

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

- Math Teacher Jed Arcellana has been nominated for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.
- Thank you to Cindy Montoya and Jessie Ayala for the fantastic Dorm Groundbreaking Ceremony and Circle of the Arts event.
- Alumnus Adan Juarez Martinez is teaching science in Albuquerque; alumni Jeremiah Vigil and Avalon Perry were recently in the Santa Fe Playhouse production of *A Funny Thing Happened On the Way To The Forum*.
- Student Council hosted a Halloween Festival and Costume Contest!



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#### School Year Update

- Collaboration Day is this Friday, November 18. Students have organized a day of activities so that all students and staff can experience a taste of all arts departments in one day.
- The CDC COVID Community Level for Santa Fe County is now HIGH. We have communicated that masks are highly recommended per CDC guidelines:
  - Wear a mask indoors in public
  - Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
  - Get tested if you have symptoms
  - Additional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness

#### 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

- Jolene Vigil worked with Indigenous students to plan Indigenous Spirit Week, November 14-18, in celebration of Indigenous Heritage Month. It includes five themed days for Indigenous students (jewelry; hair; blanket; dress as your favorite Indigenous person/character/actor; regalia); and an all-school activity, including a dance performance, during Collaboration Day.
- Student Council Vice President Zoe McDonald will start attending Governing Council meetings in December as the non-voting student representative.

#### Staffing

- We are currently interviewing for: Digital Media Instructor, Gifted Coordinator and two Instructional Assistant Positions.
- Kids Kitchen is terminating their contract with NMSA due to business reasons on their end. They will provide food through semester 1. As a result, we are hiring new staff to run our lunch and dorm meal program in-house (Lunch Program Manager; part-time cook).