

New Mexico School for the Arts
Head of School Report: January 2023
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

- Katjanna Lujan (Vocalist/12) sang the National Anthem at the opening ceremony in the Senate Chamber:



- The Music Department had a fantastic showing at All-State:



School Year Update

- NMSA's 2022 English Language Arts (SAT) scores were the third highest in the state. Our 2022 Science (NM-ASR) scores were the fourth highest in the state.
https://maps.keystone.org/nm_proficiency_2022/index.html

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- The Art Institute (thank you to Cindy and Jessie) has secured a grant to support professional development and small group support to work on increasing our students' math achievement levels.
- The CDC COVID Community Level for Santa Fe County has remained LOW. Our COVID case counts have not spiked in recent months. We are seeing high levels of respiratory illness in students and staff who are not testing positive for COVID (flu, RSV, colds).
- Our in-house lunch and dorm meal program has launched and is going well. Angela Ortiz and Olivia Miramontes are bringing in new menu items and providing our students with healthy and tasty meals.

PED/PEC/CSD

- The final reports from the Charter Schools Division FY22 site visits have not yet been released. Once they are, there will be a discussion item on the Governing Council agenda to review the report.

Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Instruction/Equity

- Equity Council Lead, Shell Welch, has sent out an invitation and is casting a wide net to re-form the Equity Council with a focus on seating members of the NMSA and New Mexico community who very accurately reflect the four student categories identified in the Yazzie-Martinez suit: Native American students; English learners; students with disabilities; and economically disadvantaged students.
- Students Connor Skinner and Tenzin Malaika-Huisman, with support from teacher Isabella Aldana, presented an assembly on Trans Allyship and Support.
- Art Institute Board of Trustees Member Madeleine Wright is working with theatre teacher/ArtReach coordinator Shayla Patton to build an afternoon of activities to celebrate Black History Month in February.
- Cultural Liaison Jolene Vigil will be attending a train-the-trainer workshop this spring, which will allow us to deliver DEI trainings in-house.
- The Student Advisory Board is being re-formed as a subcommittee of the Student Council. We will spend the spring semester reviewing school policies that of particular interest to students (dress code; attendance coding for civic engagement; policies on harassment and assault).

Facilities

- We are starting a pest control service (rodents and insects) this month due to increased rodent activity this winter.

Staffing

- Jackson Holzberg Buckley has been hired to teach world history and economics.
- Ben Jaffe has been hired by the Art Institute as the new digital media instructor.
- Alison Morgan has been hired as an instructional assistant.

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- Seth McMillan resigned on January 9. We have hired Garrick Sigl, already a theatre instructor, to teach three sections of 9th grade academy. Melanie McKinley is taking over the two sections of integrated science.
- We are currently interviewing for: Gifted Coordinator and Instructional Assistant.