

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

- The entire faculty and staff deserve kudos for their dedication in launching the new school year under the most challenging of circumstances.
- Thank you to Chelamia Quintana for leading a successful summer bootcamp. One of the greatest challenges of launching the new year online is building relationships with students who have never attended NMSA in person before. These sessions established a foundation of care and relationships to help all students thrive this year.
- Thank you to Denise Hinson for organizing and leading essential and effective professional development over the past three weeks to ensure that teachers had the tools necessary to launch the school year online.

**Remote Mode/Hybrid Mode**

- We have launched the school year in Remote mode with a model designed to be able to successfully transition to a Hybrid mode.
- Chromebooks and hotspots have been and continue to be distributed.
- When we approach the end of the first quarter (nine weeks), we will review the feasibility of and make recommendations about moving into Hybrid mode by continuing to look at health data and public health orders; students, staff, and parent input; and the logistical and infrastructure system (rapid response teams, etc.) considerations necessary to open safely.
- The operations team is now hard at work on the details of preparations for moving into Hybrid mode (PPE, safety procedures, instructional program logistics, technology, etc.).
- The state had been trying to continue the model of meal delivery that allowed for any child under 18 to get free breakfast and lunch at local/district schools. This waiver from USDA has not been continued. At this time, we are identifying which of our students who qualify for free/reduced lunch actually want to pick up lunches in their local area. We will then work to partner with local districts to fund lunches for those students.

**Legislative/PED/PEC**

- The Charter Schools Division team confirmed that there would not be a rescheduled site visit for 2019-2020.
- The PEC approved NMSA's amendments to increase the enrollment cap (to 500 students) and to temporarily suspend the residential program for as long as required by public health orders and guidelines.
- Charter Schools Division has asked for some revisions to the remote learning assurances document previously submitted (due August 28).

**Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Instruction**

- The school's Equity Team is evolving into the Equity Leadership Team, with a mission to establish and enact goals to increase equity and antiracism at NMSA. It is meeting weekly.

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- The Equity Council will continue to meet.

**Professional Development**

- Faculty received training in online instructional strategies; online instructional tools (Zoom, Moodle, Nearpod, etc.); mindfulness; students support/special education services.
- Nick Martino provided professional development training and follow-up coaching.

**Staffing**

- We are currently recruiting for a part-time special education teacher.
- Please welcome new faculty:
  - Laurel Coffey-Bodine, Humanities Teacher, District Testing Coordinator & Online Course Coordinator
  - Sativa Cruz, Science Teacher
  - Liam Daly, 3D Visual Arts Teacher
  - Diego Gomez, Creative Writing Teacher
  - Melanie McKinley, 9th Grade Academy Teacher
  - Alex Murzyn, Music Faculty
  - Kathlene Ritch, Vocal Teacher
  - Cameron Sperry, English & Social Studies Teacher
  - Curtis Storm, Music Faculty
  - Tracey Whitney, Jazz Vocal Teacher