

New Mexico School for the Arts
Head of School Report: March 2015
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

All documents have been uploaded. Two remaining tasks are sharing the ELEOT observation tool with teachers and gathering the artifacts for the External Review Team.

Lease Extension

The Archdiocese has agreed to a second lease extension, but has limited it to 2017. We requested an extension through July 2018.

PARCC

Testing begins the week of March 2nd. Staff and student time has been devoted to preparing for PARCC. The focus on this test has taken our collective attention away from instruction. A significant amount of planning time has also been required. We are struggling to find time during the academic day to teach the content needed to success to meet proficiency levels on PARCC.

Visual Arts Curriculum Review

The final department review has been completed. The Visual Arts and Music Chairs will present to the Governing Council in April or May.

Technology Funds from SFPS

Santa Fe Public Schools allocated approximately \$29,000.00 to NMSA to provision classroom academic teachers.

Academic Seminar

A review of the data in math supports the continuation of Academic Seminar for next year. We are in the process of redesigning Quarter 4. We will Plus/Delta this before designing next year's schedule.

Master Schedule for 2015-16

Sections of classes will be removed from the Master Schedule in an effort to reduce costs. We will begin working on this after PARCC.

Student Assistant Team Processes

Processes and procedures for supporting students in special education or on 504s have been enhanced. We are working on the Tier 2 processes next. We will revise the ELL program before the beginning of 2015-16. All of this is possible because of the distributed leadership model.

Teacher Evaluations

Mary McLeod and I will be working together to complete the second round of observations no later than March 17th.

Declining Enrollment

As of 2/23/2015, NMSA enrollment is at 192 students. We will not receive any growth units for this year.

Delle Grant Update

We are planning now for the summer teacher training session, working on a presentation to the Dell Foundation, and revising the program for next year. We are seeking an outside evaluator to review our work.

Preparing for SY2015-15

- ✓ Revise the Student and Family Handbook for GC approval
- ✓ Revise the Residential Handbook for GC approval
- ✓ Prepare the budget for GC approval
- ✓ Prepare the calendar for GC approval
- ✓ Complete the Title 1 and IDEA Applications
- ✓ Complete the request for funds for the Incentive Pay

Surveys

NMSA's Parent and Student Surveys were completed during NSP meetings. Results will be shared with the GC at the May meeting.

Advanc-Ed Surveys were just received. Those results will be shared at the April meeting.

Student Engagement

Including the student *voice* is very important to the success of NMSA. Surveys are excellent tools for understanding what is going well and what needs more attention. Through the NMSA surveys and conversations with students, we know that two-way communication is essential. Therefore, the Student Advisory Board has been re-established to meet this need. Like Site Council, this group of students will provide feedback and suggestions regarding programs and policies. It is different that the Student Council in that it's focus is programs of study rather than school-based social and service activities. The first meeting will be held on Thursday, 2/26.

A Weekly Update has been created to keep students informed about events that are happening each week. This is similar to the staff Weekly Bulletin.

Creative Writing

We continue to investigate the possibility of establishing and sustaining a Creative Writing department. The Art Institute is organizing an event in March.

College Admissions

NMSA students are just beginning to learn about college acceptance and scholarship/financial aid decisions. We expect to have more information for the April meeting.