

**New Mexico School for the Arts
Head of School Report: September 2016
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.

Facilities Issues

The fence repair project is in process (\$800). A dead tree has been removed (\$470). The parking lot potholes need to be repaired as does the curb and possibly the wall. We are reaching out to the city to see if the graffiti group can remove a recent tag.

Ed Technology Note Funds

After a telephone conference call with SFPS, Cindy and Greg, it was decided that we could sign the MOA. NMSA has already received an allocation of \$118,000.00. I am working with Eric and Ruben to develop a plan regarding current and future technology needs. **See attached.**

Staff Changes

- Stephanie Kirchhoffer – School Secretary/Front Office, has been moved up on the salary schedule
- Jennifer Shouse – Health/PE Teacher, resigned her position effective 8/30/2016.

Graduation

Site Council has recommended that we choose Tuesday, May 30th as graduation as they believe the holiday needs to be respected. It is also a leave day for staff.

Audit

NMSA's 2016 audit was complete. Cindy and Jolene have responded to follow-up questions.

Blue Ribbon School

Eric Crites, Principal, will also be included on the trip to Washington, D.C. as outlined in the BRS conference directions.

Edutopia

We continue to await word on the posting of the NMSA video.

GC Training Opportunity for August

Cindy, Greg Hunt and Vickie Sewing attend the session on Fiscal Oversight and Making Hard Decisions.

GC Training Opportunity September 22nd: Governing Body Responsibilities and OMA 101

Date: Thursday, September 22.

Training time: 12:00 – 5:00 PM

Cooperative Educational Services, Albuquerque

4216 Balloon Park Rd NE Albuquerque, NM 87109

Supply Card

NMSA received another round of supply cards. All teachers will receive the \$100 gift card.

In-Service

Melina Uncapher will be returning on October 3 and 4 to work with teachers regarding learning with the brain in mind. On this trip, she will also present to the student body in an assembly as well as observing classrooms. A LANL grant has been submitted to help offset the \$7300.00 cost.

Capital Outlay Match

NMSA-AI granted NMSA Charter School \$210,000.00 as required by the Capital Outlay special legislation.

Training Hours Submission Deadline

NMSA has uploaded the required documentation of GC training hours including Coalition reports into the PEC Portal. The documents were also emailed, mailed and hand delivered to the CSD on or near April 5, 2016. NMSA has taken extra care to ensure that the documents have been received by NMPED, CSD, as the 2015 District Report incorrectly reported NMSA's GC hours. **See attached documentation.**

T&E Audit

On September 21 and 22, 2016, will be visited by NMPED auditors for a review of the 2015 T&E submission. At this time, we have identified one possible error. **See attached.** Additionally, NMSA will amend the T&E section of the Employee Handbook to more clearly define the criteria for T&E. It should be noted that T&E submissions were audited as a part of the recent PEC review.

CSD Visit GC Meetings

We have been notified that the PEC is requesting that CSD administrators attend at least one GC meeting to evaluate the governing part of the performance framework. **See attached.** It is recommended that a work session is held to review all GC processes and procedures.

On-Time Homework Policy

NMSA has amended its homework policy based on the success of the program and the input of Dr. Uncapher.

Drug Awareness Presentations by Brian Serna During Back-to-School Night

Drugs in the Millennial Era: Shifting Norms and Emerging Dangers

Times have changed; attitudes are evolving. What was once a drug is now a medicine, and some medicines are being used as drugs. What happened?! More importantly, how do we talk to our kids about these substances in a way that is intelligent, informed and most likely to help?

This session was led by Brian Serna, a local expert who has trained addiction and substance abuse prevention professionals internationally for over a decade. He provided parents and caregivers with:

- An overview about common drugs of abuse including marijuana, meth, heroin, pain killers, and psychedelics.
- Skills to spot signs and symptoms of drug use.
- Strategies to help a loved one who might have an addiction issue.
- Strategies to strengthen protective and resiliency factors that can prevent drug abuse.
- Opportunities to ask questions.

Brian has or will present to all students.

About the presenter: Brian Serna, LPCC, LADAC, has been helping people with addictions for over 15 years. He has trained counselors, social workers and psychologists around the world to help people recover from mental health and addiction issues. He is in private practice in Santa Fe, NM and teaches at the University of New Mexico and Southwestern College.

