

New Mexico School for the Arts
Head of School Report: March 2022
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

- NMSA's 2021 four-year cohort graduation rate is 97% (state: 77%).
- Past graduation rates: 2016: 95%; 2017: 96%; 2018: 98%; 2019: 94%; 2020: 88%.

School Year Update

- NMSA has had two COVID-positive cases on campus since February 10.
- Masks became optional on campus on March 21. The majority of students and staff are currently choosing to wear masks, but more students are choosing not to wear masks each day. Many had indicated in surveys that they wanted to see how things went before considering removing masks. Students and staff in the dorm are still wearing masks through next week to ensure there isn't a spike in infections post-spring break. So far there haven't been any positive cases in the dorm during that time.
- COVID data for the school, updated daily, is available here:
- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Me0r4kYtAMayfgJwKc-qMw_g7bXIK_C2k9dspTAasKE/edit?usp=sharing
- PMG hosted a vaccine clinic on campus today, March 23.
- Vaccination Rates (as of 2/18/2022)
 - Staff Fully Vaccinated (2 shots Moderna/Pfizer or 1 shot J&J): 100%
 - Staff with Booster: 89%
 - Students with 0 shots: 15%
 - Students with 1 shot: 4%
 - Students with 2 shots: 27%
 - Students with 3 shots: 53%
 - Students with 2 or 3 shots: 80%

Legislative/PED/PEC

- THANK YOU to Cindy, Paula and everyone who worked so passionately to secure \$8.3 million in capital outlay funds for our dorm construction!
- PED's Charter Schools Division will conduct annual monitoring site visits on-site on April 28.
- The annual PEC report will be submitted by June 15.

Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Instruction/Equity

- The Equity Council is being re-established and meeting on March 29.
- Dr. Hollie delivered his Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Instruction workshop to all faculty on February 24 and 25.
- A group of students and members of a community organization held a protest at NMSA on Feb. 25 in response to the incident where an NMSA student posted an image to his personal Instagram that was digitally altered with Photoshop in a

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way that was racist and misogynist. Information about NMSA's response is posted on our website:
<https://www.nmschoolforthearts.org/community-update-about-a-harmful-incident/>

- We have held follow-up meetings with students who were involved in the protest to discuss and plan: a cultural/affinity room; an acknowledgement/apology; a day of mourning for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women on May 5.
- Staff members have continued meeting with students from the Women of Color Collective to discuss policy changes they may wish to propose regarding sexual assault and harassment.

Staffing Updates

- Esme Olivia has joined the dance department; Russell Scanlon and George Case have joined the music department.
- We have hired Jeff LaRoux to teach math in 2022-2023. He is moving to New Mexico from Tennessee.