

New Mexico School for the Arts
Head of School Report: April 2021
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

- Kudos to all of our seniors who are receiving college acceptances and finalizing post-graduation plans. Zoe Colfax has received acceptances from both Yale and Harvard.
- Upcoming Visual Arts and Creative Writing & Literature collaboration:
 - We want to invite you on **Friday April 23, 6 pm to a virtual book launch and poetry reading** celebrating the culminating work from a special collaboration that many Visual Arts and Creative Writing & Literature students have been working on with myself, Mr. Gomez, Mr. Riech, and Guest Poet Elizabeth Jacobson in the remote learning semester, Fall 2020. Collected Works Bookstore is hosting our collective anthology book launch for "Everything Feels Recent When You're Far Away", which also features related T-Shirt designs by each student participant as well. *Congratulations to the students and teachers on this big endeavor of creating and assembling work while learning from home!*
 - You can register for this event here:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YVcs9uVNStSMr1LPnru9pA
- Encore: Senior Dance Projects
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVMbDhuXxMU>
- Encore: Visual Arts 9th Grade Exhibition "Drawing Space"
<https://www.nmschoolforthearts.org/drawing-space-exhibition/>

School Re-Entry Update

- About 215 students (77%) of students are attending school on campus.
- More students are opting into on-campus learning.
- Common statement from students and staff after the first week: "This was really positive, I'm thrilled to be back, and I am exhausted because it's such a big change and transition."
- Faculty are working hard to help our Zoomies (remote students) feel connected to and engaged with the classroom. There are lots of innovative approaches working in our classrooms.
- About 97% of staff have been fully vaccinated; increasing numbers of our students (ages 16-18) are being vaccinated.
- Students are doing a great job of adhering to the mask requirement.
- Families and students are doing a great job of following our drop-off and check-in procedures (temp check, health questions).
- Physical distancing, as expected, is difficult to strictly maintain. Supports are in place to guide students to keep distance, and reminders are provided.

New Mexico School for the Arts
Head of School Report: April 2021
Report by Eric Crites

- We have not had any reported cases of COVID since reopening, but we know there is an ongoing risk that this could occur. We will respond using NMPED guidelines for quarantine of close contacts should this occur.
- Graduation will be held with capacity restrictions at the Santa Fe Convention Center at 12:00 p.m., Friday, May 28. Each senior will get five tickets to invite family and friends. The event will be broadcast via Zoom.
- Prom and Quad Arts are being planned with COVID-safe modifications. Prom will be an outdoor movie night.
- The Parent Association helped make our first week back festive with balloons, banners, and pizza for everyone.

Legislative/PED/PEC

- Charter Schools Division will conduct an abbreviated virtual site visit on May 5.
- Participation in the extended school year program and funding for 2021-2022 is optional. NMSA is gathering stakeholder input on adding seven days to the calendar in order to allow us to have "launch for success" programming, focused into key review of academic and artistic skills and topics.

Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Instruction

- The Western Educational Equity Assistance Center has begun working with our staff by sending out an introductory survey.
- The NM Dream Team delivered professional development on Supporting Undocumented Students & Families and the Mountain Center delivered professional development on Supporting LGBTQ Youth.

Safety

- We are conducting required drills each week: fire, off-site evacuation, and shelter-in-place (including active shooter threat).

Staffing

- We have posted an open math teaching position; Ms. Li, an extraordinary teacher, is moving back to China this summer.

Facilities

- Repairs from the flooding in February were completed ahead of school reopening.
- The cafeteria is open and in use! The courtyard (minus the grass) is open and in use!
- Klinger remanufactured the gates to prevent recurring malfunctions and damage due to wind.