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President's Message...

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Michigan Reading Association

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President's Message...

by Colby Sharp, MRA President 2020-2021

Dear Michigan Reading Association Members,

When you elected me to this position, I spent a lot of time thinking about how I would spend my year as president. I felt honored to lead this amazing organization. I thought about how much fun we'd have together sharing our favorite books, hanging out together at the annual conference, and finding ways to help each other become better educators. It is pretty wild to think about what our "normal" used to look like and all that has happened since we had to cancel our annual gathering last March.

It goes without saying that the 2020-2021 school year is unlike anything we could have ever imagined. Many of us started the year 100% virtual; the thought of teaching kids that we never met face-to-face seemed impossible only nine short months ago. Still, MRA members have found ways to build classroom communities without ever stepping foot in a classroom with students.

Some of you are teaching students in the classroom AND students at home. You are, in effect, doing two jobs. Watching you keep the kids in your classroom safe, while at the same time making learning engaging for your kids learning virtually, is nothing short of heroic.

I could go on and on about the amazing things we are doing in our different situations, but I only get one page. Also, we will hear some of your stories in this issue of *MRJ*, and they are both encouraging and instructive. Let's learn from one another.

Moreover, thank you for all that you do for kids, and for the countless ways that you are supporting other educators. It is inspiring. I am so proud to be a part of the MRA.

My year as president is going to look a lot different than I had ever imagined, but what I do know is that the mission remains the same. The MRA is here for you. We will find ways to support your work, and we will help you find amazing books to guide us on this mission.

More than ever, we need each other. Do not hesitate to reach out. You can reach out on Twitter (@colbysharp) or email me at: colbysharp@gmail.com.

Let's do this!

-Colby Sharp



Colby Sharp