



# Stafford Public Schools

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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**Patricia A. Collin, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Staff, Parents, and Community Members:

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the School Paraprofessional Advisory Council established the Connecticut Paraprofessional of the Year Program. Renamed the Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Program, its purpose is the following: *to recognize the important role of the paraeducator in supporting student achievement.* Through this program, each school district is allowed to nominate one paraeducator for this award, *who has demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication in the performance of his/her job, thereby earning the respect and admiration of students, teachers, administrators, coworkers and parents.*

The nominee must meet the following criteria: Assisting teachers/providers with building & maintaining effective instructional teams; assisting teachers/providers with maintaining learner-centered supportive environments; supporting teachers/providers with planning & organizing learning experiences; assisting teachers/providers with engaging students in learning & assisting in instruction; assisting teachers/providers with assessing learner needs, progress & achievement; and meeting standards of professional and ethical conduct. After collectively reviewing nominations from each building administrator, I am pleased to announce that **Mrs. Elizabeth Lackman has been selected as our district's 2018 Paraeducator of the Year.**

*With over nine years of service to the district, Liz has been a paraeducator at the middle school since 2014. She is a hardworking, dedicated professional, who truly makes a difference in the lives of students. She understands the importance of building a positive and trusting rapport with students, particularly those who struggle to be successful. In attestation to her commitment to the well being of students, Liz researched de-escalation strategies and restorative practices in order to be most effective and aligned with the district's strategic action relative to cultural responsiveness. She works closely with all staff and shares resources to promote positive student outcomes.*

*According to colleagues, Liz has an "infectious, positive attitude which can change anyone's day." She is encouraging, supportive and nurturing. Students and staff speak highly her and the impact she has had on a positive school climate at Stafford Middle School.*

Asked to complete the nomination packet, Liz will write responses to prompts about her role as a paraeducator and provide three letters of recommendation, all of which will be submitted to the CSDE by June 2nd. The Connecticut Paraeducator of the Year will be announced during the Annual Statewide Paraeducators of the Year Conference. The CT Paraeducator will also become a member of the School Paraprofessional Advisory Council and represent our State at the National Resource Center for Paraeducators (NRCP) Conference.

Other staff members nominated for this honor were the following: Ms. Kathy Callahan, WSS; Ms. Cheryl Verney, SES; Ms. Janet VanDeventer, SVS; and Ms. Deb Richard, SHS. Please join me in congratulating all of our nominees and wishing Liz well as she represents Stafford Public Schools in the State competition.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Collin, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools