



Welcome Back to School!

I hope that you all have enjoyed yourselves and your children throughout the holiday. It is great to see the return of more light each day and some snow! I wanted to fill you all in with the details for the next few weeks, as we get started back to school.

First Ski/Snowboard Day Only (January 11th): In order to set up the program and not lose ski time for the students we will be meeting at Anansi at 7:25 and leaving at 7:30am for the bus. ***All students are required to ride the bus the first week because the TSV Ski Patrol will be providing our safety talk when we arrive at 8am. No students may ride with a parent for the first ski week, no exceptions!***

Winter Sports Programs: These programs begin on Friday, January 11th and will continue through the 8th of February. Students, who are participating in the ski and snowboard programs need to be ready to board the bus at 8:00, **please arrive by 7:55**. Students participating in gymnastics or ice skating may arrive at school at our regularly scheduled time for a 9am departure. ***Please inform the office one day prior if you plan to transport your child to his or her sports program, your timely and direct communication regarding attendance and transportation supports a well-organized and smooth running program.*** Your child will bring home an information sheet for his or her Winter Sports Program, please read it thoroughly so that your child is ready for the first day of Winter Sports this Friday, January 11! (Each sport form is also attached to this email)

Lunch on Fridays During the Winter Sports Program: All students who are participating in gymnastics or skating may order school lunch on Fridays. Please be sure to pre-order your school lunch as you always do, unless your child buys lunch every day. All students enrolled in skiing/snowboarding at TSV will need to bring a home lunch.

Snacks during Winter Sports Fridays: All students need to bring their own snack from home and a water bottle on Fridays since all students will be at their sport activity during the morning snack times.

Report Cards: You will receive your child's first semester report card on the 16th of January this month, please pick it up in your child's communication envelope on Wednesday.

Prepare for Snowy Days: Just in case we get some snow...Our school is required to follow the Taos Municipal Schools decisions regarding school closures and delays. Please listen to KTAO radio at 101.9 on the FM dial for school closure and delay announcements. In addition, you will receive an email from the school regarding school closures and delays.

Dress your Child for Winter Weather: Please send your child with a winter coat, hat, and gloves every day in the wintertime! If it is snowy or wet, please send your child in boots, and then have indoor shoes or slippers available. In the event it snows, please have your child bring snow pants so that his or her indoor clothing stays dry. Outdoor recesses are a lot more fun when you are dressed appropriately for the weather!

Indoor Shoes or Slippers: Please send your child kindergarten through 8th grade with a pair of slippers or inside shoes that he or she can wear when indoors. Due to the nature of the freezing, thawing, wet, snowy, and/or muddy days, it preserves our learning environments and their cleanliness to have the students have a second option in foot attire that can be kept at school through the winter and spring.

Assessments: We completed our MAP assessments with our students prior to the winter break, and in our first week back to school we will conduct our I-Station assessment with all students in grades kindergarten through third. In addition, we will assess students in grades 4 and 5 who are continuing to work on grade level fluency and accuracy benchmarks. You will receive a copy of your child's results from their short cycle assessments along with a letter that informs you as to whether your child is meeting the grade level standards as required by the NM Public Education Department.

Return of "Wednesday Morning Coffee with the Director": Parents, please consider attending our monthly Wednesday morning coffee session, to provide your input and feedback and to learn about policies and practices of the school. Our January meeting will be held January 30th at 8:30 in the cafeteria, our topic will be "Filling Your Bucket", a play on "Paying it Forward in Relationship Building".

Save The Date: Please put February 7th on your calendar, and plan to bring your child to our School and Community Celebration of Anansi's Blue Ribbon Award. We will have a ceremony of recognition of our students, faculty, and parents who have all helped us to become a nationally recognized exemplary school for closing the achievement gap. We want every student and family to be with us as we celebrate and commemorate this award, February 7th, 6-7pm at the Taos Community Auditorium. Please be there!

Dates to Keep in Mind This Month: Please consider attending a Governance Council meeting or a Friends of Anansi Charter School meeting, we are always interested in parental input. These groups support the continued growth and educational programs of the schools. We would love to see more parents attend and get involved!

