

New Mexico School for the Arts
Head of School Report: November 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." I will be attending a site visit on October 15 and 16 and training on October 23. The NMSA Accreditation Team of Katy Phebus (Lead), Eric Crites, Acacia McCombs, and Christina Yamashiro attended training on October 23 and 24. We will begin meeting bi-weekly to begin implementation, which includes the creation of an implementation plan.

PEC Meeting

NMSA has removed the amendment request from the October meeting. Discussion is needed regarding NMSA's next step.

Facilities

The roof leaks continue. The science room now has problems. Christina continues to work with the Archdiocese to resolve the problems.

Strategic Planning

An overview of the LRP, which includes EPSS, will be shared with all staff at the November 11th in-service, with the Site Council on 10/28 and the Parent Association on 11/1. A more fully developed LRP will be shared with the GC at the December work session.

I am working with staff to revise the EPSS plan. I have met with the math department. The others will follow

Incentive Pay Pilot

NMPED has not replied.

Staff Training

The Instructional Leadership Team is developing the November 11th in-service agenda this week. It will be shared with the GC at the 11/4 meeting.

AP Push

NMPED is increasing incentives for schools to increase AP course offerings. NMSA's policies do not support AP classes. A discussion is needed to ensure that the GC understands the intention of the policy.

NM students are being assessed more than ever before. While there is some national, state and local movements to limit or eliminate over-assessing, as a public school, we have to follow the Rules. It should be noted that in public education a Rule is a kind of statute or law.

Assessments at NMSA

What is MAP?

MAP, Measures of Academic Progress, is a computerized adaptive interim assessment that provides us

with data about each student's performance within 24 hours. Along with other quantitative and qualitative data, we are able to focus our instruction to best help students catch up or get ahead. Academic Seminar is restructured based on this information. On November 11, during in-service, all instructors will learn how to interpret the MAP reports.

Why are we doing it?

NMPED (NM Public Education Department) Assessment Rules require that students in grades 9 and 10 be tested three times a year. *PEC (Public Education Commission) reporting requires that we report on the achievement of all students, therefore, 11th grade will also be tested. NMSA is using the MAP.

* As a state authorized charter, NMSA must report to two state entities. **PSAT:** The **PSAT** is a nationwide, multiple-choice test taken by about 3.4 million high school students every year—mostly sophomores and juniors. A great primer for the SAT® and even the ACT®, the **PSAT** includes math, critical reading and writing questions. The percentage of 10th grade students who take the test is used by NMPED as a measure of NMSA's college readiness. Therefore, all 10th graders take this test. 11th graders hoping to qualify as National Merit Finalists also take the test. 11th graders unable to pay for this are given financial support. This test was given on 10/15/14 at NMSA.

ACT: The **ACT** is a college admission achievement test, measuring what a student has learned in school. The SAT is more of an aptitude test, testing reasoning and verbal abilities. The **ACT** has up to 5 components: English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and an optional Writing Test./**SAT.** Students register for this test on their own or with the help of Acacia or Mikiko. The test is administered on different Saturdays throughout the year and at locations other than NMSA.

SAT: The **SAT** is another globally recognized college admission test that lets students show colleges what they know and how well they can apply that knowledge. It tests their knowledge of reading, writing and math — subjects that are taught every day in high school classrooms. Students register for this test on their own or with the help of Acacia or Mikiko. Students unable to pay for this are given financial support. The test is administered on different Saturdays throughout the year and at locations other than NMSA.

SBA: Standards Based Assessment is a NMPED developed assessment that all schools must use to show students' level of proficiency in reading, math and science. Scoring of proficient or advanced is a graduation requirement. Students who are not proficient or advanced, must meet an Alternative Demonstration of Competency (ADC). The ADC will only be allowed AFTER the student has failed to be proficient on the 10, 11th, and 12th grade ADCs. The 10th and 11th grade math and reading SBAs are/were administered in the Spring. The science SBA is administered in 11th grade. The 12th grade SBA is administered in September of the senior year. **This year the reading and math SBA has been replaced by PARRC. Only the Science SBA will be used as a graduation measure. Confusing? Yes. We will continue to review it until everyone understands it. It's our job. Thank you for all that you do for our students and for your support of the assessments.**

EOC: End of Course Exams

MAP:

PARCC:

What's Happening at NMSA!

Thursday, October 30, Friday October 31, and

Saturday, November 1, 7:00pm—9:00pm

NMSA Theater Department: The Children's Hour

The Children's Hour is one of the great successes of distinguished writer Lillian Hellman, and is a serious adult play about two women who run a school for girls. After a malicious youngster starts a rumor about the two women, the rumor soon turns to scandal. As the young girl comes to understand the power she yields, she sticks by her story, which precipitates tragedy for the women. It is later discovered that the gossip was pure invention, but it is too late. Irreparable damage has been done. Warehouse 21—1614 Paseo De Peralta, Santa Fe \$10 Adults | \$5 Students/Seniors nmschoolforthearts.org/tickets

Tuesday, November 4, 6:00pm NMSA Presents: A Tribute to Mara Robinson

Mara Robinson, a longtime donor to NMSA, will be honored through a selection of instrumental and vocal music. Join us at the beautiful Lensic Performing Arts Center! Lensic Performing Arts Center 211 W San Francisco St, Santa Fe \$15 Adults | \$10 Students/Seniors
www.ticketssantafe.org

Tony Hillerman Writers' Conference in Santa Fe on Friday, Nov. 7.

Five of our seniors have received scholarships to attend a full-day conference at the Tony Hillerman Writers' Conference in Santa Fe on Friday, Nov. 7.

Friday, November 7, 5:30pm

Birch: a Benefit for NMSA

Birch will feature anonymous new art created on 10x10 birch frames by NMSA Visual Arts students, as well as renowned New Mexico artists. Santa Fe University of Art and Design
1600 St. Michaels Dr. - Fine Arts Gallery

All State Auditions

All state auditions are just around the corner. Information will be sent to staff as soon as auditions have been scheduled by NMMEA. Good luck everyone!

- Wind, Brass & Percussion (November 18, 19)
- Vocal, Strings and Guitar took place in October

Faculty vs. Student B-Ball Game and Fall Dance – Friday November 21st

The Friday before we go away to Thanksgiving break we'll have an abbreviated school day schedule, which is TBA. During the school day we'll hold the Faculty vs. Student B-Ball game, have some All Arts Activity (also TBA) and in the evening a Fall Dance sponsored by the Class of 2017.

November 3 Guest Artist VA – Meridel Rubentein
November 5 Guest Artist Dance – Body Traffic
November 7 Guest Artist Dance – Counter Technique with Lillian Barbieto
November 7: Birch: A fundraiser for NMSA at SFUAD
November 11 Staff In-service, no school for students
November 21 Fall Dance

December: National Portfolio Day, NMSA Portfolio Reviews

Graduation is tentatively scheduled for Monday June 1st at 6pm at the Santa Fe Convention Center. As soon as this date is confirmed we will let you know.

Finish every day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities, no doubt crept in. Forget them as soon as you can, tomorrow is a new day; begin it well and serenely, with too high a spirit to be cumbered with your old nonsense. This new day is too dear, with its hopes and invitations, to waste a moment on the yesterdays. *ralph waldo emerson*