Dance Update

The Dance department is off to a great start for 2016 and everyone is diving into the classwork and choreographic material. It is inspiring to see the students working hard on technique as well as boldly trying new movement as we get into choreographing. In addition to honing their ballet and contemporary skills, the students have been pairing up for both classical pas de deux and contemporary partnering to learn to work together, and separating into smaller groups for men's class and pointe.

Soon we will begin to prepare for our Winter Dances concert and I am happy to welcome our first guest artist Quinn Wharton who will choreograph original new work for the students and this show. A former dancer in the San Francisco Ballet as well as Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Mr. Wharton is slated to arrive at the end of September to begin working on his piece. He has also promised to teach Hip Hop as much as we can fit it into the schedule. I danced with Mr. Wharton in both companies and I know his versatility, passion, and engaging personality will create a fun and challenging experience for the dancers.

Music Update

The fall term has started smoothly with a great deal of excitement about the upcoming year. During the second week of school, 30 of our students had the opportunity to attend a production of *Vanessa* at the Santa Fe Opera, thanks to a very generous donation by the opera. This production set the scene for a year of great performances.

This year we will officially open our season on **October 19th** with an orchestra performance at **Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel**. The concert will begin at **7:00 pm**.

All State Auditions

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

- Vocal (October 18, 19, 20)
- String (October 20, 21)
- Guitar (October 20, 21)
- Wind, Brass & Percussion (November 2, 3)

If you have not received audition material, please ask your applied music instructor.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Lila Baca who was selected from applicants from throughout the United States to participate in the National High School Honor Orchestra sponsored by the National Association for Music Education. This will be Lila's second time participating in this prestigious event.

Theater Update

Above is a photo of students during our first week of school. For the first week, we worked together as a company for the entire week, ending in a day of blindfolded/trust exercises and observational writing. During the second week, the department held company auditions for the first four shows of

the year. Rehearsals for first three shows of the season begin next week.

Title TBD: Cinematic Mime, directed by Mr. Gamble. October 20-22, NMSA Large Rehearsal Hall
The style of Cinematic Mime requires a small cast to tell a story using only their bodies and voices and all in a restricted space. The process of creating these pieces will take an enormous amount of patience, creativity and collaboration.

Distracted, by Lisa Loomer, directed by Mr. Chavez. October 27-29, NMSA Large Rehearsal Hall
What's wrong with nine-year-old Jesse? He can't sit still, he curses, he raps, and you can't get him into -- or out of -- pajamas. Is Jesse dysfunctional, or just different? A hilarious, provocative, and poignant look at a modern family and an epidemic dilemma: Are we so tuned into our 24/7 info-rich world that we've tuned out what really matters?

Truth to Power: An Original Night of Comedy by the students of NMSA theatre, directed by Ms. Chavez and Ms. Hatch. November 10-12, NMSA Large Rehearsal Hall
For this show, NMSA students will write original sketches and songs in small groups of "comedy teams." Together, we will take a closer look at today's world, current events and the realities of being a teenager in the era of social media (and Pokémon Go), and turn it into comedy gold!

Visual Arts Update

Jenna Kuiper joined our Visual Arts faculty; she brings professional and teaching experience in the visual arts that span digital technology, photography, painting, design, and drawing. And a lucky aside -- she also teaches yoga! <http://www.jennakuiper.com>

In 2016-17, NMSA's Visual Arts seniors are working with transmedia, material poet, sculptor, and philosopher/artist Dario Robleto via SITE Santa Fe. Dario's work captures ineffable and universal qualities related to historical moments and potential future events through the materials and sensations of manipulated artifacts. Together, Dario and our seniors will develop both the concept and the material of a Time Capsule Project to be installed in the foundation of SITE Santa Fe's new education building. SITE Santa Fe recently broke ground for this space and we are very grateful and honored to be involved with the inauguration of this new center for contemporary arts education in Santa Fe. <http://www.dariorobleto.com>

Supply Donations

Visual Arts is seeking donations of new or used (in working condition) tools/equipment including:

- irons
- ironing boards
- drills
- hand tools
- saws
- electric saws
- files
- ear protection
- eye protection
- blow dryers
- heat guns
- wood burners
- tool boxes
- aprons