

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

- Than Povi Martinez (grade 11, dance) has been offered the Davis New Mexico Scholarship, which covers the full cost of attendance at one of six partner colleges.
- Bella Moses (grade 12, theatre) was matched with Hamilton University, which means she was accepted and will now receive the Questbridge full-ride scholarship--the first NMSA student to receive this prestigious scholarship.
- Congrats to the Dance Department on their successful and well-attended showcase fundraiser at Warehouse 21. See them next at Meow Wolf on December 12.
- Congrats to the CYC-ics (a student-created and led theatre company) on their excellent performance of *Romeo & Juliet*.
- Congrats to the Strings Lab for their well-received outreach event to El Castillo.
- Congrats to our marketing team on their launch of our beautiful new web site and a three-page article about our new campus in Pasatiempo: [Pasatiempo Article Link](#)
- From teacher Jennifer Black:
 - *Join me in congratulating Maya Forte (grade 12, dance) on her latest publication, a culminating project from her six-week internship with the Santa Fe Reporter.*
Check out her article here:
<https://www.sfreporter.com/news/coverstories/2018/11/21/place-making/>
Interested in learning about the internship? Ask Maya about her experience! For the last six weeks, the New Mexico Fund for Public Interest Journalism—SFR's nonprofit partner—explored the complex exhibit with students chosen for the fund's first cohort in its paid internship program. Applications for the program opened in late summer to all area students. The four students chosen for the program toured the exhibit; read and researched information on the artists; met weekly for discussions and training on reporting and writing; and interviewed artists, curators and others involved with the show.

Charter Renewal

The Charter School Division report to the Public Education Commission will recommend that NMSA receive a 5-year charter renewal with the condition that all board members take the correct training hours in 2018-2019. The PEC hearing is scheduled for December 11-14. NMSA is the last school to be considered and voted on, so we expect to be called on Thursday or Friday, December 13 or 14.

District Report Card

PED has released 2018 District Report Cards. Because we are an LEA with just one school, the grade (A) is the same as the previously released school report card. [Link: District Report Card](#)

Lease Reimbursement

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Eric attended the PSFA regional workshop on lease assistance, which included an opportunity for charter schools to provide input on ways PSFA can better support charters in their leases.

School Lunch Program

The number of lunches ordered continues to increase, with many days seeing over 50 students ordering. The school's operational loss for November was \$448.71. Overall, the running operational cost for the program year-to-date is \$733.36.

Evaluation

The first round of NMTeach observations/evaluations will be completed by NMPED's December deadline. Teachers will be evaluated on Domains 1 and 4 beginning in January.

Assessment

- Students will take Quarter 2 interim assessments during final exams in December. During January's inservice day, teachers will analyze the results and use them to inform teaching plans.
- Seniors requiring a retake of PARCC assessments took them in November.
- Three students will take the WIDA Access assessment in January.

Safety

- The POMS & Associates active shooter training scheduled during inservice on November 12 was canceled due to a snow day. The training is rescheduled for January.
- Members of the Safety Committee, including administrators, received Stop the Bleed training from a team from St. Vincent's Hospital. The school is purchasing recommended supplies (gauze, tourniquets).

Collaboration

The student-led NMSA Collaboration Day in November was a success. Leaders from the Student Advisory Board, including Jayden Chavez, Hope Orange, and Ben Rountree (all grade 11, theatre), worked with students and staff to create highly collaborative and interactive activities for the day.

Wellness

The counseling department as provided training to students on managing stress and anxiety; and provided to students and staff a presentation on bullying/bullying prevention.

Facility Updates

The flood repair project is completed and all rooms have been returned to regular use. We are grateful for everyone's patience and flexibility (particularly those teachers whose teaching spaces were impacted). One new leak appeared, and the roofing company is addressing it. Planning for the logistics of moving to the new campus at the end of the school year have begun.