

**New Mexico School for the Arts
Principal Report: August 2014
Report by Cindy Montoya**

NMSA provides access to a rigorous mastery arts and academic high school education for youth with passion and aptitude in the arts, leading to post-secondary learning, careers in the arts, and lives that contribute to society.

Advanc-Ed Accreditation

Our mission is to lead and empower the education community to ensure that all learners realize their maximum potential.

Staff training begins on August 6th with a survey given by the end of the week. The NMSA External Review (site visit) is scheduled for days between March 24, and 26. I am trying to set the dates for the 25th and 26th due to the combined board meeting on the 24th.

One section of accreditation focuses on Governing Council Standards, which we will review together in detail at the September meeting.

Succession Planning

All School are required to develop a Succession Policy and associated regulation to ensure a change in leadership is not disruptive to the learning environment. In the next two months, we will review have a draft of a policy for both the Art Institute and the School as well as a regulation for implementing the policy.

School Grade

NMSA was awarded an 'A' by the NMPED. Copies of the report card will be distributed at the meeting on 8/5.

Transportation

Transportation continues to be a barrier for students living outside of Santa Fe who not eligible for the residential program. The cost of bussing or owning a van is very high. One alternative to consider is providing Transportation Scholarships to assist families who want to attend NMSA but cannot afford the commuting costs.

Staff Updates

Geron Spray has been hired to teach English Language Arts for grades 9 and 10 for SY2014-15. Geron was a middle school teacher at SFPS. He has a strong background in differentiation. Dr. Tischhauser will return to NMSA to teach applied voice lessons but will not teach the choirs.

NMTeach

NMSA submitted the SY2014-15 updates on July 23rd, in advance of the August 1 deadline, as requested by NMPED. On July 31, we were informed that the evaluation rubric has been revised and that we would have to resubmit by August 15th. I am meeting with staff today to understand the new rubric. I will share the details with you at the meeting on 8/5.

Facilities

It was originally reported that the water heater needed to be replaced at a cost of \$5000.00. As the repair was about to be made, it was determined that a less costly repair was needed.

The roofing repairs were completed during heavy afternoon rains. Several rooms were flooded with water requiring plastering/painting work in at least three classrooms. We are negotiating with the Archdiocese regarding reimbursement for this work, which cost about \$700.00.

Changes in the parking lot, made by Drury, required NMSA to remove the storage units. The items that were stored were discarded or relocated to areas within the school.

A painting 'touch up; project was completed earlier in the summer. The electrical upgrade was completed and was necessary to support technology infrastructure changes and the use of the laser cutter and 3-D printer.

The wireless upgrade is also complete.

Educational Plan for Student Success (EPSS)

A requirement of submitting the EPSS is that a committee be formed to review the goals and strategies detailed in the plan. While the EPSS is completed and is aligned to the LRP and GC goals, it has not been shared with parents and staff. The Instructional Leadership Team, headed by Eric Crites, will review the EPSS in the next few weeks. It will be shared with parents at the next Parent Association meeting and at the first Coffee and Conversation meeting of SY2014-15.

Incentive Pay Pilot

The deadline for submission has been extended until August 25th as districts needed time to meet with staff before moving forward. NMSA has a plan and is ready to submit. However, because we are not a failing school, do not have a principal evaluated under the state system and have little operational money to add to the Incentive Pay funding, it is unlikely that we will earn enough points to be selected.

By-laws

The NMSA by-laws need to be revised. A recommendation from the GC on how to proceed is requested.

Work Sessions

Given the number of changes occurring with NMPED, Work Sessions will be needed. Please advise regarding how to schedule.