My Fellow Educators,

I am excited to serve as your ambassador this year as the Mississippi Teacher of the Year. This is an opportunity that I do not take lightly. I promise to work hard to represent our state’s public educators the way we deserve to be represented. I truly believe in the validity of a Mississippi public education, and this is because of dedicated teachers and administrators who place the needs of our children before anything else.

Educators across the state have worked extremely hard the past few years in light of exceedingly challenging circumstances and are some of the most dedicated individuals I have ever encountered. Without question, teachers and administrators alike stepped up and supported the needs of students no matter the situation. While I have always felt a sense of pride as a Mississippi public educator, I have never been prouder than I am now.

Moreover, I want to welcome you back to another school year. I know that you are working tirelessly organizing your classrooms, overseeing the logistics of your schools and districts in an effort to best serve and support the children. Thank you for the incredible dedication you demonstrate year in and year out. I hope each and every one of you were able to rest this summer, spend time with your families and friends and renew your energy.

Teachers, while returning amidst the hustle and bustle a new year entails, don’t forget your purpose. Focus on your “why”! Why are you in the classroom? Of course you are there to teach the curriculum, but more importantly, you are there to teach and support the whole child.

This is not only going to require focus, but also passion. As a matter of fact, I truly believe that this passion is what provides the best protection and prevention from teacher burnout.

My passion is teaching students the importance of civil discourse. I love teaching my subject area, but my passion is teaching students to find and use their voice appropriately. Every lesson I plan, every decision I make centers around promoting civil discourse.

I challenge you to find your passion, cling to and make it the center of everything you do. It is this diverse set of passions that allow us to reach all of our students and, in turn, further develop the future of our great state.

Upon your return to school, remember that each and every child you teach needs you. In the face of adversity, focus on even the smallest victories! Any day that you can reach a child is a successful day. I feel confident that is what each and every one of you will be doing, serving and supporting our children. Thank you for that. Thank you for tireless efforts to make Mississippi Public Education the best that it can be. It is an honor to be one of you!

Sincerely,

Brittany “Skye” Morgan

2022 Mississippi Teacher of the Year