Monday, January 7th: **No School due to teacher in-service day for report card writing**

Tuesday, January 8th: First day back to school

Thursday, January 10: Turn in your bus permission slip for Winter Sports Programs & Ski Behavior Agreement Form

Friday, January 11th: First Winter Sports Day, Ski Program: Departs Anansi at 7:30am (bring your own snacks, lunch, & water bottle), Gymnastics & Skaters leave Anansi at 9am bring your own snacks, & water bottle

Wednesday, January 16: Report Cards Distributed

Wednesday, January 16: Friends Board Meeting, 8:45am, Governance Council Meeting, 5:30pm

January 18th-February 8th: Winter Sports Programs **every Friday**, bring your own morning snacks on Fridays during winter sports programs (& your own lunch for ski program) Arrive at 8 for Ski Program, regular start time for Gymnastics & Skating

Monday, January 20: No School, Martin Luther King Day Observed

Wednesday, January 30: Coffee with the Director, 8:30-9, Filling Your Bucket: Paying It Forward in Relationship Building

Thursday, February 7th: All School Celebration of our Blue Ribbon Award, 6-7pm at Taos Community Auditorium (TCA)

I look forward to starting the new semester and working with your children again. Let's work together to be collaborative, communicative, and supportive of one another. My goal is to provide a fulfilling, enjoyable, and successful semester for each student and the school community. Look forward to seeing you Tuesday!

All the best,
Michele

Essential Information for Anansi Skating Program

Schedule, Drop-Off & Pick-Up Procedures:

The Anansi Charter School Skating Program will run for 5 weeks, January 11th-February 8th. If there is a school delay or school cancellation, we will not have skiing on that day. We will have a scheduled make-up day. We will begin loading the buses for the Youth and Family Center at 9am (as long as the buses are on time). The students will return at noon from the ice rink. Students are required this year to provide their own snack and lunch from home. School will end for our K-6 students at 1:30pm and for our 7th-8th grade students at 3:30pm. There will be after care available for students who are signed up at the \$15/day rate for the five weeks of the program. If you plan to pick up your child at the Youth and Family Center, please be sure to check in with the school chaperones. If you plan to drive your child to the Youth and Family Center in the morning, please inform the office at Anansi **in advance** so that we are not waiting for your student, and so we also have a record for the school chaperones and for attendance purposes.

Dress: Please dress your children in their snow pants and jacket and then pack the rest of the gear in a back pack, because they will first be indoors at the school, on the bus, and then in the Youth & Family Center for a snack before they are out on the ice. Please label all clothing and gear with a permanent marker so that if anything is dropped or left it can easily be returned to you.

Skating Clothing Needed:

Jacket
Snow Pants
Long Underwear or sweat pants
Turtle neck or zip-turtleneck fleece
Thick socks
Water proof gloves or mittens
Hat
Neck gaiter (optional depending on weather)
Snack
Water Bottle
Backpack (to keep track of gear)

Please no jeans, label everything with your child's name

Illness: In the event that your child is ill, please call the school so that we are aware that your child will not attend, much like any other day. There are no make-up dates due to illness or injury.

Eligibility: All students in grades 6-8 may participate in the program as long as they have passing grades of C or higher. Grades K-5 are exempt from this requirement.

Thank you very much for your cooperation, communication, and follow through, it makes a big difference in running a well-organized program. It is our goal to provide a low stress, fun, and successful program; let's work together to meet our goal! Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks, Michele

Essential Information for Anansi Gymnastics Program

Schedule, Drop-Off & Pick-Up Procedures:

The Anansi Charter School Gymnastics Program will run for 5 weeks, January 11th-February 8th. If there is a school delay or school cancellation, we will not have gymnastics on that day. We will schedule a make-up day. We will begin loading the buses to leave for the High Altitude Athletics Center at 9am (as long as the buses are on time). The students will return at noon from gymnastics. We are asking all students to bring their own snack for their gymnastics days. The school day will end at its traditional time for K-6 students at 1:30pm and 3:30pm for middle school students. There will be our typical after care program available for students at the end of the day. If you plan to pick up your child at High Altitude, please be sure to check in with the school chaperones. If you plan to drive your child to High Altitude in the morning, please inform the office at Anansi in writing at least one day in advance so that we have a record for the school chaperones and include your child for attendance purposes.

Dress:

Please dress your children in comfortable clothes that do not have buttons or zippers. Please label all clothing and gear with a permanent marker so that if anything is dropped or left it can easily be returned to you.

