



Welcome Letter and Information

The Taos Academy Governing Council, Administration, Faculty and Staff would like to welcome both new and returning students and their families back to school for the 25-26 school year! We are looking forward to another strong 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!

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

Please review the attached 2025-2026 school calendar and supply list that accompanies this newsletter. More information follows below for you to be able to plan ahead. Please feel free to contact Amy Lucero if you have any questions or need further help at 575-751-3109 or alucero@taosacademy.org

Check out our website with this information as well as much more at www.taosacademy.org.



Back to School Orientation

SAVE THE DATE: Taos Academy will be hosting **Back to School Orientation** for all families on campus. Orientation is **REQUIRED** for all new incoming families.

- Grades 5 - 8: Back to School Orientation for middle schoolers will be held on Thursday, August 7th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.
- Grades 9 - 12: Back to School Orientation for high schoolers will be held on Thursday, August 7th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

Please make plans now to attend this **mandatory** instructional day to meet your teachers and our staff, learn about your child's schedule for the first few weeks, and to explore our academic expectations and policies. Students participating in our College Link program may have an additional training time.

Week #1: Monday, August 11th – Thursday, August 14th

School starts at 8:00 am and ends at 4:00 pm

Monday, 8/11/25 -

- **Middle School Students:** School starts at 8:00 am and concludes at 4:00 pm. Students will participate in orientation activities and begin coursework.
- **High School Students:** Student Success Lab (SSL) or College Link (CL) is available for HS students and is available for students from 8:00-1:30.

Tuesday, 8/12/25 -

- **High School Students:** School starts at 8:00 am and concludes at 4:00 pm. Students will participate in orientation activities and begin coursework.
- **Middle School Students:** Middle School Plus (MS+) is available for MS students 8:00 - 1:30

Wednesday, 8/13/25 -

- **Middle School Students:** Middle School Plus (MS+) is available for MS students 8:00 - 1:30
- **Grade 9:** Will be participating in the Rocky Mountain Youth Corp Challenge Course. Students will meet at 8 am at the Taos Academy Campus. Pick up is at 3:00 pm at Taos Academy.
- **Grade 11:** Will meet at the Rio Grande Visitor's Center in Pilar at 8:30 am to raft the Rio Grande "Racecourse" with Los Rios River Runners. Parents and/or students will be responsible for transportation and lunch.
- **Grade 10 & 12:** Student Success Lab (SSL) or College Link (CL) is available for HS students and is available for students from 8:00-1:30.

Thursday, 8/14/25 -

- **Middle School Students:** Middle School Plus (MS+) is available for MS students 8:00 - 1:30.
- **Grade 10:** Will be participating in the Rocky Mountain Youth Corp Challenge Course. Students will meet at 8 am at the Taos Academy Campus. Pick up is at 3 pm at Taos Academy.
- **Grade 12:** Will meet at the Rio Grande Visitor's Center in Pilar at 8:30 am to raft the Rio Grande "Racecourse" with Los Rios River Runners. Parents and/or students will be responsible for transportation and lunch.
- **Grade 9 & 11:** Student Success Lab (SSL) or College Link (CL) is available for HS students and is available for students from 8:00-1:30.

Please note: Families will be responsible for transportation to and from all activities. In addition to the items on their gear list, students will need a sack lunch.

* **College Link:** Ms. Patricia Meagher and Ms. Kelci Pike will be working with you to develop your TA schedules and ensure access to all UNM coursework and classes during this week. Plan on attending full days.



Week #2: Monday, August 18th – Thursday, August 21st

School starts at 8:00 am and ends at 4:00 pm

Monday, 8/18/25 -

- **Middle School Students:** School starts at 8:00 am and concludes at 4:00 pm. Students will participate in orientation activities and begin coursework.
- **High School Students:** Student Success Lab (SSL) or College Link (CL) is available for HS students and is available for students from 8:00-1:30.

Tuesday, 8/19/25 -

- **High School Students:** School starts at 8:00 am and concludes at 4:00 pm. Students will participate in orientation activities and begin coursework.
- **Middle School Students:** Middle School Plus (MS+) is available for MS students 8:00 - 1:30

Wednesday, 8/20/25 -

- **5th and 6th grade students:** Overnight camping trip. Further details of the trip will be conveyed in the August Newsletter.
- **7th Grade Students:** Outdoor hike and evening family potluck. Details will be conveyed in the August Newsletter.
- **8th grade students:** Middle School Plus (MS+) is available for MS students 8:00 - 1:30
- **High School Students:** Student Success Lab (SSL) or College Link (CL) is available for HS students and is available for students from 8:00-1:30.

