

**New Mexico School for the Arts**  
**Head of School Report: November 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**

- Bella Moses has been selected as a finalist for the Questbridge scholarship. Questbridge partners with a variety of selective universities--once Bella gains acceptance to one of these universities, Questbridge provides a full-ride scholarship.
- The theatre department just completed its fall season with a slate of four outstanding productions: *Cinematic Mime*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *The Women of Lockerbie*, and *Amuse-Bouche*.
- The Visual Arts Department presented its 10th/11th grade juried exhibition at the Zalma Lofton/Legend Nano Galleries.
- The music department held its highly successful fall concert at the Immaculate Heart of Mary chapel.
- During the month of November, the Creative Writing Department has pledged to write 250,000 words.

**Charter Renewal**

A team from Charter Schools Division conducted the charter renewal site visit on October 18. They simultaneously conducted the annual monitoring site visit. The team interviewed students, parents, faculty/staff, and members of our Governing Council (thank you, Greg Hunt and Michael Kaplan). The CSD team gave a positive overall report during the exit meeting. They said they had gathered enough evidence that they canceled their scheduled April 2019 site visit. The PEC meeting, during which renewals will be voted on, occurs December 11-14.

**Charter Schools Expansion Grant**

NMSA applied for but was not selected to receive the federal Charter Schools Expansion Grant.

**Lease Reimbursement**

We received the lease reimbursement award letter for 2018-2019. The amount, \$153,617, was *not* reduced.

**School Lunch Program**

The number of lunches ordered continues to increase, as new students were certified as eligible for free/reduced lunch. The school's operational cost for October was \$502.34. Overall, the running operational cost for the program year-to-date is \$285.59.

**Evaluation**

The first round of NMTeach observations/evaluations are in progress. The goal is to complete them before Thanksgiving break; they are due to the state by the end of December.

**Assessment**

- Seniors requiring a retake took the SBA Science assessment in October. Those requiring a retake of PARCC will do so in November.

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- Denise Hinson is collaborating with Joey Chavez and the theatre department to bring theatre's assessment rubric and culminating project strategies to Academic Seminars (grades 9-12)

**Safety**

All staff participated in active shooter training presented by POMS & Associates during inservice on November 12.

**Collaboration**

Students have taken on a leadership role in planning NMSA Collaboration Day, which will occur on November 16. Students have devised a plan to promote interdisciplinary collaboration with the goal of creating a time capsule to bury at the new school campus.

**Wellness**

Thanks to the support of the Wellness Grant, Zephyrus of Santa Fe provided training to our dance department on healthy living and eating disorders.

**Facility Updates**

Asbestos abatement was completed in Room 109 and the Cafeteria. The ceiling in the Cafeteria and the ceiling and floors in Room 109 are being replaced now.