

**New Mexico School for the Arts
Head of School Report: June 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.

Statement about the killing of George Floyd

NMSA is committed to supporting our students in responding to the killing of George Floyd, the subsequent protests, and the movement for justice and equality. NMSA is also committed to engaging in dialogue with its community, including students, families, staff, the equity council, and other stakeholders, to ensure that we are learning and unlearning the things that we need to in order to dismantle systems of oppression, provide an equitable educational program, and be part of a broader solution. We are currently organizing an opportunity for a facilitated dialogue among students so that they can communicate and plan with each other, and provide ideas and input to the school.

Kudos

- Congratulations to the Class of 2020! Thanks to their hard work, and the support of their teachers and staff, all seniors successfully completed quarter 4 online--and graduated.
- Thank you to Barbara Hatch for producing the graduation events. Thank you to Acacia McCombs for shepherding the seniors through their completion of high school and for her significant contributions to graduation and senior celebrations. Thank you to the staff members who contributed to making the virtual graduation and the diploma drive-through a meaningful experience for our graduates.
- Congratulations to our 10-Year Club! The following staff members have been with NMSA since the school opened 10 years ago (and some of them even before it opened): Joey Chavez, Charles Gamble, Jacquelyn Helin, Acacia McCombs, Cindy Montoya, and Roxanne Seagraves. We recognized them at graduation and at a staff meeting but will plan to do a more complete celebration when circumstances allow.
- A big thank you to Nathan for his excellent work, care, and dedication to NMSA this past year. We wish him all the very best!

School Closure and COVID-19 Response

- We are preparing instructional and operational plans for all possible scenarios, ranging from “regular opening”, to various hybrid models, to all-online.
- The Secretary’s School Re-Entry Task Force will issue their recommendations in about 10 days. We expect these to be guideposts, and for there to be significant local decisions to be made.

Legislative/PED/PEC

- The special session will occur June 18. The team will be prepared to respond to updated budget/revenue information and to resubmit a revised budget.
- The Charter Schools Division team will address the rescheduling of this year’s monitoring site visit in June. In the meantime, we will upload everything that can be provided through Web-EPSS, including year-end data.
- The Education Plan required alongside our budget submission was completed in the NM DASH system.

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- NMSA's allocation of CARES Act federal funding is about \$15,000 total for FY20 and FY2021. It will be used for student boot camp, PPE, and cleaning supplies/services.

Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Instruction

- The NMSA Equity Council will begin meeting on June 11.

Project-Based Learning

- PBLWorks provided an excellent virtual PBL101 training to faculty in May.
- In June, Eric and Chelamia Quintana will attend a PBLWorks virtual Leadership Workshop; Camille Guenard and Denise Hinson will attend a PBLWorks virtual PBL201 workshop; James Reich will attend PBL101.

Staffing

- We are currently recruiting for a science teacher, a part-time special education teacher, and a creative writing & literature teacher.