experience due to my age has led principals to include Diana in cases involving my students, without consulting me. I have felt frustrated that not only am I not consulted but that I'm sometimes not trusted to handle the situation effectively due to my age.

DD: I am aware of sometimes being in a rut with my approaches to students and their situations. I greatly appreciate Laura's fresh ideas and different perspec tives in dealing with what may seem like mundane cases. Conversely, I can offer Laura a sounding board based on my years of experience and am comfort able in that role. Again, unfortunately, this level of experience sometimes causes the administration and teachers to auto matically summon me in difficult cases rather than consulting the other school counselors. Without communication and collaboration between the two of us, this could potentially undermine our working relationship. But we don't allow it.

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LN: Parent contact is another facet of school counseling that requires varied skills. When I first started inter8 (d i)18.8 (80 Tc 0 Tw 17.57 0 Td (-)Tj 0.003

LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

BY AMY DAUBLE

AsI complete my third year as an elementary school counselor, my favorite line is '1 'm still learning every day." My veteran school counselor colleagues usually say, "So aml ."I learned so much from the veteran school counselorl worked with my first year on the job. She was there to give me a background of the community, answer her phone when I had a question and reassure me that it was normal to feel overwhelmed trying to accommodate three school sites.To this day,I still count on her knowledge and experience when I am navigating a challenging situation. I n return, she appreciates my knowledge of Google Drive and assistance in creating her Linked n andT witter accounts. Although she may not be best friends with data, she respects my eagerness to incorporate data at the elementary level. There's an understanding and respect we have for each other's energy, and that's how we're able to collaborate and work effectively.

Navigating the generation gap can present challenges. Learning how to respect each other's knowledge base, comfort zones and experience takes work from both sides. Effective collaboration begins with the attempt and willingness to understand each other. One of the most common collaboration challenges we millennials have is that we grew up in world where technology was

incorporated into learning, and some veteran school counselors have not. Since technology may come easier for me, I can't assume they already know how to use Google Drive for everything. For example, I was talking about gathering student data via Google forms at a collaboration meeting. The other school counselor was staring at me with wide eyes like I was speaking a different language. At first I was afraid I was going to be met with resistance. -owever, this led to a great discussion about when technology can be efficient and when it cannot. We were able to talk about our different opinions on data collection, technology and new and old approaches. This is where I learned communication is key in understanding each other.

I have also learned that finding a balance in each other's energy is important in collaboration. When we're able to respect each other's enthusiasm for different things, we're able to appreciate what we can learn from each other.T here have been times whenI thinkI have a new idea about decreasing the amount of student tardies, and thenI find out they tried that strategy a few years ago.T here's a special energy in the collaboration process of discovering what worked, what didn't and what's worth trying again.

Whether it's navigating the history of an idea or concept or utilizing technology in collecting data, we're all learning from each other. Some veteran school counselors are learning whyl cringe at the g-word, andl 'm learning why they cringe at electronic documentation. It creates opportunity for discusT J r0.5i. o-3.2 n an-3.1 de-.2 m-1. um-3. c tu-.3 d5.8 e0.5 en