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Advocacy Reflection

Advocacy for the library is a way of life. I believe a strong librarian needs to eat, sleep, drink, dream, and breathe it in all aspects of her life. Advocacy is a continual process that you need to be on top of in order to maintain your relationships and promote the important work that is being done.

As a SLMS, I will translate my plans into action by forming partnerships with parents, community members, businesses, organizations and local politicians. I will work collaboratively with teachers doing PDs and connecting the curriculum so that my lessons support the work they are doing in the classroom and connect learning for the students. Also very importantly, I will provide the principal with annual reports, invite him in to see digital projects completed and to celebrate with the students on all the awesome work they are doing.

By focusing on technology and meeting the Common Core Standards, I am bringing learning to the forefront, making it fun and interesting and advocating for the library all at the same time. My plan allows the stakeholders to view the library as active and cutting edge. If I lead teachers and conduct PDs and offer help, I am immersing educators in knowledge, enlightening them and essentially making their job easier. I model for them how to work smartly. The principal and parents want to see the students do well and as long as I show them how they can have the desired results, they will happily support reading, technology and innovation.

My school library advocacy efforts recently started in the spring when I was awarded the Fulfilling the Promise Scholarship. My school doesn't have a library, but I have advocated by enrolling my AP in the Mansfield administrators' library awareness summer course. In addition, I took the initiative from a writing unit grade meeting and put basic notes into a curriculum map, which I presented and distributed at the next meeting. The district administrator who came in to conduct and assist in a PD was so impressed that she made it into a district example for other schools to model their curriculum maps after. Incidentally, we had not even learned curriculum mapping at our school but I had been recently taught at Mansfield about it. I have been a very active grant writer with Donorschoose.org for nine years. I enjoy writing technology grants since my students do not have much access to it. This summer, the NEA funded a netbook grant I wrote. In the future, I plan to expand my grant writing and utilize the tips, tricks and techniques I recently acquired courtesy of this course so that others can understand the importance of and appreciate a library.