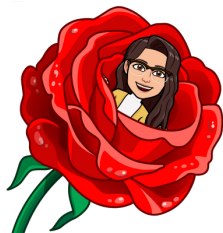


DKG Sisters!

We are learning and teaching in unprecedented times. As we learn how to cope with the tensions of political atmosphere and racial tensions looming over our heads, we are asked to pivot our instruction instantaneously to adapt to a remote learning environment. In this learning curve, we are asked to effectively teach children from behind a computer screen where we struggle to form relationships with our students. We miss the face-to-face interaction that motivates us as teachers and leaders as nostalgia creeps up behind us. However, no challenge is greater than our purpose for being an educator. The reality is that we are stronger because of what we are currently learning. We are stronger for our students.

In the light of these new circumstances we have to be willing to face the challenges of technology, address the inequities of systemic racism being brought to light, and encourage active citizenship. In this calling (and I intentionally use the word calling because I know we are meant to here, in this situation, for our kids), we are adapting and moving forward. This biennium's theme is Teachers: Agents of Change for this very reason. We are moving forward in spite of change. We are changing our perspectives, we are changing our teaching, and we are changing our learning. Together we embrace change as a productive struggle equivalent to those five minutes of wait time we give our students. We need this time to think and react. I ask that you do not shy away from the discomfort but choose to conquer it.

As we move into this year of change, DKG and education in general, we know will not look the same. We are teaching in a time of a pandemic, but we are learning how to make educational decisions that reflect what is best for our students. Even though traditions are being canceled for safety reasons and our meetings might look different, I hope that we are able to embrace this change and move forward. Through our companionship and discussion, we will have made a change that reflects our purpose for being educators. Just know that we are all in this together and we are always learning. #lifeLONGlearning #bettertogether



Tiffany Long