



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Tim Walz

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155-1611

September 3, 2019

Dear Minnesotans,

Back to school season is a tradition that means a lot to me and my family. This fall our daughter Hope is starting her first year at the University of Minnesota, and our son Gus is starting another exciting year of middle school. My wife, Gwen, and I met while we were teaching, and taught in Mankato Public Schools together for 10 years. This will be the first time in 30 years that neither one of us will be serving in a school. My father was also a teacher so I learned early on that the opportunity to help students learn and achieve their goals is incredibly rewarding. From the classroom to the lunchroom to the football field, I loved every day that I worked with students. Every fall, I still miss setting up my room for open house, meeting my new students and picking out my outfit for picture day.

It's an exciting time, and I want to thank every Minnesotan working hard to make this school year the best one yet. Parents, teachers, principals, bus drivers, my fellow lunchroom warriors and football coaches, and so many more – thank you. As a former teacher, I've seen the power of education to improve lives and ignite dreams. Your dedication and determination will help shape the next generation of leaders and the future of our state. Your work matters, and I am grateful to be working alongside all of you for our students.

We face many challenges in education. Our achievement gaps are unacceptable. Teachers continue to do more with less, and districts continue to struggle to make ends meet. I am dedicated to solving problems with you, and helping build Minnesota into the Education State.

Although I'm not packing my lunch for the first day of school or writing my class syllabus, I want you all to know that I appreciate everyone who is and that you have a partner in your teacher-governor. I hope you all have a wonderful school year!

Thank you,

Tim Walz