Please include:

Water Bottle

Snack

Backpack

Please no jeans, label everything with your child's name

Illness:

In the event that your child is ill, please call the school so that we are aware that your child will not attend, much like any other day. There are no make-up dates due to illness or injury.

Eligibility:

All students in grades 6-8 may participate in the program as long as they have passing grades of C or higher. Students in grades K-5 are exempt from this requirement.

Thank you very much for your cooperation, clear communication, and follow through, it makes a big difference in running a well organized program. It is our goal to provide a fun and challenging learning experience that is well-organized and low stress for both the students and the staff. You can help by arriving at school on time and having your child prepared for their morning at the gym. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks, Michele

Essential Information for TSV School Program

Schedule, Drop-Off & Pick-Up Procedures: The Anansi Charter School Ski/Snowboard School Program will run for 5 weeks, January 11th-February 8th. If there is a school delay or school cancellation, we will not have skiing on that day. We currently do not have a scheduled make-up day. All students are required to ride the buses up to the Taos Ski Valley on the first week, so that they are present for the TSV safety talk, which will take place on the bus upon our arrival. For the first week, we will meet at Anansi at 7:25am, board the buses at 7:30, to arrive at the Children's Center at 8am. For all subsequent weeks, the kindergarten through 3rd grade students will need to be at school by 7:55am to load the bus promptly at 8am, and the 4th through 8th grade students will need to arrive by 8:25am to load the bus promptly at 8:30am.

We will return each week at the following two times: Students in grades K-3 will leave the Taos Ski Valley at approximately 12:30pm, and will return to school by about 1pm. Students in grades 4-8 will leave the Taos Ski Valley at approximately 3:30pm and will return to school at about 4pm. Please park in the Anansi school lot so that when students return from the Ski Valley, you can meet your child as they get off the bus.

Summary of Drop-Off & Pick-Up Schedule:

Dates	Drop-off Time	Pick-up Grades K-3	Pick-up Grades 4-8
January 11	All Students 7:25am	Regular end of day time: 1:30pm	Approx. 4pm at ACS
January 18, 25, February 1 & 8: (AM Bus required for all participants 1 st week)	K-3 rd : 7:55am 4 th -8 th : 8:25am	Regular end of day time: 1:30pm	Approx. 4pm at ACS

Aftercare for Students at ACS after winter sports:

There will be after care available for K-3 students who are signed up at the regular rate.

Dropping off &/or Picking Up Your Child at TSV:

If you plan to drive your child to the Ski Valley in the morning, please inform the office at Anansi **in advance** so that we have a record for the school chaperones and include your child for attendance purposes, and in addition your child must come check in with the Anansi staff at the Children's Center building for their lesson in the morning if in grades k-3 and prior to free ski skiing in the morning if in grades 4-8.

If you plan to pick up your child at the KK Ski School Building, you will need to sign your child out from our Anansi representative in the downstairs room where ACS meets to get ready to ski and eats lunch. K-3 students may be picked up at 12:30 downstairs in the KK building and 4-8 students may be picked up at 3:30pm at the same location.

Snacks & Lunch:

All students need to bring their own snacks for the morning. K-3 students are required to bring a lunch from home and they will eat in the downstairs of the KK. Students in grades 4-8 are

encouraged to bring a lunch from home and eat at the KK with the school prior to their lesson 12:30. They are required to check in at noon in order to be ready to be on the snow for their afternoon lessons line up at 12:30pm. Their free ski time is from 9am-noon. There is a mandatory check in prior to heading out to free ski and at noon when returning for the break prior to their afternoon lessons. All students in grades 4-8 are required to have a minimum of 1 partner to ski with during free ski time.

Dress & Sun Block: Please dress your children in their snow pants and jacket and then pack the rest of the gear in a back pack, because they will first be indoors at the school, on the bus, and then in the rental area before they are out on the mountain. Label all their belongings with their name, masking tape and sharpie work great. Please apply the first coat of sun block on your children, prior to dropping them off at school; the sun block will be reapplied at the Ski Valley at the lunch break.

