

**New Mexico School for the Arts
Principal Report: September 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 began on August 20th with a survey given by the 9/2. The next staff training will take place on 9/3/14. We will cover Standard 1.

The NMSA External Review (site visit) is scheduled for days between March 24, and 25th. Note: A combined board meeting is scheduled for the 24th.

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

STANDARD 1 :

Purpose and Direction

The school maintains and communicates a purpose and direction that commit to high expectations for learning as well as shared values and beliefs about teaching and learning.

Indicator 1.1

The school engages in a systematic, inclusive, and comprehensive process to review, revise, and communicate a school purpose for student success.

Indicator 1.2

The school leadership and staff commit to a culture that is based on shared values and beliefs about teaching and learning and supports challenging, equitable educational programs and learning experiences for all students that include achievement of learning, thinking, and life skills.

Indicator 1.3

The school's leadership implements a continuous improvement process that provides clear direction for improving conditions that support student learning.

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 the Art Institute and the School as well as a regulation for implementing the policy.

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. After meeting with NMPED, we were encouraged to request an amendment to the charter so that we can identify possible public funding options. See Attached.

Facilities

The Maclab air conditioning unit was replaced. Since it was under warranty, our costs included equipment and labor.

Educational Plan for Student Success (EPSS)

The budget piece has been added. A committee will be formed to work on the updates. The target date is October 1.

Incentive Pay Pilot

See attached for the details of the IPP submitted by NMSA.

By-laws

A review of the by-laws are in process.

Work Sessions

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

YoungArts

Representatives from this national program will be at NMSA presenting to our students on how to apply. Students chosen for this honor are eligible to become Presidential Scholars in the Arts. Students that are selected receive small scholarships and are invited to attend Master Classes with Master Artists from around the country.

YoungArts Mission: YoungArts identifies and supports the next generation of artists, and contributes to the cultural vitality of the nation by investing in the artistic development of talented young artists in the visual, literary, design and performing arts. <http://www.youngarts.org>

NABT Award Winner

Acacia McCombs has been named the 2014 recipient of the Outstanding Biology Teach Award for New Mexico.

Visual Arts Update

September 5-6, Ghost Ranch Overnight Field Trip

VA is making their third trip with our students. It's a wonderful adventure that includes hiking, games, group activities, and of course, art. <<http://ghostranch.org/>> . We are seeking at least one more volunteer. Please see Cristina Gonzalez if you are interested in attending.

September 14, AHA Festival, Santa Fe Railyard

The Visual Arts Department's first public presentation of student work will feature work by the Advanced 3D Materials & Methods class (Jr/Sr). They are learning the ancient bronze casting technique of the *luted crucible*, and plan to combine this ancient technology with

contemporary technology of **3D printing**. Special thanks to faculty Jacob Sisneros for organizing! <<http://ahafestival.com/>>

September to December, Stuff the Truck, Santa Fe

This annual fundraiser aims to gather **5 tons of food for the Food Depot**. 9th graders will be designing & painting artful cardboard "trucks," which will be placed around the city for food collection.

Rolling Auditions

NMSA is seeking students interested in dance, and string, brass, or woodwind musicians for the current school year. If you know of students who are interested in applying and auditioning in one of these areas only.

Assemblies

In an effort to reduce the impact on academic class time, we've switched the time of day that assemblies will be held. We will hold them at the start of the day 9:20-9:55am and then continue the school day on a 10am start delay schedule. We tried to make this work during Academic Seminar period but could not.

The only day that is confirmed for this schedule as of today of next Thursday, 8/28, for the YoungArts Presentation. The next two assemblies are tentatively scheduled for will take place on September 18th and October 2nd. We are awaiting confirmation from presenters.

Student Council speeches will be held at lunch.

Academic Seminar

- Academic Seminar is differentiated to ensure both that students needing math/reading/writing help get the support they need and advanced students get the enrichment they need--everyone moving forward!
- It is much better to use words like intervention or support than remediation when we describing to students and parents the shift that will begin the second nine weeks. For kids who feel unsuccessful and possibly defensive or insecure about their math or reading, I think the words matter.
- PARCC testing strategies and practice will be introduced and practiced during this time. It has been estimated that student scores will drop by between 30 and 40% without this test practice.

Music

We would like to welcome our new faculty! We are thrilled to have their expertise and energy and know that they will be a great addition to our talented staff:

- Mr. Schmidt – Choir, Voice, Group Piano Class
- Mr. Holloway – Acting for vocal majors, Theory, Ear Training
- Mrs. Heltman – Applied Oboe
- Mr. Salazar – Accompanist
- Mr. Champion – Applied Guitar, Guitar Ensemble
- Ms. Lay – Applied Violin

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!

- Vocal (October 21, 22, 23)
- String (October 23, 24)
- Guitar (October 23, 24)

- Wind, Brass & Percussion (November 18, 19)

September events

We are starting the year off with a month of music for the choir department! Several members of the choir will be singing at a function on September 13th for the Spanish Colonial Arts Society followed by the entire choir performing at the Santa Fe Botanical Gardens on September 17th at a function for the "Circle of the Arts". The choir will then have a public performance at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel on September 25th to officially open the season.

Congratulations!

Two of our students, Maggie King and Soledad Sanchez y Lucero, were selected by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) to participate in the *All National Honor Ensembles*. Five New Mexico students were selected to participate in this national "All State" type ensemble. Congratulations and we know you will represent NMSA and the state of New Mexico well!

STAFF TRAINING

Active Shooter and *Anaphylaxis & Anaphylactic Shock* online training modules need to be completed by August 22nd using an online training resource. *Asthma* and *Bullying* need to be completed by August 29th.