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### What Drives Me?

Teachers drive me. They pave roads for children to have the skills and opportunities to be successful in their endeavors. They paint striped lines to guide their students towards taking responsibility and striving to do their best. They provide social and emotional supports to every one of their students, giving them the tools to cope with disappointments and failures. They go the extra mile to provide resources which encourage students to flourish. Teachers are the underappreciated workers who do more for our children, and consequently our country, that no amount of thanks can be properly given.

I have had quite a few teachers throughout my educational career who have driven me down roads I never thought I would go. The passion that many of my teachers have had is what made me a better person. I have learned much from these educators who designed projects which allowed all students the opportunity to succeed. Those projects included ways for the visual, auditory, written, interactive, group collaborative, and artistic learning preferences of each student to shine. This allowed every student to feel that their strengths have a place to be showcased. Most of my teachers have gone out of their way to assure that no child will be left behind. My teachers have stayed long after the school day is over, in order to provide extra help for their students. So many of my teachers have made an impact on me to such an extent, that I have decided to pay it forward by going to college and becoming a teacher myself.

Most recently, in my senior year of high school, I have taken a class that is about

learning what it takes to be a teacher. It has provided me with opportunities to sit in the driver's seat. Just the other day, I observed an online meeting after school which had to do with a committee of teachers who were discussing various topics that pertain to teaching in a COVID-19 world. Ideas were thrown back and forth about various subjects, but ultimately nothing was given the green light and agreed upon. One of my teachers spoke up, with tears in her eyes and fire in her voice, as she expressed her disappointment in the lack of leadership and decision-making on behalf of all students. This was not the first time I had witnessed such a display of passion from an educator, but is by far one of the most moving. She wanted them to have the best education they could possibly be given, and was willing to run her car into the ground to make that happen. I want to be a teacher like her.

Teachers drive students to success. Teachers provide students with fuel to pursue their dreams. Teachers build vehicles that take students beyond any place they had hoped to go. Educators are my biggest inspiration to create roads for the generations to come. I can hardly wait to get started!