Madison Tomashot  Nalia Kast
Gabriella Aquino  Taylor Tomashot  Lauren McAllister
Orion Joseph  Ian McAllister  Duncan Stewart-Jackson

We pride ourselves on working with students, families and our community to provide a high quality educational experience and to support our kids in their academics as well as their outside interests. Please take advantage of these opportunities such as our in-lab tutors, our Math Lab, the Student Success Lab (open daily from 8-12), and the many classes offered by local experts that integrate Science, Technology, Engineering and Math concepts into the Arts. The more engaged your student is, the more success they can experience here with us!

We will have final transcripts ready by the start of next week, our first full week back. These will be sent home with your child, so be on the lookout...
School Delays or Closings: Just a reminder that Taos Academy does not necessarily follow Taos Municipal school calendar or delays or closings. Please be sure to access our calendar online and watch for weather delays or closings on KOB news, KOAT.com and KRQE News as well as local radio. We also send out robo calls for delays or closings. Feel free as well to contact the school anytime to get the latest.

We would like to welcome our new students and parents. Please feel free to come in if you have questions or just want to shadow your child for the day to see what we do. We are here to help you and your child maximize educational potential. The learning curve for parents at TA is as steep as for the student. Again, know we are available to help with the transition to digital learning. We look forward to sharing the opportunities that parents have at TA to be an integral part of their child’s educational success.

PARKING LOT REMINDERS: PLEASE STOP FOR PEDESTRIANS

- 7:45 to 8:00 drop off & 4:00 to 4:15 pick up in designated section only. All traffic is one way and enters through the west and exits through the east.
  Drop Off turn left into the front drive along the sidewalk only. Pull up for others to come in behind you. Students may not walk across parking lots. No parking in front lanes. SSL and STEM drop off in the back of the building only.
- Pick Up- 4:00 for all classes
  5th and 6th same as drop off in the front. Pull up and back into the sidewalk.
  7th - Pick up at 4:00. Stay straight and continue to the back of the building to the end of the sidewalk. Pull up to cones
  8th – Pick up at 4:00 Stay straight and continue to the back of the building along the sports field. Pull up to cones.
  9th - same as drop off in the front. Pull up and back into the sidewalk.
  10th 11th and 12th - Stay straight and continue to the back of the building to the end of the side walk. Pull up to cones.
- STEM: Pick up at 4:00 along the sports field lane only.
- Parking: Stay straight or turn right (west) into visitor parking. First day overflow and special
events parking to the south and east of the building.

• Safe Zone is marked with orange cones for students to wait for parents. Students must be dropped off or picked up parallel along the sidewalk (safe area) ONLY. Move to the end of the sidewalk to allow others in behind you. Students may not cross the parking lot for any reason. Traffic is one way, the outside lane is for flow only.
• All students must enter and exit through the front door unless escorted to back. Students may not cross the parking lot for any reason during drop off or pick up times.
• Student walkers/bike riders will be released at 4:10 to avoid conflict with traffic.

Please do not block traffic at any time on Paseo del Canon If the parking lot is full make a trip around the block and you will be able to get in. To avoid all traffic issues in our parking lot, feel free to come at 4:05 to 4:15 and it will be clear. Kids love to have time to visit with friends.

PARCC

Testing will be during the month of April. Please make arrangements for students to be available for PARCC testing during the month of April. We require ALL students enrolled at TA to take the PARCC tests.

Winter Activity Days: Winter Activity Days are the first days that students return to school! The days are marked on the school calendar- January 10th, 11th and 12th and February 9 (Sweet Slide Fundraiser). These are mandatory school days. Taos Academy will have staff members supervising each location. Students MUST check in and check out with a Taos Academy staff member each day to receive credit for the day.

If a student is going to Taos Ski Valley, meet in the TFK cafeteria in the base area of the ski valley by 9:00am to check in. Be sure to check out each day in TFK’s so staff knows you are off the mountain. Transportation to and from Taos Ski Valley is the responsibility of the student and family.

