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Coffee with Molly

IN DIFFICULT TIMES

The world events over the last week have been daunting. Like many of you, I am worried about our world and the impact that the events in the Middle East will have on all of us. As school people, we do not operate in vacuums. What impacts the external world can impact our schools and our students as well. It can also impact our staffs. My personal prayer is always for peace in our world and safety. As you can imagine, I am praying even harder for this.

As leaders, our role during difficult times is to be a leader. For me, that leadership looks like being a calm presence in a storm, listening and monitoring events to accurately judge what we need to do, to be open and available to our teams to understand their concerns and issues. To be empathetic and caring and to keep moving forward. Sometimes these things are more easily written than done! Insecurity, fear and misinformation are paramount right now! Navigating it can be a challenge. Knowing you and our membership, I know that you can do this! You all have an amazing track record of addressing issues and challenges.



For me, I remember when I was in the first grade when the Cuban Missile Crisis happened. I listened attentively to my parents at the dinner table, was watching tv, and also understood that the world was on the brink of something. While I did not understand all the nuances and realities of it, I knew something was brewing. I knew my parents and teachers were worried. I lived in Long Beach, California and was very near the McDonnell Douglas headquarters. At that point in time, they were a major defense contractor. Every day at school, we did drop and hide under your desk drills. I knew something was happening and it scared me. I would bet that our students today are feeling some of that tension and fear that I remember!

Tension and fear are often represented by emotional reactions or outbursts. Chances are that issues like behaviors, absenteeism and disagreements may escalate during this time. It may not only be our students but our colleagues reacting as well. I am so grateful that you are there to make sure that the role transportation plays is one of safety and care! Remember to breath during this time and give yourself grace for your mental health as well!



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Years ago, a very respected mentor of mine told me something that I have never forgotten. He told me that my life was not a mistake, I was where I was for a reason and that while I may not always understand the whys of that- the universe put me there on purpose. He said my purpose was to do my best and be there. I believe that to this day. I am in my current position for a reason. This advice has served me well in my life and my career. It has also enabled me to keep my passion and enthusiasm even when the world may challenge me. I feel the same way for our NAPT and Foundation families!

Thank you for being there for your students and your organizations. Thank you for showing up in good and bad times. Thank you for your professionalism and dedication. What you do matters! Who you are matters!

