



Residential Campus

August 30, 2019

NMSBVI / ALAMOGORDO **FAMILY NEWSLETTER** [www.nmsbvi.k12.nm.us](http://www.nmsbvi.k12.nm.us)  
NMSBVI \* Home of the Golden Bears \*



**Welcome to the 2019-2020 School Year!**

Dear NMSBVI Families,

It is so exciting to see all of the students back on campus! Our year is in full swing and we are looking forward to another productive, fun year full of new experiences and lots of learning for your child. We look forward to a productive partnership with all of our families and recognize that success comes from this strong partnership. We know that we share the responsibility of ensuring your child’s success and we take that responsibility very seriously. With that in mind, we encourage you to ask questions, come and visit us, and participate in your child’s educational program. We encourage you to take time to read the Student/ Family Handbook, as it does offer important information about the school rules and policies. It also offers you a glimpse of what we believe about education and what we offer your child. We welcome your thoughts and suggestions. NMSBVI also partners with your child’s public school system and we encourage open dialogue with them as well. The wonderful staff and I appreciate the opportunity to work with—and learn from—your child. Have a great year!

*Patty Beecher*, Acting Superintendent

**EVENTS**

September 2, 2019  
September 6-8, 2019



Labor Day, NO SCHOOL  
Goalball Tournament in Colorado

**NMSBVI – Makes the News – KOB TV**

On August 20, 2019, KOB TV did a story on NMSBVI using state transportation to fly some of our student’s home that live in the far north reaches of the state. This way they can spend more time with their family and friends on the weekends. Here is the link to the story:

<https://www.kob.com/new-mexico-news/state-provide-flights-for-students-who-attend-new-mexico-school-for-the-blind/5464095/?cat=519&fbclid=IwAR1h9CSqdGA7umal5-M7Ydvc3AfxNnar9M7B9JwdA5-pJxYz5srleL5GFI>

# New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

1900 North White Sands Boulevard  
Alamogordo, New Mexico 88310  
Telephone (575) 437-3505  
Fax (575) 439-4411



8-27-19

Dear NMSBVI Families,

The 2019-2020 School year has begun! I am looking forward to meeting and spending time with each of you! I realize that some of you will probably want to come to Alamogordo at times in order to see your child's classroom. We have an open door policy and welcome your visits!

If you are ever planning a visit to your child's classroom, we ask you to follow a few simple guidelines:

1. Please let us know about your visit in advance, so that we can alert you to any planned activities for that day.
2. Please remember that our primary goal is to educate your child—both during the day and after school hours. With that in mind, you are welcome to observe in the classrooms, but please do not engage in conversations with education staff or students during that time. This will allow the educational process to continue without interruption.
3. If you plan to visit your child in the dorm or in Health Services, please notify the dorm staff and Health Services staff in advance. Also, **please be aware of the need for our staff to protect the privacy of other students**, so staff may request that you avoid visiting at certain hours or may request that you meet in a different area.

Thank you so much for your understanding!

**Patricia Beecher**

Acting Superintendent  
New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
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Patricia Beecher - Acting Superintendent  
NMSBVI is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

# NMSBVI HAPPENINGS!



Anthony does some classwork with Speech Language Pathologist Kriste Noel and Occupational Therapist Lori Adam.



Jessica learns the motion of bowling from Adaptive PE Instructor Alex Bocian.



Jamie rolls her wheelchair under the modified jump rope.



Dahlia giggles as she swings in the playground.



Makinzie smiles as she sits and swings in the playground.



Acting Superintendent Patty Beecher speaks to Faith Egbunu from KOB TV about NMSBVI using the state airplane for our students that live in the northern most areas of New Mexico.



Memo smiles as he participates in Morning Movement with Education Assistant, Ms. Julia.





## Health Services Information

Did you know... you can now print your child's shot record  
(or your own!) at [www.VaxViewNM.org](http://www.VaxViewNM.org)

Simply go to [VaxViewNM.org](http://VaxViewNM.org)  
and enter in a few pieces of information. It is so easy!

VaxViewNM.org enables individuals, parents, and guardians to access, save and/or print official immunization records. This eliminates the need to carry multiple or aged documents and allows you to access your shot record anytime you need. VaxViewNM.org is mobile friendly and uses two-factor authentication.

## Welcome \*\*NEW STAFF\*\*



**Brissa Portillo**  
Classroom Substitute

**NMSBVI Golden Bear welcomes you!!**



## **Speech Spot**



## How to Increase Communication with your Children at Home

The beginning of the school year gets busy! It's easy to fall into routine and forget to take the time to ask each other about our days; especially if communication skills are limited. Here are some great ways you can start a dialogue with your kids at home.

- Tell me one thing that happened at school today.
- How many friends did you meet?
- What was your favorite food at lunch?
- What was the funniest thing that happened today?

Sometimes, kids just want to be heard! We all play a role in facilitating communication and starting a conversation here at school and at home with our kids—how often do you get asked about YOUR day? If your child does not speak, touch bases with the teacher and know the answers so you can support your child's ability to respond. Have a tactile/visual object your child can touch to communicate a response. Give them your devoted attention as you wait and watch for a response (regardless of the form). It feels good to know someone cares! Communication counts!

*Arsite Noel*, NMSBVI Speech Language Pathologist



## Parents Reaching Out

I hope that the school year gets off to a wonderful start in your district! I am writing to remind you that **Parents Reaching Out (PRO)** is a no-cost resource for families of children with disabilities or at risk of disabilities within your community.

PRO is funded and authorized by the U.S. Office of Special Education (OSEP) as New Mexico's Parent Training and Information Center. In this role, we provide information, training and support to families of infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities, birth to 26, help parents to participate effectively in their children's education and development and partner with professionals and policy makers to improve outcomes for all children with disabilities. Below are some highlights of our services:

- Individualized services to families are accessible in person or over the phone in English and Spanish and provide support groups, workshops and parent-to-parent matches and can be reached at (505)247-0192 or 1-800-524-5176.
- Our web site, <http://www.parentsreachingout.org>, has resources that may be helpful to families navigating the education of their child with disabilities.
- We coordinate an annual conference that both families and professionals (CEU's are available) find very valuable and can be supported with Title I funds.
- We also serve as New Mexico's Family to Family Health Care Information Center funded by the United States Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and can provide information to families and staff on waivers, SSI and other resources.

Our goal is to partner with school districts to ensure the best possible outcomes for New Mexico children with disabilities. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can support you in your efforts with trainings or workshops.

We look forward to working with you this school year.

Sincerely,

Naomi

Naomi Sandweiss MA for the Parents Reaching Out Team, Executive Director

Danielle Groeling, Education-Parent Training and Information Lead

Parents Reaching Out

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