

New Mexico School for the Arts
Head of School Report: March 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

- Coverage of Theatre's Stress & Coffee project/performance: [Link](#)
- NMSA vocal and creative writing students performed at the Rotunda.
- NMSA students engaged in the democratic process by attending a rally to support gun control legislation; the governor spoke at the event.
- Veronica Toledo, an 11th grade visual arts student from Farmington, participated in the national Model United Nations conference at the United Nations in New York.

Charter Renewal

We received notice from Charter Schools Division that the Public Education Commission has postponed charter contract negotiations to late April due to the potential changes coming out of the current legislative session.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The ribbon cutting ceremony for the new campus will be held in mid-September 2019.

SB 1/HB 5

The most recent amendment regarding the small school size adjustment would phase out this funding over five years instead of three. This would mean a \$131,956 cut each year for five years for NMSA (total cut: \$659,782). Teacher raises remain in the bills.

ETN Election

We are grateful that the Santa Fe community voted to pass the Santa Fe Public Schools Education Technology Note. This note provides approximately \$150,000 per year to NMSA and is used to fund technology software, hardware, and subscriptions to support student success.

School Lunch Program

The school lunch program's operating cost for February was \$692.23. Overall, the running operating cost for the program year-to-date is \$2,428.83.

Evaluation

Round 2 of teacher observations is in progress.

Assessment & Accountability

- This week, academic instructors spent a day analyzing quarter 3 interim assessment results and using that data to inform instruction during quarter 4.
- Eric attended a meeting hosted by NMPED to introduce Deputy Secretary Kara Bobroff and the Charter Schools Division staff. The meeting emphasized the department's shift to partnership, support, and shared accountability.

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- Cecile Hemez attended NMPED's stakeholder input session as part of the state's "Re-envisioning New Mexico's Statewide Assessment System" project.
- SBA Science was taken by juniors, and End of Course Exams will be taken in May, as planned.
- The PARCC replacement assessment in math and English language arts will be taken in April.

Wellness

Presentations on drug education will occur in March/April for all students, as well as for staff and parents. Additionally, a Saturday training of "Courageous and College Bound" will be offered for seniors who wish to participate.

Excellent Schools New Mexico

Eric Crites, Cindy Montoya, Chelamia Quintana, Denise Hinson, and Cynthia Nava 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 and in providing culturally responsive instruction and curriculum

Furniture

The school's team has received a quote for the new campus furniture order from Business Environments.

Time Capsule - School Culture

Mr. Sisneros's 10th grade visual arts class delivered three proposals for the time capsule design to the Student Advisory Board. A design was chosen that could also incorporate ideas from the other two proposals. Next step: each arts department will provide items for the capsule, to be buried at the new campus and opened in 25 years.

Professional Development

Eric will attend the NMASBO Spring Budget Workshop at the end of March and a training provided by New Mexico Coalition of Charter Schools on Employment law in April.