

Tamiscal High School Informational Letter - Independent Study Program

April 29, 2022

Dear TUHSD community,

I am reaching out about an opportunity for TUHSD students to attend Tamiscal High School starting in the Fall of 2022 in our independent study program.

Tamiscal High School was founded in 1990 and is one of the 5 public schools in the Tamalpais Union High School District. Tamiscal is a small, alternative school capping enrollment at 140 total students when we are at the highest capacity. Please review the [attached flyer](#) for more information about our school and Q/A around the independent study program.

Here are some of the highlights of our Independent Study program:

- College-prep academic classes
- Small classes and personalized learning experiences (all classes under 15 total students)
- Positive school culture and climate
- Caring and flexible teachers and staff
- Less time in class, and more time working independently on your own
- Extra support on campus in our learning center (supervised independent study)
- AVID classes (new next year) and math/science academic workshop for extra support

Tamiscal is a best fit for:

- Students who can work successfully on an independent basis in a less structured environment (5 hours/class/week required)
- Students who prefer a small school setting
- Students who have unique academic, social, extra-curricular, or medical needs
- Students who want a flexible schedule

Students can complete all of their graduation requirements at Tamiscal but we do have a limited number of [elective offerings](#) due to our smaller size. Additionally, we do not offer honors and AP courses. Some students choose to expand and deepen their educational experience by co-enrolling in class at their home school in an area of interest and/or by taking classes at the College of Marin (entirely optional). We also offer optional and required support classes including Supervised Independent Study, academic workshop, advisory/office hours, AVID 9-12, and ELD. Students in our independent study program must take at least 4 classes with us and this is what a [sample schedule](#) might look like.

We pride ourselves on an engaging, positive, and safe school environment. Tamiscal students report teacher-student relationships in the 96th percentile and college and career readiness in the 91st percentile, compared to a national standard (Youth Truth 2021). We are in the 94th percentile nationally for parents/guardians reporting their families believe this school is a safe place for

students (Youth Truth, 2021). Our [School Profile](#) highlights college and career readiness and opportunities for our students and graduates.

Tamiscal's Independent Study program accepts students 4 times per year using a referral process until we fill up and we accept students on a first come first served basis based on fit. **To start this process, set up a meeting with the counselor at your district school** (i.e. Redwood, Tam, Archie Williams, San Andreas). Once the referral is received, we will conduct a 30-minute intake meeting in May-June to determine fit and to go over a schedule together.

Students coming in as 9th graders or from private schools can reach out directly to Tamiscal's counselor, Grace Aviles (gaviles@tamdistrict.org) up until graduation, or principal Kim Stiffler over the summer (kstiffler@tamdistrict.org).

Thank you for learning more about our programs and school!

Sincerely,

Kim Stiffler, EdD
Tamiscal's Principal
kstiffler@tamdistrict.org