Thursday 8/21/25 -

- **5th and 6th grade students:** Pick-up from overnight camping trip. Further details of the trip will be conveyed in the August Newsletter.
- **7th Grade Students:** Middle School Plus (MS+) is available for MS students 8:00 - 1:30
- **8th grade students:** Outdoor hike and evening family potluck. Details will be conveyed in the August Newsletter.
- **High School Students:** Student Success Lab (SSL) or College Link (CL) is available for HS students and is available for students from 8:00-1:30.

Please note: Families will be responsible for transportation to and from all activities. In addition to the items on their gear list, students will need a sack lunch.

ALL STUDENTS:

Monday, August 25th – Thursday, August 28th

Beginning the week of August 25th, students will attend TA on their regularly scheduled days. Middle school students attend campus on Monday and Wednesday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. High school students attend Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. College Link will be scheduled around the UNM schedule.

***PLEASE NOTE: September 1st is Labor Day and the school is closed. This week ONLY, middle school students will attend Wednesday 9/3 and Friday 9/5.**

Special Education

If you are joining Taos Academy for the upcoming school year and your child has an IEP, please assist us in getting the transfer process started by dropping off or sharing digitally the last evaluation and current IEP. If you have any questions or want to check in, we are happy to meet with you. We can be reached at 575-751-3109 ext: 104.

Sarah Bradley

Special Education Director

sbradley@taosacademy.org

Jeanette Henshaw

Special Education Coordinator

jhenshaw@taosacademy.org

GET INVOLVED

Community Council/Foundation Board Meeting

Parents interested in joining the community council or foundation board, please attend our first meeting on Wednesday, August 27th at 4:30.

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

Amy Lucero - Front office manager - alucero@taosacademy.org

Deborah E. Branchal - Equity Council Co-Lead - dbrancha@taosacademy.org

Jamie Lucero-Martinez - Equity Council Lead - jluceromartinez@taosacademy.org

***NEW Policy Changes SY 2025-26**

Informational Meeting on 7/23/2025 @ 5:20 pm, Main Cafe

- **Anti-distraction policy (Cell Phones)**
- **Closed Campus/Early Release Policy**

Anti-Distraction Policy -

Terms:

Electronic Devices:

An Electronic Device shall mean any devices that accomplish their purposes electronically and include, without limitation, *cellphones*, *smart watches*, *paggers*, *radios*, *wireless speakers/headphones (including earbuds)*, *media/music players*, *laser pointers*, *video game consoles*, *personal computers*, *tablets*, *cameras*, and any device that provides a wireless or Bluetooth connection with an unfiltered, non-TA, connection to the Internet.

School Day:

The school day shall mean the normal hours of operation of the school from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

School Year:

The school year shall mean from the first day of school through the last day of summer school per the TA calendar.

Policy:

The use of any Electronic Devices by students during the school day from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. is not allowed. Cell phones are not permitted for use except before and after school hours, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. All non-school-issued electronic devices will be placed in a secure storage locker. Photography and Recordings of anyone on campus on any device are not permitted without consent and an educational objective.

Use of Electronic Devices in violation of this policy will result in the confiscation of the Electronic Device. After the first offence, the student's parent may recover the Electronic Device from the TA, Dean of Students, at the end of the school day. After the second offence, a behavioral referral will be issued by the Principal, and the parent/guardian must meet with the Principal to recover the Electronic Device. After the third offence, the Electronic Device will be confiscated for the remainder of the school year. Any further violations of electronic devices will result in a level III behavioral referral and automatic confiscation of those devices. A student who violates this policy may also be subject to school discipline for engaging in chronic disruptive conduct.

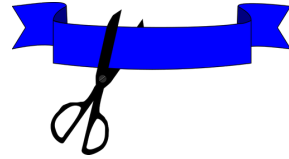
Electronic Devices that are not recovered at the end of the school year may be disposed of. TA shall not be liable or responsible for the loss of or damage to any Electronic Device brought to school and/or confiscated from a student under this policy.

Closed Campus/Early Release Policy - NO EARLY RELEASE

Taos Academy is a closed campus. Once students enter the building for the school day (8:00 to 4:00), they are not permitted to leave the campus, including during lunch. Parents must provide early release documentation for the student to leave before 4:00. Documentation is a TA off-campus activities form or written verification of a Doctor's appointment. **Please schedule all appointments on non-scheduled school days.** Emergency early release may be granted by the Director or designee. STUDENTS WILL NOT BE RELEASED EARLY WITHOUT DOCUMENTATION, EXCEPT FOR EMERGENCIES.



Save the Date!



Taos Academy Grand Reopening Event - Thursday, August 28th - 4:00 to 7:00

- Come see our new wellness building and outdoor education spaces.
- Enjoy music by Jimmy Stadler, food and other activities.