

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

- According to the National Student Clearinghouse data, 76% of the graduating class of 2021 enrolled in college this past fall. That's the highest rate among the seven years of data published. Of those 76%, 69% were at four-year institutions and 7% were at two-year institutions.
- Joey Chavez has joined the NMSA-Art Institute's ArtSpring Committee.
- Kayla Bolte has done a fabulous job of bringing the residential program back to life!
- Upcoming: Music Department Fall Concert - Virtual Encore Performance, Friday, December 17, 7pm. Link to come.
- Thank you to Lisa Oberteuffer for continuing the tradition of organizing a staff luncheon and gift exchange on the last day before winter break.

#### School Re-Entry Update

- We have had six positive COVID cases among on-campus students and one case among on-campus staff since the beginning of the school year.
- PED has now offered a "Test to Stay" option for close contacts.
- Brandy Avila is now providing both surveillance and on-demand free COVID testing on-site. PCR and antigen tests are available.
- 98% of staff and 70% of students are fully vaccinated.
- Staff must provide evidence of booster or participate in weekly surveillance testing by January 17 per the governor's most recent public health order.
- We are working on offering a Pfizer clinic in January to encourage boosters and initial vaccination of ages 5-11.
- To support COVID safety, we will continue to follow the protocol of inviting public audiences to outdoor performances and limiting indoor performances/exhibitions to internal audiences.
- Impacts of the stresses related to the ongoing pandemic are significant and ongoing.
- We are adding a counselor and instructional assistant for the remainder of the school year to address these needs.

#### Legislative/PED/PEC

- We have not received information about how the Charter Schools Division will conduct this year's PEC annual monitoring.
- The governor has requested a 7% pay increase for school employees.

#### Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Instruction/Equity

- Dr. Hollie will deliver his Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Instruction workshop to all faculty on February 24 and 25. Students will have asynchronous remote school days to accommodate this important training.

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- We are using advisories in January-March to roll out equity and culturally and linguistically responsive trainings to students and staff. These will include trainings on consent, Title IX, having difficult conversations, and microaggressions.
- The Equity Task Force continues to meet weekly to work on implementation.

Staffing Updates

- John Pawlak is retiring at the end of December.
- We are currently hiring for: math teacher; visual arts teacher; creative writing & literature teacher; instructional assistant; residential assistant; school counselor.