Ski Equipment Needed:

Jacket
Snow Pants
Long Underwear or sweat pants
Turtle neck or zip-t
Ski or snowboard socks
Water proof gloves or mittens
Neck gaiter (optional depending on weather)
Sunglasses with leash or goggles (required, no exceptions)
Sun block
Backpack (to keep track of gear)
Helmet (if skiing past the beginner hill, can be provided by the Ski Valley, if you filled out the helmet release form)
Lunch, snack & water bottle

Please no jeans, label everything with your child's name (including skis, poles, boots, helmet)

Illness & Behavior: In the event that your child is ill, please call the school so that we are aware that your child will not attend, much like any other day. There are no make-up dates due to illness or injury. If your child is ill the day prior to the ski program day, he or she **may not participate** in the program due to the level of rigor required to ski or snowboard. The children are expected to follow the same behavior policies as for school in addition to the behavior expectations at the Ski School. They are expected to be respectful, to listen to the instructors, to stay with their groups, to be responsible for their own gear, and to follow the safety guidelines provided to them. The students will have a safety talk with the ski patrol prior to starting our program. If we have a behavior issue, you will be informed and the consequences for the behavior will be assigned. Safety on the mountain is of the utmost importance, and behaviors that put students at risk will be addressed immediately. In addition, students in grades 4-8 who do not sign in, ski with a partner, or return on time will not be allowed to participate in the program the next week.

Eligibility: All students enrolled may participate in this program as long as they have a minimum grade of C for all core subjects. Students who have an F or D in any core subject will be required to attend tutoring at Anansi for the duration of a regular school day. They will use the time to complete unfinished assignments, re-do failing assignments, and receive assistance with their work.

Student Expectations and Responsibilities Agreement: Prior to the onset of the program all 4th-8th grade students and parents must sign the attached agreement for participation in this program. We require this agreement because the students must understand their responsibilities on the mountain; we trust them to be responsibly independent as they ski or board on their own. *Please sign and turn this form into the office by Thursday, January 10th.*

Thank you very much for your cooperation, communication, and follow through, it makes a big difference in running a well-organized program. It is challenging to take 119 students and all of their gear skiing and snowboarding! It is our goal to provide a low stress, fun, and successful program; let's work together to meet our goal!

Thanks! Michele

**Anansi Charter School Ski & Board Program
Student Expectations and Responsibilities Agreement**

I, _____ (student name), agree to follow all of the listed rules and responsibilities listed below, and I understand any infraction of these rules and responsibilities will result in a minimum consequence of losing independent ski time and a maximum consequence of being pulled from the program.

- I will know and follow all Anansi Charter School policies and rules.
- I will know and follow all Taos Ski Valley policies and rules as described by the Ski Patrol in the Safety Meeting and described by my instructor.
- I will stay with group when transitioning from the bus to ski school (to ski lockers & back to ski school) and then back to the bus again each week.
- I will sign out prior to going free skiing/boarding, and I will sign in when I return from free skiing/boarding
- I will ski or board with a partner at all times, and I will ski or board at the level of the lowest skier or boarder in my group.
- I will arrive at 12 noon at Ski School to check in for lunch, and I will eat lunch with the Anansi School group. (I may bring a lunch from home or purchase food in the cafeteria.)
- I will arrive at 3pm at Ski School to check in for the end of the day.
- I am responsible for my own belongings and gear.
- If I rent gear, I will return all gear to Ski School when transitioning to the bus pick up.
- I understand that I must have passing grades to participate each week in the program (in grades 6-8 only).

I have read and agree to all of the requirements for participation in the Anansi Charter School Ski and Board Program.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return to school office by Thursday, January 10th.

ANANSI CHARTER SCHOOL

Parent Permission for Participation in School Sponsored Field Trip

Every reasonable precaution will be taken to provide for the safety and care of the student. In the event of an accident requiring emergency care, necessary arrangements will be made. However, parents must assume financial responsibility.

I, the parent or guardian of _____, give permission for him/her to participate in the following activity away from Anansi Charter School.

Destination: Taos Ski Valley Children's Center Ski/Snowboard Program

Purpose of Trip: Winter Sports Program

Day/Date of Trip: January 11, 18, 25, & February 1, 8, 2019

Time of Departure/Return: January 11th: 7:30am, 1/18-2/8/19: 8:00am Return times: K-3: 1:30pm, 4-8: 4pm

Type of Transportation: Bus

As the parent or guardian of the above named student, I understand that all Anansi Charter School policies and procedures will be in force during this school-sponsored activity.

As a parent or guardian, I have read the above and give my permission for my child to participate.

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date)

(Home Phone)

(Business/Emergency/Cell Phone)