Welcome to a new school year! I am honored and excited to serve as MCEMSA President for the 2017-2018 school year. We continue to see the critical need our school library programs address. As the AASL (American Association of School Librarians) states, “the mission of the school library program is to ensure students and staff are effective users of ideas and information; students are empowered to be critical thinkers, enthusiastic readers, skillful researchers, and ethical users of information.” Our jobs are so valuable to ensuring students think critically about the information and news they obtain. With our guidance they can think about the source of their information, its quality, accuracy and credibility. Also by providing diverse collections, we enable enthusiastic readers to find books that reflect their experiences as well as provide windows into other people’s experiences. This helps to expand their world view and generate compassion. Building solid research skills allows students to gather information from many sources and discover where their passions lie as well as how they feel about issues that impact them. Finally, being ethical users of the information they gather is a lifelong skill that will impact the people and world around them.

As we start this school year, we will be working with students and staff in many different ways to ensure all students receive the education they deserve. Please join MCEMSA, and help our organization be a resource for professional development, networking and communication. We are planning a variety of events during the year, the calendar is on our website. We are always open to new suggestions, so please contact me with any thoughts or questions you may have. I welcome your ideas and involvement and look forward to seeing you in the coming months.

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