

Tierra Adentro: The New Mexico School of Academics, Art and Artesanía Charter School Abstract

The mission of Tierra Adentro: The New Mexico School of Academics, Art and Artesanía (TANM) is to create an inclusive and thriving learning environment comprised of a demographically and culturally diverse student population with a focus on academics, art, artesanía (artisanship), and the study of the cultures that comprise our rich New Mexican heritage to ensure awareness, preservation, and progression of our cultural legacy.

The function of TANM is to ensure quality education for our children, while facilitating a deep understanding and practical application of New Mexico's cultural roots and traditions. We will succeed at addressing the critical need for generational continuity of New Mexican culture through academics, Spanish language, art and artesanía.

By focusing on the Iberian Diaspora, or diffusion of Spanish culture as an overarching theme and filter, we give a focus to our programs without limiting them to a "Spanish" world-view. The school's use of Spanish culture as a base for the study of arts and academics reaches beyond the commonly understood definition of "Hispanic culture." TANM employs the term "Iberian Diaspora" to refer to the cultures of the Iberian Peninsula as well as the cultures that resulted from contact with the New World. Our approach is to provide a deeper understanding of Spanish culture and its role in New Mexico which will serve as a basis for the study of other cultures.

Our educational philosophy is founded on the principles that a well-rounded education includes the study of academics, art and artesanía. These disciplines are hands-on, creative and intellectual by nature. This education becomes more valuable for students when it is culturally based. This perspective provides students with a positive sense of identity and belonging regardless of their background. In order for this experience to be accessible for all students, it must be free. In order for this education to be quality, it must be consistent and structured, allowing for constant improvement by measuring student, teacher and community progress. We will implement this philosophy through a trilateral curricular methodology, based on the study of technique, application and theory. This methodology was designed to facilitate comprehensive knowledge and confidence in students.

Tierra Adentro's proposed location is downtown Albuquerque. TANM will serve grades six through 12, and enroll a total student population of 430.