Embudo Valley Tutoring Association Newsletter

EVTA Apprentice and Novice Tutoring Program!

MAY, 2026

Embudo Valley Tutoring Association was excited to expand the Apprentice and Novice Tutors program in the summer of 2025 and school year 25-26 with three generous grants from Taos Ski Valley, LOR Foundation, and Taos Community Foundation (Aarpa funds). Youth/ young adults & middle aged to older adults may join our team as apprentice tutors. Since 2020, EVTA has hosted 12 novice tutors, with 4 youth/young adult tutors working this past year.

As their introduction to working in k-8 education, apprentice and novice tutors work with a mentor to record celebrations and respond to any challenges. They reflect on student progress and behaviors that support learning as well as instructional strategies.

One of our student tutors, shared the story of working with a 4th grader whom she motivated by tapping into his competitive nature. Comparing learning streaks on Duolingo (a language learning game) she inspired him to match the growth. His excitement spurred him on to do extra work, which lead to a significantly higher grade in his class.

A young adult tutor talked about her favorite science lesson with 2nd graders which was a homemade glue experiment. She enjoyed the level of excitement her students showed in creating something useful out of raw ingredients,.The hands-on project naturally piqued the students' curiosity to explore different takes on the recipe.

As part of their end of year reflection, our tutors shared the various grade levels they particularly enjoyed. One 10th grade youth tutor loves working in kindergarten because the students are developing so many new social and academic skills. As she says, "every day in kindergarten feels like a celebration."

In another tutor's own words, "I enjoyed assisting the 5th graders because they are more focused on their assignments than the younger grades. This could be because they're more self-motivated i(...) They also seem to be better at listening, perhaps because they are becoming more respectful to others as their social skills advance."

An older tutor, Miss Sherry, worked with 6th graders this year and enjoyed the sophistication of the age group. Sherry enjoyed having substantive conversations related to the reading assignments. She also feels that the imminent entry to middle school is a prime time for providing guidance for challenges the students face as they enter their teen years.

As part of our out of school time programs, a young adult tutor, worked in the EVL-EVTA Afterschool Program in Dixon, NM. Collaborating with librarian, Minna Santos, she became proficient in assisting students designing projects on the library's 3-D printer during STEM instruction time. On other days, she assisted with homework help so that students could have their work done before heading home for dinner. In a gardening collaboration with the local elementary school. Our tutor supported students planting and maintaining flower and vegetable grow boxes in front of the school. The school based program continues into the summer where students, under the direction of teacher, Christine Kane, host mini farmer's market days when locals can purchase the student grown produce.

Two second year novice tutors (adults transitioning to academic tutoring) reported impressive growth in their students. EVTA provides professional development for tutors to grow their skills and provide individualized and differentiated services. After participating in language arts training, these tutors make use of phonetic programs that help even struggling students advance significantly with their literacy skills.

One tutor reported that as an incentive for working on phonics skills her client would earn minutes of time to write a play each session. Another routine this tutor had integrated was allowing the student to create his own vocabulary cards and to play charades for practice. In his closing survey, this student wrote: "One day we played charades with my own cards, then I worked in the workbook. Then I worked on my play and read it out loud. It felt good." He goes on to proudly point out that his play is 23 pages long! Quite an accomplishment for a 3rd grader!

Please see our website to review annual reports and progress data collected.*EVTA is currently recruiting tutors for the 2026-2027 school year. If you are a youth, young adult, retiree, or a professional educator, please contact us to see if EVTA's programs in Taos and Rio Arriba are a match for you.*

email info@evtanm.org for more information

HOW TO CONTACT EMBUDO VALLEY TUTORING ASSOCIATION

For services:

1. If your child attends Dixon Elementary, Velarde Elementary, or Anansi Charter School, please ask your child's teacher to contact EVTA by e-mailing info@evtanm.org

2. If your child attends Enos Garcia or Penasco community schools, please contact your community school coordinator.

3. If your child is homeschooled or attends another school not mentioned above, please fill out the contact form on EVTA's website. Go to embudovalleytutoring.org. Click on "Contact Us" at the top of the Home page to access the form. OR e-mail EVTA directly at info@evtanm.org

To make a donation:

1. Access EVTA's website at embudovalleytutoring.org and click on the "Donate" button on the Home page.

2. Send a donation through Paypal at paypal.me/tutoringassociation

3. Send a check to Embudo Valley Tutoring Association at P.O. Box 267, Dixon, NM 87527

For further information:

1 Website: embudovalleytutoring.org

2. Check out our page on greatnonprofits.org by searching for Embudo Valley Tutoring Association.

3. Contact Eva Behrens, EVTA's director, eva@evtanm.org

Embudo Valley Tutoring Association's work is supported by:

United Way of Northern New Mexico

LANL Foundation — Investing in Learning & Human Potential

NUSENDA Credit Union

LOR Foundation

TAOS

N3B Los Alamos

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