

**New Mexico School for the Arts**  
**Head of School Report: February 2018**  
**Report by Eric Crites**

*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.*

**Kudos**

- Congratulations to Zoe Colfax (grade 9, theater), who applied for and was selected to represent New Mexico School for the Arts as a member of the New Mexico Public Education Department's Student Leader Network.
- Congratulations to the music department on their outstanding performances at All-State, including the Honor Choir and Honor Orchestra.
- Congratulations to the theater department on their successful production of *Lysistrata*.
- Congratulations to the visual arts department on their recent New Media Festival.
- Congratulations to creative writing students, who were recognized with seven honorable mentions, six silver key recognitions, and five gold key winners in the regional level of the Scholastic Gold Key Awards.

**Charter Renewal**

Dr. Michael Kaplan, Cindy Montoya, and Eric Crites met with charter renewal consultant Karen Ehlert on January 19. Dr. Kaplan will be assisting our gifted coordinator and our special education coordinator with reviewing IEP files ahead of our annual site visit in April. Dr. Kaplan, Chelamia Quintana, and Eric Crites attended a charter renewal workshop hosted by the NM Coalition of Charter Schools on February 7.

**Dropout Rate**

Our 2016-2017 dropout rate was released by NMPED. The dropout rate counts any student who drops out in a given year, regardless of cohort (different from graduation rate). It remains consistently low:

SY1112: 0.5%  
SY1213: 1.0%  
SY1314: 0.5%  
SY1415: 0.0%  
SY1516: 0.0%  
SY1617: 0.5%

**Assessment Update**

NMSA will conduct the "Day in the PARCC" system test on February 15. Students in grade 11 will take the SBA Science assessment on March 6. Students in grades 9-11 will take the PARCC math and English language arts assessments on five days during a two-week window, starting April 17. Starting last week, students in Academic Seminar began test preparation curriculum for SBA and PARCC.

**Peer Tutoring Programs**

With the recent addition of a Writing Lab in the English department, there are now robust peer tutoring programs in place in Spanish, science, and English language arts.

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**Teacher Evaluations**

Round 2 NMTeach observations will be completed during the month of February.

**Facility Updates**

The parking lot fence has been repaired. Two cracked classroom windows are being repaired. Gayle McGuinness and Cecile Hemez are continuing to work with Henry Baca to address items noted in the NMPSIA liability audit.

**Financial Record Custodian Designation**

We received notification from NMPED that our updated Financial Record Custodian designation form was received January 17, 2018, and will be included on the February PEC meeting agenda.

**Attendance Update**

Kudos to our Attendance Team (Chelamia Quintana, Brandy Avila, Stephanie Kirchhoffer, Cecile Hemez, and Mikiko Ellis) for their effective work, which resulted in an impressive drop in unexcused absences during November and December (typically higher months for unexcused absences). In addition to recordkeeping and enforcement, the team has put considerable energy and time into developing relationships, educating students and families about policy, and problem-solving to support student success.

**Unexcused Absences**

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
<b>August</b>	130	95	93	118	96	116	190
<b>September</b>	361	219	117	110	152	90	177
<b>October</b>	412	205	179	335	231	128	215
<b>November</b>	362	246	210	232	238	303	67
<b>December</b>	189	177	141	248	62	91	38
<b>January</b>	282	193	185	277	132	186	170
<b>February</b>	382	212	239	248	136	130	
<b>March</b>	452	213	355	300	200	144	
<b>April</b>	457	245	392	470	441	182	
<b>May</b>	429	271	324	108	74	82	

