



# Stafford Public Schools

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

16 LEVINTHAL RUN

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT 06076

TEL. 860-684-2208 • FAX 860-684-5172

May 1, 2017

**Patricia A. Collin, Ed.D.**

*Superintendent of Schools*

Dear Staff, Parents, and Community Members:

Initiated in 1952 by the Connecticut State Department of Education, the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program is one of the oldest and most prestigious honors through which excellence in teaching is recognized. Through an annual process, which begins at the local school district level and continues at the national level, the program *celebrates excellence in teaching by recognizing teachers who have inspired a love for learning in their students and who have distinguished themselves in the profession.*

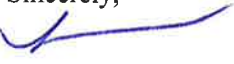
Nominated by her colleagues and selected by a district committee, I am pleased to announce that **Ms. Jennifer Ledbetter is our 2018 Teacher of the Year.** Currently a kindergarten teacher at Staffordville School, Jen is a graduate of Evangel University with a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education and is currently working toward her Master's Degree in Early Childhood through Eastern Connecticut State University. Prior to beginning her tenure as a pre-kindergarten teacher at Staffordville School in 2009, Jen taught first grade in Chelsea, Massachusetts, and pre-kindergarten in Malden, Massachusetts.

Jen describes her mission as a teacher to be threefold: to promote positive learning in a safe environment; to spark student enthusiasm for learning; and to provide a strong foundation for lifelong learning. Her goal is to provide students with a rich learning environment where they feel safe to explore, initiate learning, and feel free to express themselves. Jen recognizes the power of music as a learning tool, through which she engages children in song to prepare them for transitions, to state expectations, and to reinforce content being learned. She recognizes the importance of truly getting to know each of her students and surveys parents at the beginning of each school year in order to gather information regarding individual learning needs and challenges. She regularly communicates with families through a variety of forums in order to promote parental engagement and promote a positive relationship.

Her colleagues note that she "respects children and shows a sincere interest in meeting their personal needs", she "is a team player", and "works well collaboratively with all of her colleagues and is willing to share ideas, activities, and materials that will enhance the education of all Staffordville students." In addition, Jen "enthusiastically participates in afterschool functions," and is a "genuinely compassionate persona and role model." She is also recognized for her ability to differentiate instruction to promote student achievement.

Mrs. Ledbetter will be asked to complete a rigorous application, which includes a copy of her typical weekly teaching schedule, three letters of recommendation, and written responses to seven prompts, all of which will be submitted to the CSDE in August. Other nominees, who participated in the district selection process include Diane Glettenburg, SHS; David Gorski, SHS; Deidriene Knowlton, SMS; Scott Martin, SHS; Nichole Martorelli, SHS; Sarah Myles, SES; Magdalena O'Brien, SES and SMS; Jacqueline Sidor, SES; and Jean Titus, SMS. Also nominated were Donna Bourque, SMS, and Mary Ellen Vigeant, WSS, who chose not to go forward with the district selection process. Please join me in congratulating all of our nominees and wishing Jen well as she represents Stafford Public Schools in the State competition.

Sincerely,



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