If a student is going to TYFC or Aura Fitness, they come to Taos Academy by 9am to work on Edgenuity. They will have lunch at 12pm at school and then be escorted from school to their activity at 1pm. All students must check out with staff if they are picked up at the venue. Students may be picked up at 3:30 from the venue or at Taos Academy at 4:00pm. Students attending High Altitude Fitness will check in the first day at 9am and then make a schedule with Mr. Cisneros.
Sweet Slide Fundraiser – The last day of the Winter Activity Program, Friday, February 9, is our annual Sweet Slide fundraiser. This is a ski/board-a-thon, bake sale, and skate/swim-a-thon event. Students gather pledges (IN ADVANCE OF THE EVENT) from their family and community for each ski run or lap around the skating rink or pool they will perform on that day. It is also possible to swim laps at TYFC for pledges. Pledge sheets are attached to this form and available at the front desk at school. There will be registration tables set up at Taos Ski Valley, and Taos Youth and Family Center for participants to sign up and receive a bib. Family members, friends, and community members may participate. There will also be a bake sale at Taos Ski Valley during the event. We need volunteers to help with counting skiers/snowboarders and skaters as well as to work the bake sale. Please contact Karin Moulton at kmoulton@taosacademy.org to volunteer.

Our goal is to raise $50 per student. All students are required to participate in the event - including College Link students and working students. Students may raise $50 by either gathering pledges for laps, giving a donation, gathering donations from others (friends, businesses, relatives), or by selling $50 of raffle tickets.
For the bake sale at Taos Ski Valley (TSV) - Baked goods may be brought to Taos Academy campus on Thursday, February 8th or to TSV on Friday, February 9th. Students need family support in gathering their pledges and getting the funds turned in at school. We are asking for 100% participation.

College Link - Students who are enrolled in Friday classes at UNM must bring in a UNM schedule to the front office in order to be excused. Participation in the Sweet Slide fundraiser is still expected. Please sell raffle tickets or donate $50.

WE NEED HELP WORKING THESE EVENTS!!! If you want to volunteer for a two hour shift or ask a business to donate a prize for participants, please e-mail Ms. Moulton at kmoulton@taosacademy.org. Funds raised are used for ski scholarships and lessons, leadership days, STEM Institute classes, and student activities.

Light Lunch & Snack Program:
January 30-31 - Chicken Fried Noodles ($3)
January 31- February 1 - Fried Wontons (2 for $1)
CASH ONLY – NO CREDIT!!!
2nd Semester: New classes have been loaded and students can begin working when they return on January 10th. The Edgenuity assignment calendar does not begin until the first full week of school o please USE THIS TIME to work ahead!!

TECHnology Update:

We are reminded (more than we would like) of the sometimes dangerous behaviors of youth and digital media. We shared last month that the number one rule for keeping kids safe online is to have at least one trusted adult be fully aware of ALL the online activities of the child. TALK ABOUT IT!

Among these dangerous behaviors is the habit among some of sending, uploading, or downloading nude photos of one another. Please know this: anyone in the US, regardless of age, possessing or sharing nude photos of youth, consensual or not, can be convicted of child pornography. THIS IS A SERIOUS CRIME WITH SERIOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL AND LEGAL CONSEQUENCES -- TALK ABOUT IT. Parents, talk to other parents about strategies and habits at home for keeping your children safe online. Below are links to additional resources.

What Every Parent Needs To Know About Sexting | HuffPost

Sexting and the Law - From the ACLU

Tips for Dealing with Teen Sexting from Connect Safely

Collin E. Miller - cmiller@taosacademy.org
Lee Shawver - lshawver@taosacademy.org
Jeanette Henshaw - jhenshaw@taosacademy.org
Kelci Pike - kpike@taosacademy.org
Jamie Lucero-Martinez - jluceromartinez@taosacademy.org
**Rosetta Stone:** Students will be enrolled in their next semester’s foreign language course through their advisers. Anticipated start date for Spring 2018 semester for Rosetta Stone is week of January 22. Please be sure you have discussed your credit needs (HS only) and reviewed your transcript with your adviser so you and he/she knows what you need in the way of a language credit.

New classes will be announced January 15th and will begin January 22, 2018.

**Middle School Connect**

Next semester Middle School Connect Plus students will have the opportunity to learn many new games during recess and activity time. A new focus on Playworks Play activities will be supported with equipment purchases from student fees. Students will experience organized cooperative games and learn core playground games and sports. Please remember to sign up for MS Connect Plus in the front office in order to reserve your spot.
**MS Student Advisory Council News**

You can buy candy grams before school, at break or lunch we are selling them at 2 for a $1. Parents, you can buy from Ms. Michelle at the front desk. Candy Grams will be delivered on Feb 8-14. Upcoming activities: look for more info about our February Strawberry Cream Lollipop Candy Gram sales and our Winter Dance.

We have an enthusiastic group of young leaders who have already met several times. We are coordinating our initiation ceremony with the HS NHS. We will be inducting new members to both groups the end of February. We have had to postpone since one of our new members is out of the country. Come out and help us celebrate these wonderful Students. We have been choosing group service projects, learning about Parliamentary Procedure, elected officers. Look for our updated ceremony date in the February Newsletter.

