

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

- Marie Tapia will transition to her new role as Director of Operations & Registrar starting July 10. Marie is to be commended for her excellent work as our Assistant Business Manager for the past two years. Marie has been critical to the success of the business office, with her careful attention to detail, organization, accuracy, and problem-solving. Along with Liza, she has the finding-free audits to prove it! We are lucky to have Marie stepping into this new role, where her compassionate leadership and array of skillsets will benefit our students, staff, and the entire organization.
- Congratulations to the 74 graduates who received their diplomas on May 25! During the ceremony, we recognized Paula Tackett with the Distinguished Service Award and Zoe McDonald with the Spirit of NMSA Award. Thank you to the Governing Council members who were able to join us, to Brian Egolf for being our keynote speaker, and to Noel McCoy for singing the National Anthem.
- Congratulations to the Dance Department on their victory at QuintArts!



#### School Year Update

- The residential program will remain at the MEA/Immaculate Heart of Mary campus until our dew dorm building is completed. We have space for 44 students.
- Data from the School Day SAT in April indicate that average scores went up in both English language arts (ERW) and math. [Report LINK](#). We have not yet received scores for the spring NM-ASR science test.
- The Opening Ceremony for 2023-2024 is on Tuesday, August 8, 10:00 a.m. in the cafeteria.

New Mexico School for the Arts  
Head of School Report: June 2023  
Report by Eric Crites

- Academic Faculty conducted year-end professional development focused on collaboration, equitable and effective grading practices, and consistent classroom practices.
- Arts chairs completed and submitted their curriculum reviews.

#### PED/PEC/CSD

- The application for the Indian Education Division's Improving Educational & Cultural Outcomes for Native American Students grant (\$55,158) was submitted on Jun 14.
- The Title IV federal grant (\$10,000) application will be submitted before the due date of June 20.
- The FY24 Education Plan, Title I, Title II, and IDEA-B applications have been submitted and approved by PED.
- The letter notifying Santa Fe Public Schools of NMSA's intention to participate in the upcoming bond and tax levy election in November 2023 was submitted via email and US mail. We received confirmation of receipt from the district's general counsel.
- The PED Charter Schools Conference is July 24-26 at Tamaya Resort. Registration and lodging are provide by PED.  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-charter-school-conference-celebrating-innovation-tickets-559062520047>
- The school's Mission-Specific Goal year-end data was submitted to the Charter Schools Division on June 9. This data is part of the ratings that go into our final ratings report for the 2022-2023 annual Charter Schools Division site visit. Once that report is received, it will be reviewed with the Governing Council.
- Because the academic data from 2021-2022 is still embargoed, we have not received the final ratings report for the 2021-2022 annual Charter Schools Division Site report. We did receive the final ratings for Organizational and Financial indicators. Our challenge to the assessment participation rate, which was initiated in fall 2022, has not been addressed yet.
- The NM Vistas report for 2021-2022 has not been released yet. We did receive embargoed data and Cecile Hemez filed a request for correction for some of the data.

#### Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Instruction/Equity

- Sativa Cruz and Shell Welch wrote and presented the application for an Innovation Zone Grant (through CTE funds). The proposal focused on furthering our Equity and CLR initiatives. Though NMSA was not selected to receive the grant, Sativa and Shell created an outstanding application and we will try again in the future.
- Jolene Vigil will provide diversity and inclusion training for staff during the August inservice. Having received certification in this training, she is also available to provide this training to the Governing Council.

#### Safety

New Mexico School for the Arts  
Head of School Report: June 2023  
Report by Eric Crites

- All required safety drills were completed for the 2022-2023 school year.
- 12 staff members received CPR training in May.
- We are re-keying all door locks on campus to ensure that they are accessible with a master key in case of emergency.

#### Staffing

- Our new principal is Lori Ayala. She starts at NMSA on July 10 and will attend the August Governing Council meeting. She was one of seven candidates interviewed. The process included input from the hiring committee (which was open to all staff members of the charter school and Art Institute), students, and a parent.
- Two former NMSA teachers are stepping into new roles for 2023-2024:
  - Isabella Aldana, Residential Director
  - Alyssa Romero, Assistant Business Manager
- New faculty for 2023-2024:
  - Nicholas Chiarella, Visual Arts - Digital (AI employee)
  - Jody LeFevers, Social Studies
  - Joelle Meniktos-Nolting, Math & Science
- Openings that remain posted for 2023-2034: SPED/Gifted Teacher, Social Studies Teacher, Science Teacher, Residential Assistant