

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

Kudos to all of our teachers for continuing to make learning meaningful for our students this year. Some examples of the innovative work being done in our arts departments:

Theatre: [Espectaculo del Tentaculo UNO Recording](#)

Theatre: [Espectaculo del Tentaculo DOS Recording](#)

Music Department: [Fall Concert Recording](#)

Coming Up: Dance Demonstration

Friday, November 20, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/96620997305?pwd=R1pJajhQSFJ6V0lXN3YwTEFHajFoUT09>

Coming Up: Visual Arts Juried Exhibition - Perspective

Friday, November 20

<https://nmschoolforthearts.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=cdc2b71985330544095a7c65d&id=8f7513da92&e=69f37c0fea>

Coming Up: Creative Writing & Literature Open Mic Night

Friday, December 4, 6:00 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/95468336396?pwd=Ti9yTVlvN3NNbDBJNkVCTkxKazN6dz09>

Remote Mode/Hybrid Mode

- While the updated public health order that went into effect November 16 does not apply to schools, NMSA is asking staff to further limit entrance into the building to protect our staff and to do our part to drive down the infection rates so we can return students to campus as soon as possible.
- On November 4, we began bringing in a small group (5:1 ratio) of students with IEPs to work with Ms. Oberteuffer and Ms. Quintana. The positive outcomes of this work were immediate. Unfortunately, we are suspending this during the current stay-at-home order. We plan to relaunch it as soon as possible.
- In his recent press conference, Secretary Stewart indicated that, due to current infection rates, we are not at a point where PED will even talk about a timeline for allowing hybrid reentry for secondary schools. Given this, we will plan to reevaluate our options for a hybrid reentry when we return from winter break in January.
- ITV-type technology has been installed in all teaching spaces (thank you, Ruben and Henry).

New Mexico School for the Arts
Head of School Report: November 2020
Report by Eric Crites

- PSFA is conducting surveys to determine whether it can secure funding to provide in-home internet to students who currently do not have internet or who have suboptimal internet service. We received \$2,500 in GEER funding to support in-home internet access for students--this will allow us to serve about four students.
- Teachers have been launching project-based learning units, including: modeling of postsecondary pathways through financial lens (Financial Algebra); modeling a movie scene using principles of physics (Physics); writing film reviews (English II); equity in education, to include researching topics, applying math principles, preparing proposals - (English I/9th Grade Academy/Algebra I).
- Our interim assessment data and recent arts performances/presentations demonstrate that we are achieving our goal of providing students with a meaningful, rigorous, and engaging learning experience this year. The outcomes cannot be compared to other years; but within the current context, our students and faculty are doing incredible work.
- About $\frac{2}{3}$ of our students are managing as well as one could expect during the pandemic (attending classes, completing assignments and demonstrating learning, keeping up their grades). About $\frac{1}{3}$ are truly struggling. As a percentage, we do not have too many more students who are getting Ds and Fs. Concerningly, the number of students getting multiple Fs is higher this year. Teachers and the student support team, led by Chelamia Quintana, are working tirelessly to engage and support those students who are struggling.
- Student Council hosted a movie night at Motorama (which allowed us to take advantage of Motorama's COVID-safe set-up).
- Student Council and Student Advisory Board are teaming up to host monthly assemblies for the remainder of the year. They'll host collaborations and sharing of student work/performance/presentation.

Legislative/PED/PEC

- Teachers have submitted Professional Development Plans and Chelamia and Eric are conducting walkthroughs.
- The 2020 cohort graduation rate will be 88%. Prior year rates are: 2019 - 94%; 2018 - 98%; 2017 - 96%; 2016 - 95%; 2015 - 88.7%; 2014 - 86.2%.

Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Instruction

- Talon Claybrook has joined Denise Hinson as co-lead of the Equity Leadership Team. They are leading weekly meetings and professional development.
- Talon and Denise led a workshop on bias during inservice.
- Three subcommittees of the ELT are working on: representation in the curriculum; student-centered initiatives; and grading/homework best practices.

Professional Development

- Denise Hinson is providing follow-up training on project-based learning as teachers are implementing their first project units.

New Mexico School for the Arts
Head of School Report: November 2020
Report by Eric Crites

Facilities

- The truck and gate control are being repaired through a NMPSIA claim following a vandalism incident.

Staffing

- NMSA is currently hiring for an instructional assistant position for our special education department.