

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

- 52 of 52 seniors graduated on May 26.
- 52 of 52 seniors have been accepted into post-secondary institutions and programs.
- The NMSA Supercomputing Challenge Team came in 2nd in the state (forest fire modeling project).
- Cruz Davis-Martinez (VA), Fae Ordaz (Vocal), and Magdalene Sanchez (VA) were the recipients of Next Steps Scholarships.

School Year Update

- We received preliminary data on the SAT, which our juniors took in April. The state will provide formal data on this and the NM-ASR (state science test) this fall.
- There was an uptick in COVID cases among students and staff in the last two weeks of school, which mirrored the uptick in infections in our community and state.
- Teachers spent in-service time at the end of the year identifying and refining power standards and scope/sequence to move toward readiness of implementing standards-based grading. A proposal will be shared for implementing standards-based grading in the 2023-2024 school year.

Legislative/PED/PEC

- All follow-up documentation for the Charter School Division annual site visit, including our year-end mission-specific arts data, has been submitted.
- The annual PEC report is being submitted this week.
- The PSCOC lease assistance application will be submitted in July.

Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Instruction/Equity

- The cultural liaison position has been posted for hiring.
- The Equity Council met earlier this month to discuss our curriculum representation survey and provide input on the job description for the cultural liaison position.
- Teachers in all departments use the representation survey tool to reflect on ethnic and gender representation in their curricula. Now we are identifying:
 - Where there are gaps that we know how to fill.
 - Where there are gaps where we need to find resources to support teachers in filling those gaps. The Equity Council will be on of our resources for this work.
- Restorative Justice trainer Tonya Covington worked with faculty to share a model of connection circles and to talk about implementing restorative justice practices in 2022-2023.

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Staffing

- The following staff members are departing at the end of the school year and, with gratitude, we wish them the very best in their next steps: Laurel Coffey-Bodine, Mikiko Ellis, Charles Gamble, Pilar Jaehn, Irene Loy, William Miglino, Bernadette Peña, Cameron Sperry, Danielle Sullivan, Kevin Ward
- We have hired: Jeff LaRoux (math); Sarah Holmes (English/social studies); Rory MacPhail (English/social studies); Liza Romero (business manager, moving from contract to staff position); Marissa Tapia (front office clerk/reception); Shelley Welch (school counselor).
- We are still hiring: Dance Department Chair; Creative Writing Department Chair; creative writing teacher (part-time); science teacher (part-time); PE/health teacher; theatre teacher (part-time); cultural liaison.