

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

- Thank you to Alyssa Romero and Marie Tapia for jumping into new roles with a lot of complexity while keeping everything running seamlessly during the transition.
- Thank you to Lori Ayala and Sarah Pfisterer for their excellent work in their new roles, leading to a positive and successful start to the 2023-2024 school year.
- Thank you to Isabella Aldana for her work to bring excellence to every aspect of the dorm program as we prepare to move into the permanent residence and expand to a seven-day program.
- Thank you to Michael Kaplan and Trina Raper for spending countless hours helping us update policies.
- Thank you to Michael and Karen Ehlert for their work in ensuring that we have an excellent charter renewal application.
- Carlos Nieto, Leon Garcia, and Cruz Gallegos have started performing each Friday morning:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OGFYwLieEeVZi3ZG7Eakb4dnYrJ6SQsc/view?usp=sharing>
- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/12UvAYAxzDYPD4h9f-nLezWXjlk3K7gRU/view?usp=sharing>

School Year Update

- With universal free breakfast and lunch, the number of students eating school meals has increased. On average, 50 students are eating the school breakfast and 155 are eating the school lunch.
- Student Council elections were completed in August.
- Eric met with representatives of Santa Fe Public Schools to plan for partnership in the get-out-the-vote campaign for the November election, which includes questions on ETN and SB9.
- Shell Welch delivered “a little bit for everyone” lessons on suicide prevention and mental health to advisories; she had in-depth follow-up sessions available for students (or staff) who wanted more.
- On October 10, academic faculty will have inservice time to analyze quarter 1 interim assessment data and use that information to plan for quarter 2.
- Acacia McCombs is leading a field trip to take all 11th- and 12th-graders to tour IAIA and SFCC. College reps are setting up tables in the Paseo at lunchtime on a regular basis.

PED/PEC/CSD

- Alyssa Romero submitted the lease assistance application to PSCOC.
- Eric submitted the annual PEC report per the requirements of the charter contract.

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- Michael Kaplan has been working on the Facilities Master Plan, which will be submitted to PSFA in January 2024.
- Eric will submit the charter renewal application before the due date on October 2.
- Eric has continued to request corrections on the 2021-2022 data included in the final site visit report and the Vistas report. For now, our objection has been noted in the footnotes of Part A of the charter renewal application.
- We have not received the 2022-2023 CSD Site Visit Report yet.
- Eric will submit the data required in the Black Education Act portal before the November 30 deadline. Staff have completed the required diversity training via GCN.

Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Instruction/Equity

- The TransAction student group has relaunched its trans closet program for the year.
- We will convert the single-person staff restroom next to the Creative Writing & Literature office into a gender-neutral student restroom. For safety reasons, this restroom will be keyed and the key will reside in the CWL office.
- The Hispanic Heritage Month celebration will be held on September 25.
- A representative from Student Council and/or TransAction is invited to provide input during Instructional Leadership Team meetings.
- Shell Welch is scheduling the Equity Council meetings for the year.

Safety

- The required first-month-of-school drills were completed.
- We are rekeying all door locks on campus to ensure that they are accessible with a master key in case of emergency.
- To improve safety in front of the building, particularly during afternoon pick-up, we are working with the Parent Association to support adherence to safety procedures. We have reached out to the City of Santa Fe for assistance with traffic safety measures (school zone flashing signs, etc.).

Staffing

New Staff

- Janelle Dry, Outreach Coordinator (AI employee)
- Alani Rathweg, Visual Arts Instructor (AI employee)
- Steven Swoverland, Kitchen Assistant
- Mary Wommack, Gifted Coordinator (contract)