



Middle School STEM+Arts Institute Classes

Winter 2026 - Q3

- **Culinary Arts** - taught by Megan Jenkins— **Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-2:15** Class is an experiential class where students learn how to combine flavors and ingredients in order to fully express their creativity. We will focus on technical skills and foundational techniques throughout the class to help you become a truly great chef.
- **Music Appreciation** - taught by Billy Archuleta - **Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-2:15** If you enjoy music and want to learn more about it and how to play it on your own, this is a great opportunity for you to do so. We will have fun working together to learn the different aspects of music from the basics of music theory, how to read a music staff, what time signatures are, and what is a “whole” note and a “half” note. We’ll learn about some of the different instruments used to make music, and how to play them. This class will give you the basic skills you need to play the instrument of your choice. Are you ready?
- **Entrepreneurship Adventure:** - taught by Xochitl Wodrich - **Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-2:15** The \$5 Challenge & Beyond Turn a simple \$5 bill into a booming business idea! In this hands-on, fun-filled course, you’ll brainstorm creative products, design your own logo, learn the basics of selling, and compete in friendly challenges — like turning \$5 into as much money as you can. Work in teams, build a mini business, and pitch your idea in our final showcase. No business suit required — just your imagination!
- **eSports** - Taught by Cal vanWilligen - **Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:15-4** Students will build skills in teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and strategic thinking, while learning to play video games! We will explore the different types of video games from solo play to teams. Explore games such as League of Legends, Madden, Mario Kart, Rocket League, Super Smash Bros and MORE!
- **Science Explorations** - taught by Laura Tenorio - **Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:15-4:00.** Can a drinking straw save the world? Learn skills and ways to apply Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) to real-life situations. Make your own solutions to community problems, and learn about STEM careers using drones, straws, and anything we can get our hands on to make STEM come alive!

January 20th, 2026 - March 12th, 2026



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Continued

- **Art** - taught by Izumi Yokoyama - **Tuesdays and Thursdays** 2:15 - 4:00. This class invites students to explore elements of art. Students will develop an understanding of how to express ideas through artistic creation. Communicating and learning meaning through visual arts can be exciting and empowering. Students will develop technical skills in drawing, painting, sculpture, and other art mediums. No previous art experience required.
- **Theatre** - taught by John Biscello-**Tuesdays and Thursdays** 2:15 - 4:00. Enter the marvelous multi-verse of acting and drama, and bring to life the characters that live inside you. Through a variety of dramatic games, exercises, improv and movement, develop your performing skills while working with an ensemble in staging skits, scenes and short plays. A range of styles and genres, from comedy, tragedy, mystery, sci-fi, satire, and more, will be the mash-up ingredients in our creation of live theater....all you need to bring is a sense of play and the spirit of imagination.

Middle School STEM + Art Institute: Third quarter STEM offerings will be available for registration beginning January 12, 2026. All classes are 0.25 elective credit and grades are posted on transcripts. All classes follow Taos Academy policies. Last Day to drop a class is January 29, 2026 and must be done in writing to Ms. Jamie Lucero-Martinez -no exceptions. jlucero-martinez@taosacademy.org **ALL registration must be done in the STEM Office with Cruz Duran. Materials fees will be \$15 for all courses. Fee payment is required for registration.** This will assist in covering some materials cost for classes or help repair borrowed equipment. Space is limited. ***If a course is dropped by the student a fee credit will be given towards another course. No Refunds.***

REMINDER: MS Students may not take the same course consecutively. Students wanting to repeat a course will be placed on the waitlist until after the first day of classes. If there is room in the class after the first day then students on the waitlist will be added based on the order they signed up. No changes will be made after the drop date.

*STEM Instructors may drop students for low participation with two written notices to parents/students. No instructor initiated student drops will be made after February 9th, 2026. **No fee credit toward future courses.**

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