

Abstract of Proposed Charter School:

Mission Statement

The Taos Integrated School of the Arts, in partnership with parents and community, will provide K-8 students in the Taos Municipal School District with the opportunity to reach their maximum potential through a standards-based, multicultural, thematic, and arts-integrated curriculum. Arts-integration creates more meaningful learning through using the arts—visual art, drama, music dance—as a catalyst to create broader and deeper learning experiences. Taos is a multicultural community steeped in artistic tradition. We wish to found a school that provides students with a multicultural worldview while utilizing thematic units and the arts to facilitate academic learning. Our mission is to educate the whole child in order to cultivate in young people the skills, knowledge, and values they need to reach their highest potential.

Educational Philosophy/Approach

“The arts-integrated school uses all the arts to show students new ways to touch the wonder of the world and to use all their powers of observation and creativity in the pursuit of knowledge and self-expression” (Sautter, p. 4). Our educational philosophies and approaches were selected based upon our experiences as educators in the classroom, and through our masters level studies in education. Our educational philosophies and curricular approaches include the following ideas:

1. teaching is an art;
2. an integrated, thematic curriculum facilitates and inspires learning;
3. arts-integration is the thread that holds integrated/thematic instruction together;
4. a multicultural curriculum is vital to students in the 21st century; and
5. all children can learn.