

**New Mexico School for the Arts**  
**Head of School Report: December 2017**  
**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.*

**Davis New Mexico Scholarship**

Tyra Barela, theater senior, has been offered the Davis New Mexico Scholarship, which covers the full cost of attendance at one of six Davis affiliate universities. Talulah Nepstad, theater senior, has been waitlisted for the scholarship. Applicants received support in completing the process through their senior seminar classes.

**Arts Exchange Day**

On November 17, all students participated in Arts Exchange Day. Student spent half the day at SITE Santa Fe, viewing the Future Shock exhibit and participating in art activities. They spent the rest of the day watching an inspiring film about artists at the Sanbusco site.

**Teacher Evaluations**

The first round of formal observations are wrapping up. NMSA will meet NMPED's December 21 deadline for submission.

**Business Office Update**

Greg Hunt, Eric Crites, and Cindy Montoya met with the school's NMPED budget analyst in November and December in order to determine which required reports still need to be submitted. Eric Crites, Gayle McGuiness, and Maria Fidalgo will receive additional training in Visions on December 15.

**Facility Updates**

Henry Baca and Gayle McGuiness completed a thorough maintenance review and update (replacing light bulbs, minor repairs, etc.) in preparation for NMPSIA's annual inspection on December 6. A clog associated with the water fountain was repaired by plumbers. The roof leaks continue whenever there is significant precipitation.

**Safety Update**

The school completed its annual, state-mandated lockdown drill in November.

**School Report Card Published**

As required by the state, NMSA's school report card was published in the winter edition of *Tumbleweeds* newspaper, which came out in November.

**Special Education Annual Determination**

NMSA received notice from NMPED that the school "Meets Requirements" in its annual determination in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. No necessary corrections in compliance for NMSA's Special Education program were found.

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**Charter Renewal**

Eric Crites and Cindy Montoya met with consultant Karen Ehlert in November and planned the calendar for the Charter Renewal. Karen's proposed project fee is \$7,500, divided equally between FY2018 and FY2019.

**Professional Development**

During November, all staff and faculty received the *Transgender Students 101* training from the Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico.

At the November inservice, all staff and faculty received the second of four quarterly mindfulness trainings from the Sky Center. Staff and academic faculty completed their fall weekly mindfulness sits for semester 1. During semester 2, staff and academic faculty will continue the weekly sits; an additional set of weekly sits is being scheduled so that arts faculty can also attend.