



February 10, 2017

To the Students of DC Public Schools,

On my 10th day at DC Public Schools, I am inspired by the students I've met across every Ward of the city. You are eager, you are ambitious, you are creative, and you are passionate about school. I am honored to serve as your Chancellor, and look forward to meeting more of you in the coming weeks and months.

Earlier this morning, the new U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos joined me on my school visit to Jefferson Academy, a DCPS middle school. At Jefferson, Secretary DeVos met students, heard from parents who support DCPS, observed the learning happening in classrooms, and listened to ideas from teachers. I was proud of what she saw and the voices she heard. They all expressed strong support for our school district.

I understand that some people were upset by Secretary DeVos's visit to one of our schools. I happen to believe it is important to keep talking, rather than refuse to engage. I am glad that she asked to visit DCPS. I wanted her to see the tremendous things happening in our district so that she will understand that traditional public schools are capable of extraordinary achievements. You are too important to the success of our country for me, as the leader of our school system, not to highlight the amazing students you are and the work you produce.

We in DCPS believe that support for public education is essential to our democracy. Every child in our country deserves the opportunity to learn and thrive in excellent public schools. It was important for me to share this message first hand with Secretary DeVos.

I am confident that DCPS students will inspire our nation and its leaders. I know you inspire me!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AW", written in a cursive style.

Antwan Wilson  
Chancellor, DC Public Schools