

New Mexico School for the Arts
Head of School Report: February 2019
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

- Congrats to Mina Radfarr and Hana O'Brien Ishikawa, who received full scholarships to summer study abroad programs for next year. Mina will study in Italy and Hana in Tokyo.
- Congrats to the Speech and Debate Team on their success at the Cottonwood Classical Tournament.
- From Denise Hinson:

I am happy and so proud to announce the NMSA recipients of Scholastic Writing Awards for 2019! Congratulations, writers-- you deserve it!

- Camille Cooper, Honorable Mention "Of Home, Blood, and Water" (memoir)
- Camille Cooper, Honorable Mention "Autumnal" (poetry)
- Maya Forte, Silver Key, "Seven" (short story)
- Chloe Goodman, Honorable Mention "The Difficult Job of the Dog Walker" (short story)
- Nalu Gruschkus, Honorable Mention "Unfiltered" (script)
- Nalu Gruschkus, Silver Key "Rose Mare Story Ch. 1-5" (poetry)
- Maddie Ingram, Silver Key, "Hivemind Nuns" (poetry)
- Kara McGee-Russell, Honorable Mention, Writing Portfolio
- Fin Miller, Honorable Mention, "Student" (poetry)
- Bella Moses, Honorable Mention "Manuel to Forgetting" (poetry)
- Bella Moses, Honorable Mention "Sprung" (poetry)
- Emmy Myers, Silver Key, "Bus Stops" (poetry)
- **And last, but certainly not least, John Helfrich was one of only 13 New Mexico students to be awarded a Gold Key Award for his memoir "Grandma."**

Charter Renewal

We await word from Charter Schools Division and the Public Education Commission to schedule the negotiations for our new charter contract.

Creative Writing Launch

Creative Writing will receive a soft-launch as a full arts department in the fall of 2019.

SB 1/HB 5

Among many other provisions (including raises for teachers), these bills would phase out the Small School Size Adjustment over three years. This year, this adjustment was \$659,782.

- 2018-2019: \$659,782, 100% (~30% of our SEG funding)
- 2019-2020: \$435,456, 66% (\$224,325 loss; 10% cut from current SEG total)
- 2020-2021: \$217,782, 33% (additional \$217,728 loss; 20% cut from current SEG total)
- 2021-2022: \$0, 0%; (~30% cut from current SEG total)

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We are preparing for this possibility by scrubbing the budget for costs that can be shifted to capital/non-SEG funds once we are in a lease-purchase; costs that can be consolidated; and grant funding. However, we could not absorb this loss without a noticeable impact, and cuts to programming.

ETN Election

New Mexico School for the Arts is included in the March 5 mail-in election for Santa Fe Public Schools' Educational Technology Note. NMSA receives about \$150,000 per year in ETN funding to cover costs for technology hardware, software, infrastructure, and subscriptions. Information about the election has been shared with families and staff. An informational banner provided by SFPS has been posted in the front yard of the school.

School Lunch Program

The school lunch program's operating cost for December was \$620.91. Overall, the running operating cost for the program year-to-date is \$1,737.38.

Evaluation

Round 2 of teacher observations have begun.

Assessment & Accountability

- NMPED will issue school grades for the 2018-2019 school year using the format in the state's approved ESSA plan. The state is submitting revisions to the ESSA plan by the March 1 deadline.
- The most recent guidance from NMPED is that assessments in English language arts and math will be given in shortened forms using PARCC questions during the originally scheduled April testing window.
- SBA Science will be taken by juniors in March, and End of Course Exams will be taken in May, as planned.

Safety

Staff and faculty attended an active shooter training with POMS & Associates. The Safety Committee is taking the recommendations of the presentation and considering any revisions to current procedures and drills that may be appropriate.

Wellness

Presentations on drug education will occur in March/April for all students, as well as for staff and parents.

Excellent Schools New Mexico

Eric Crites, Cindy Montoya, Chelamia Quintana, Denise Hinson, and Cynthia Nava participated in the first of three two-day sessions working on a school innovation initiative with Transcend Collaborative, sponsored by Excellent Schools New Mexico. They will participate in additional two-day sessions during April (Denver) and May (Albuquerque). The focus is on meeting the school's mission through outreach/admissions.

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Facility Updates

Pipe leaks in the basement were repaired in January and February.

Furniture

The school's team has finished a series of meetings with Business Environments, our furniture vendor for the permanent campus. We now await their proposal and price quote.

Professional Development

Chelamia Quintana and Eric Crites participated in Advance New Mexico's one-day workshop on school discipline law.