

New Mexico School for the Arts
Head of School Report: January 2020
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

- Luca Pacheco (grade 12/theatre) was offered a scholarship to Lang College at the New School - \$21,000 per year, just \$700 short of a full tuition scholarship.
- Five visual artists (Lavina Gray, Artemisio Romero y Carver, Malia Seva, Samantha Trujillo, and Yang Toledo) participated in SITE Santa Fe's Young Curators program and have an exhibition opening at SITE on Friday, January 17, 5:00 p.m.

PEC

The Charter Schools Division annual monitoring site visit is scheduled for March 30.

Accountability & Assessment Updates

- NMSA will have 9th graders take the PSAT 8/9 in March. This is not mandated by PED, but will help prepare our students for the mandated PSAT 10 and SAT (grade 11). PED Assessment Bureau staff has indicated that the state will mandate PSAT 8/9 for 9th graders starting next year.
- Prep for PSAT and SAT is occurring in Academic Seminar classes, as well as content area classes, from January-April.

Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Instruction

- The PED-required Equity Council was formed and the members and process were posted on the web site in December, as mandated by PED. Dr. Kaplan will represent the Governing Council on the Equity Council. The first step will be a readiness assessment; we await that documentation from PED.
- Eric Crites, Chelamia Quintana, and Denise Hinson will attend the second in a series of three PED-sponsored trainings on Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Instruction with Dr. Hollie later this month. A teacher cohort will participate in the training starting in March.
- Three trainings will be provided to staff by the New Mexico Dream Team in February and April: an anti-racism workshop; and anti-sexism workshop; and a workshop on supporting immigrant students.
- NMSA's internal Equity Team (predecessor to Equity Council) will lead and coach staff in the completion of shadow days and empathy interviews during the second semester.

Expansion Grant

- NMSA notified PED that it will be shifting the plan for expenditures from what was proposed in our application. Now, the funds will be used for:
 - The creation of a yearlong onboarding course for new teachers, which will use a blended learning model of online modules and in-person cohort and mentor/mentee activities; and
 - The development and launch of a project-based learning pilot with the 9th-graders in the 2020-2021, including curriculum, staff training, and coaching.

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Project-Based Learning

Denise Hinson, in her new role as Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Specialist, is spearheading the launch of the project-based learning pilot with 9th graders in 2020-2021. We have shared with staff the broad outlines of the plan. Denise is now working to gather stakeholder input, develop a “what and why” presentation,, and organize necessary training, curriculum, and other resources to support teachers in this process. Steve Arnold from the Art Institute Board of Trustees is connecting us to invaluable resources for this project.

Building Update

- Great Western is still completing the installation of the burglar/intrusion alarm.
- Klinger Constructors is working to address issues with a few doors that still do not close properly.
- Staff did a walkthrough with Klinger Constructors in January to identify 95 items that had not been addressed. They are working to remedy those items already.

Safety

- A subcommittee of the Safety Committee is meeting weekly to address issues with doors, alarm systems, and other safety matters until they are 100% resolved.