**CLUB LECTIO SCRIPTO** (formerly the Community of Readers and Writers)

We will be meeting January 18 (the 3rd Thursday) from 4:00 to 5:00 in STEM 1 to share our reading experiences and do some fun writing activities. So far we’ve shared some works of fiction, poetry, and done Mad Libs. Please come and bring your bright ideas to share with the group. You can also bring a friend! Contact Ms. Martinson (tmartinson@taosacademy.org) or Ms. Joseph (ljoseph@taosacademy.org) for more information.
CHESS CLUB will meet Wednesdays, January 17, 24, and 31 in the main cafeteria from 4:00 to 5:15 with Coach Tim Martinson. Players of all skill levels are welcome to attend! Contact Mrs. Martinson for more information (tmartinson@taosacademy.org).

21st-Century Classes

From SmartLab: We have begun a new quarter of 21C classes. Stay tuned for news about our exploration of Digital Citizenship and our curiosities of all things tech.

“Research is making two questions where there was only one.” - Unknown

Also, there is a SmartLab internship available to one or two High School students this semester. Please contact Mr. Shawver if you are interested.

From 7/8 21c Leadership: Mr. Kelly will try his hand at being the 7/8 PE teacher in the 3rd Quarter.

Wish Mr. Kelly a little luck. ;)

7/8 Leadership will continue in the 4th Quarter.

A leader knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way - John Maxwell
9th Grade Leadership Announcements

It was a busy and successful fall semester of leadership projects. Students worked to rejuvenate our campus greenhouse, collect donations for the local homeless shelter, fundraise for the new teen cafe, “Common Fire,” and provide an outlet for self-expression. Each group learned to collaborate with each other and engage within the wider community to achieve their goals.

This January a new group of students will be creating their own leadership projects aimed at addressing a need in our community, so stay tuned!

Internships - Internship Paperwork for Spring 2018 is due by the end of February. If a student has an ongoing internship that started in Fall semester 2017, no additional forms are due (except the progress report by end of February).

All internship forms can be printed from the Taos Academy website under “Quick Links” then “Quick Forms”. Forms must be signed by a parent and a supervisor and submitted to Mrs. Moulton. Grades for internship credit are based on progress reports and the log of hours. Credit can only be given when hours and progress reports are SIGNED and turned in ON TIME.

SmartLab Internship available. Please contact Mr. Shawver for further information. Internships are also available for students to help businesses with web page design and social media. Contact Mrs. Moulton for further information.
Graduation is Friday May 18, 2018, 2-4 pm

College Link UNM – Taos Spring 2018 Schedule of Classes is available online. Please take the ACCUPLACER at UNM Klauer Campus ASAP if you plan on taking a UNM Math or English class for the first time.

College Link students, please check in at TA during Winter Activity Days Jan. 10-12, 2018, 9 am-12 noon to get your UNM course schedule AND SIGN UP FOR CL LABS.

TA classes and CL labs begin on Monday January 15 and CL attendance is mandatory on that day. We will review your UNM classes, Next Step Plans, college plans, and EDGE classes. You may also sign up for your CL lab times.

UNM classes begin Tuesday, January 16. (UNM will be closed Monday, January 15 in observance of MLK’s birthday.)

UNM Friday Early College Classes begin January 19 and applications are due Friday, January 12, 2018.

ACT is February 10, 2018 and the registration deadline is Friday January 12, 2018. If you need help or are eligible for a registration fee waiver, please see Ms. Senescu during Winter Activity Days Jan. 10-12, 2018, 9am-12 noon.

Seniors, please go to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, FAFSA, and begin the application, (opened October 1, 2017) for the 2018-2019 college year.
COLLEGE LINK (CL) has continued to contribute to the success of the UNM dual credit program and to our students by continually raising the bar for their work and civic responsibilities. We began the year by raising the required GPA to 3.0 for participants along with the tacit and continued expectations that these students represent high character, diligence in academics, and a strong sense of ‘giving back’ to the community. **Discipline or academic problems at UNM-Taos or at TA will DQ a student from the CL program.**

Students should take at least one core UNM class by completing the ACCUPLACER Exam for math and/or English to determine registration. These classes fill up quickly and in order to continue to offer them UNM must maintain a given enrollment number of students in such classes. There’s an additional page that asks students to list 1st-2nd-3rd choices for classes. Students MUST meet with their CL advisor and counselor. Parents need to oversee the application and sign it before any registration is possible. **The application MUST BE RETURNED to CL faculty by Jan 8.** Students will also need the final Fall 2017 transcripts to accompany their registration forms.

