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President's Message...

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President's Message...

by Theresa Hasenauer, MRA President 2019-2020

Hello Literacy Advocates! Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year. I hope that you took some time to be with friends and family this summer and were able to re-energize. I was fortunate to attend the Michigan Reading Association's (MRA) Summer Conference *Amplifying Student Voices* and was able to collaborate with educators and authors from all over the state. It was exciting to see a shift in how we approach instruction. Giving choices to our students is so important. There were lots of conversations about shifting instructional practices in the classroom.



Theresa Hasenauer

While striving to meet the needs of students is very important, collaborating with other educators should be part of the process. John Hattie (2016) states that Collective Teacher Efficacy (CTE) is the number one influence related to student achievement, with an effect size of 1.57. Collaborating together allows teachers to share expertise, reflect on instructional practices in the classroom, and evaluate the impact on student achievement. Educators need to be confident and believe they make an impact. Students taught by teachers who believe that they can significantly influence students' motivation and learning tend to have higher reading achievement scores than students whose teachers believe that there is little they can do in light of the impediments to learning posed by the environment (Tschannen-Moran & Johnson, 2011). Success as educators lies in a collective commitment and belief that all students can accomplish great things. Just as important, teachers' support of each other can raise self-efficacy when working together to reach a common goal.

The MRA's mission is *empowering all Michigan students and educators through literacy*. We accomplish this through community outreach, partnerships, collective action in committee and council work, and providing professional learning. This is all done through collaboration at board meetings, video conferencing, social media sites, blogs, and webinars. Additionally, we offer publications such as the *Michigan Reading Journal*; *Great Lakes*, *Great Books*; and our student-authored publication, *Kaleidoscope*. Our collective commitment is our mission. It's not only good for students, it's good for you too! Have a GREAT 2019-2020 school year.

References

- Hattie, J. (2016). Third Visible Learning Annual Conference: Mindframes and maximizers, Washington, DC, July 11, 2016.
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Theresa Hasenauer Ed.S. is currently enrolled at the University of Michigan-Flint in the doctoral program and has her National Certification in Literacy. She is a School Improvement Facilitator for the Macomb Intermediate School District and has been teaching for over 19 years. She can be reached at thasenauer@misd.net.