AN UNTOLD MESSAGE OF A TEACHER

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"We are at an extraordinary time" by Anthony Mac Carten. I'd like to make this statement my salvo to this most opportune time to render a message to you.

A congratulatory message is usually given when something "great" has been accomplished. Over the years, I have been talking about greatness. You are a living testimony of how education strove passionately to achieve and celebrate its greatness in the past decades. Each school stood strong amidst the crisis we are all facing even at this very moment I am crafting this message for you. It would not have been possible if not for the commitment of students, teachers, and parents. In all of my meetings, webinars, talks, and assemblies, I always emphasize how important the teacher-student engagement is. I would say, it is the soul of every work that we do in school. We can get tired of doing the paper works. We can get tired of preparing lessons. We can get tired of following instructions. However, when this priced student-teacher engagement is not present, all that we do is nothing but a waste of time.

What gives life to our duties and responsibilities as educators and learners is the soul of education, the engagement. The present crisis makes it hard for us to deliver instruction but we cannot deny the fact that it also posed a challenge we must all surmount. There is no way but to face it. And while we face it, we do with a strong heart and a prepared mind. The pandemic made clear our priorities and made us realize what is really important. When crises come, innovations are born. We may not be able to change the present circumstance but we can and we must always choose how to respond to it. Arriving at best choices may not be a piece of cake and that's where partnership

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comes in. Greatness would not be that celebratory if it was only achieved by one person. Grandly, it would be celebrated when contributions and shares are done by the members of the school community namely, the students, the parents, and teachers, especially in this extraordinary time.

As you close a chapter of your educational endeavor, do so with a grateful heart. Feel grand. Feel fulfilled. Feel inspired. Why? It is because of a simple reason, when this crisis conquered the world, a lot lost something; job, opportunities, career, sanity, and loved ones. But you are given something much more than a treasure. Your education is something that even the pandemic won't be able to take away from you. In the pursuit of your success, you must realize that more than the merits you are receiving now, you have also received teachings and ideals of your effective teachers. And these, in my opinion, have equipped you with the necessary competencies, skills, and values that will assist you as you unveil the new chapter of your academic quest.

May the spirit of zeal, compassion, and humility live in you. More than the greatness you are meant to have, bear in mind and in heart that being great also means being good. A lot of successful and accomplished citizens of our country have a great mind but don't have a good heart. May you be game-changers, playmakers, and life-bringers to the last, the least, and the lost. May the great and good Lord bless you all.

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