**NOTE:** **College Link students have CL lab schedule options M-Th.** This is to allow students the flexibility to attend UNM classes and work internships and participate in various extracurricular community activities. **Not all high school students in CL will attend on Tu/Th due to space and schedules.** CL students will also serve SSL Contract (when they ‘earn’ it) on the regular SSL schedule which is on their OFF days (M/W/F). But this shouldn’t be happening for CL students! **The goal is to engender learning to balance school/work/personal life in order to build a strong foundation for the college experience.** About fifty percent of college Freshmen in the U.S. drop out due to not having learned this invaluable skill.

We’ll be meeting with CL students the first week back beginning Jan 8 in the mornings before students go to their Winter Activities. This is when CL students sign up for CL lab attendance and learn their UNM class schedules. **Every CL student must attend at least two CL labs during the week.** EDGE classes will begin this week as well.

**This is a digital school and communication is primarily through email. PLEASE READ YOUR TA EMAIL** Check the TA home page for the school calendar, important dates and meetings, and important updates that affect students and families.

It’s going to be a busy second semester, so buckle your seat belts and be prepared for PARCC, MAPs and EOC (End of Course, as applicable) exams in addition to EDGE, College Entrance Exams, and UNM requirements. This program is a commitment to doing one’s best on all levels. Seniors are the veterans and are moving forward into post-secondary work. Juniors are stepping up to earn this leadership for our TA students. Make it a strong finish to this second semester -- your personal BEST. See you in 2018!  ~Ms Densow
SENIOR TRIP  We are planning our second annual Taos Academy Senior Trip to San Diego, March 11-March 15, 2018. Activities include Belmont Park, Sea World, San Diego Zoo, Scripps Aquarium, and going to the beach. The cost of the trip is approximately $1030 per student and includes all transportation, meals, and hotel. Chaperones will be Karin Moulton and Michelle De Herrera.

Fundraising has begun. Each student is responsible for raising his or her own funds. A Krispy Kreme donut sale fundraiser took place before the holiday break. Several students are having bake sales or selling breakfast burritos at school to raise money for the trip. Finally, over the break, we will begin a crowd funding campaign for the group. **A $350 deposit is due by January 16, 2018.** On **January 30th, 2018:** $260 for entertainment is due, **February 13th, 2018** $170 for transportation is due, **February 30, 2018** a final payment of $250 for hotel is due. Please contact Mrs. Moulton for questions.

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**Purchases that donate to Taos Academy**

Sign up once for **FREE** and these organizations will donate to Taos Academy

**Amazon Smile**

You shop. Amazon gives. **Amazon Smile** will contribute a portion of their sales to Taos Academy Foundation. Just follow this link – [http://smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) - and start shopping!!

**Smith’s Grocery Store**

[@](http://www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/inspire) **Smith’s Grocery Store**  Earn money for Taos Academy every time you use your rewards card. **YOU MUST RE-ENROLL EACH YEAR.**  Go to [ww.smithsfoodanddrug.com/inspire](http://ww.smithsfoodanddrug.com/inspire) and enroll your Smith’s rewards card. Taos Academy’s non-profit number is 80215. This does not affect the cost of your purchases, your points or your fuel points.

**Box tops for Education**

Please cut off of grocery products at the store and bring into the school. Taos Academy receives funding for each boxtop.
Taos Academy Foundation - Relatives and Friends may want to contribute to our school in your name or you may want to give a donation as a gift to the school. Just go to taosacademy.org and click on the "Donate" button at the top of the home page.

Zenfolio Photography - Get photos of your student OR SeeSomethingSaveSomeone Swag Store is open on our zenfolio website. Proceeds from student photography go to the photography program and proceeds from the SeeSave Swag (cups, sweatshirts, ornaments, magnets, etc) go to promote the youth suicide prevention app to get it on more phones. Go to taosphotography@zenfolio.com

1/8 – Governing Council Meeting 5:30
1/10 - 1/12 – Winter Activity Days
1/30 – Parent Advisory Council Meeting – 5:30
1/31- NHS & NJHS induction ceremony 5-6pm
At a Glance

2/9 - Sweet Slide Fundraiser
2/12 - Governing Council Meeting
2/27 - Parent Advisory

PARENT ADVISORY – 5:30 – 7:00
Tuesday December 19th, 2017
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.