

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

- Kudos to Fred Graham for his work to bring our enrollment up to 319 (we ended last school year at 278) in the midst of a very challenging enrollment landscape.

School Re-Entry Update

- We have had one Rapid Response event since school started (student or staff member testing positive; unvaccinated close contacts having to quarantine).
- We have had numerous situations where students or staff felt sick and had to quarantine pending a negative COVID test.
- The NM Department of Health conducted a vaccine clinic at the NMSA campus August 23. It was open to the public. Far fewer students participated in this clinic than in the clinic we hosted in May. A follow-up clinic for the second shot will be hosted three weeks after August 23.
- Chelmaia Quintana and Denise Hinson led a highly attended Summer Bootcamp 2021 for incoming students. Over the course of the summer, students participated in a combination of online and in-person experiences to help prepare them to be successful as high school students in both their arts and academic courses.
- Students are doing a great job adhering to the masking requirement.
- Maintaining fidelity to physical distancing in a high school setting is much more complicated and difficult to maintain.
- In September, we will begin to offer on-site surveillance and on-demand COVID testing through a program of the NM Department of Health.
- While students seem to be very glad to be back at school on campus, the impacts of the pandemic year-and-a-half on mental health and wellbeing are evident.

Legislative/PED/PEC

- The annual PEC report was presented during the PEC's July meeting. Eric, Chelamia Quintana, Denise Hinson, Karina Hean, and Fred Graham presented.
- The documents requested by the Charter Schools Division as part of its 2020-2021 Modified Site Visit were submitted ahead of the August 2 deadline. Once the final report is released by the CSD, we will include it on the Governing Council agenda for review.

Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Instruction

- Eric will be working with student groups (Women of Color Collective and Student Equity Leadership Team) to propose policies to the Governing Council on the Juneteenth holiday and a Land Acknowledgement.
- Students have formed their own Equity Leadership Team.

New Mexico School for the Arts
Head of School Report: August 2021
Report by Eric Crites

- We are providing trainings on bias, microaggressions, and supporting LGBTQ students during the first months of school.
- We have included "Representation" as a required item on our lesson plan forms.
- During the school year, we will be using the Representation Reflection Tool that Talon Claybrook created to empower teachers/departments to assess the state of representation in their curriculum and to support an increase in diverse representation.

Professional Development

- We will provide QPR (suicide prevention training) to students and staff in September.
- We will provide training to staff on supporting students with autism in September.

Safety

- Public address speakers have been installed in offices and teaching spaces that did not yet have them.
- We have conducted two fire drills and a shelter-in-place/active shooter training/drill.
- We continue to have individuals who present concerns spending time in and around our parking lots and front areas. We are reaching out to the city's new Alternative Response Team to develop a working relationship for support on this challenge.

Staffing

- We started the school year with the school program fully staffed.