## 2022 Maryland Teacher of the Year Brianna Ross



Brianna Ross has forged a reputation for being a passionate student advocate who views teaching as a "revolutionary act of love". Ross graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Developmental Psychology and a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction. With a certificate in Administration and Supervision from Loyola University of Maryland, Ross is pursuing a doctoral degree in Urban Educational Leadership from Morgan State University.

A former elementary school teacher, she now teaches sixth grade World History and serves as the Social Studies Department Chair at Deer Park Middle Magnet School in Randallstown, Maryland. As her school's equity liaison, Ross works to interrupt teacher biases and practices that perpetuate inequity while building teacher capacity to create inclusive classrooms. Ross writes social studies curriculum that highlights more diverse perspectives, connects historical topics to current events, and encourages students to find solutions to real-world problems. Each year, Ross coordinates a Summer Transition Program to support incoming sixth graders socially, emotionally, and academically as they prepare for the expectations of middle school. Ross was a New Leaders Council fellow in 2018 and worked with other changemakers to identify progressive solutions for a more sustainable and equitable future in Maryland.

As a teacher of Black and brown students, Ross believes that teaching must be grounded in love. She knows that it is critical to create space where students of color can show up as their authentic selves and know that they are loved, valued, and seen.