SAMPLE ISSUE

Changing How We “Do School”
Equitable Education Spaces
REMOTE LEARNING
Student Civic Engagement
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Refocus

As I write this, the education world is immersed in conversations about what school will look like in the fall; about how to assure the safety of all members of the school community; about providing equitable learning opportunities for all students; about assuring continued food distribution, transportation, and technical support; about handling the loss of learning from the disruption of the pandemic; about the heightened anxieties students and teachers are experiencing; and about planning and retooling for virtual learning.

The work of supporting and educating our middle schoolers at this unprecedented time has been monumental, often selfless, and you have done it with grace and determination. You learned to adapt, to be flexible. The pandemic has heightened our awareness of issues we always knew we needed to improve on, issues we now have no choice but to face. It forced a refocus on providing equitable learning spaces, tending to social-emotional needs (for both students and educators), building stronger partnerships with families, and using assessment as a means for learning, not as a final, irredeemable, snapshot-of-one-moment-in-time letter grade.

This summer AMLE held its first-ever Back to School Camp, convening middle school educators from around the world in support of each other and ultimately our students and their families. Camp offered three days of online sharing of resources, tools, and tips, and a chance to connect with others who share a commitment to doing whatever it takes to support and engage students. I was sure I spotted a swirling cloud of ideas and energy hovering in the stratosphere as I peered past my computer when Rick Wormeli gave us so much to think about during his Fireside Chat!

It’s my hope that we continue to push our thinking and support each other as we dig deeper into caring for our students and helping them to be resilient, collaborative, creative, and resourceful citizens, even amidst a pandemic and the unrest prompted by glaring racial and social inequities. We wish to offer you hope, courage, connections, and inspiration as you start a new school year. Our students deserve it.

April Tibbles, Editor
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