

As we continue through the 2024-25 school year at Vista Grande High School (VGHS), we are simultaneously planning for the 2025-26 school year. As we complete our first school year under our new School Director, Jim Smith, VGHS is emphasizing that is emphasizing the **'Core 5' foundations of our school**:

1. **Outdoor Learning opportunities**
2. **Social/Emotional Learning focus**
3. **Dual-Enrollment opportunities at UNM-Taos**
4. **Work-Based Learning opportunities**
5. **Smaller class sizes (average class size is 15-20 students)**

We recognize this may not be the focus that the Taos community has previously associated with VGHS, and that is ok! Change is fantastic, and we want to help our incoming students have more direct opportunity to feel empowered with their educational choices, including where they choose to attend and what type of educational opportunities they can have. VGHS's application process is the first step with that choice, while also helping to strengthen the overall culture and community of VGHS.

This process is not in-depth, and here are the two things we are asking for along with your filled our registration form:

1. **A 'Letter of Interest' for why they want to attend VGHS**
 - a. This 'Letter of Interest' does not need to be in-depth, but we are requiring that it be 3 or more paragraphs. If needed, please use the graphic organizer with sentence starters to help you in completing this.
2. **A 'Letter of Recommendation' from a community member**
 - a. This can be from a family member, a friend, a former teacher, a supervisor, etc., but it needs to be from someone that **is not a parent/guardian**.