



June 29, 2016

Dear DCPS Parents and Community Members,

On October 1, 2016, I will be leaving my role as Chancellor of DCPS. Simply put, I am ready to take on new challenges, and I have complete confidence that the team we have built at DCPS is prepared to drive our work forward under new leadership.

The past nine years have been a true gift. Since I began my work at DCPS, first as Deputy Chancellor and then as Chancellor, I have had opportunities that I will cherish for the rest of my life. Just as it is for our students, the things that stand out for me most are not our remarkable statistical accomplishments or our rising test scores. The memories that I hold dear are of the people I have met and the experiences that I have had during my time with DCPS.

I will remember the amazing educators that I have seen in action over the past nine years, like those in the autism classroom I visited at Burroughs ES this year or the enthusiastic staff I saw entering the Ballou HS campus when it was first rebuilt.

I will remember the amazing principals who dedicate themselves to the work of creating great schools for our students every day -- principals who know every student's name, and work to address every student's needs.

I will remember the passionate and committed parents I have had the pleasure of working with. While we may not have always agreed, I have always admired your dedication to your students.

Perhaps most importantly, I will remember our students and the light that glows within each of them as they learn and grow. I have seen students visit foreign countries, learn to read, learn to ride a bike, and meet the president and first lady. Through each of these experiences, and hundreds of others, I saw students' understanding of their world expand.

That is what I will miss most of all as I move on to new challenges.

Over the past nine years, DCPS has been through many changes, from new Chancellors to new Mayors to new principals. Through all of these changes, the district has thrived. With my departure on October 1, 2016, the district will have the chance to thrive under a new leader.

I am grateful to Mayor Bowser, both for the opportunity to continue to lead our school district, and for her support during my transition. I am pleased that Mayor Bowser has selected Chief of Schools, John Davis, one of many amazing DCPS team members, to serve as interim Chancellor beginning on October 1. John has over two decades of experience in education as a teacher, principal, and district leader. He also is a DCPS parent, and has a strong commitment to serving all our students. I expect many of our team members, including principals and central office staff, to continue their work under John's leadership.

I am proud of the work we have done together and I am excited to see our district continue to thrive.

Sincerely,

Kaya Henderson
Chancellor