



# Stafford Public Schools

## Office of the Superintendent of Schools

16 Levinthal Run  
Stafford Springs, CT 06076  
Tel. 860.684.2208 · Fax 860.684.5172  
www.stafford.k12.ct.us

Steven A. Moccio  
*Superintendent of Schools*

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Dear Staff, Parents, and Community Members:

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the School Paraprofessional Advisory Council have established the Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Program to recognize the important role of the paraeducator in supporting student achievement. The program honors paraeducators that have demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication while earning the respect and admiration of staff, students, and parents.

Through the program, each school district is allowed to nominate one paraeducator for the award. Nominations were collected from each of the five schools and evaluated based on the key competencies for Connecticut paraeducators as defined by the CSDE. The model defines the following six primary areas of responsibilities for paraeducators:

1. Assisting teachers/providers with building and maintaining effective instructional teams.
2. Assisting teachers/providers with maintaining learner-centered supportive environments.
3. Supporting teachers/providers with planning and organizing learning experiences.
4. Assisting teachers/providers with engaging students in learning and assisting in instruction.
5. Assisting teachers/providers with assessing learner needs, progress and achievement.
6. Meeting standards of professional and ethical conduct.

The administrative team is pleased to announce the selection of **Mrs. Deborah Richard as Stafford's 2019 Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year**. Deborah will now be asked to submit an application for consideration as the Connecticut Paraeducator of the Year, which is announced next December at the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Ceremony at The Bushnell Auditorium.

Deborah has been a hardworking and dedicated paraeducator at Stafford High School since 2011. She is a caring, thoughtful, and flexible individual that far exceeds her responsibilities. Her positive encouragement allows students to truly know she cares about them as she continually checks their understanding and progress. Students absolutely know she has their best interest in mind as she takes the time to hear their concerns and even learns their individual content so she can better assist them in understanding the material presented. Deborah is well known for her practical suggestions and insight as to how students may understand a concept in a different way. According to her colleagues, Deborah "needs no direction as to what works best for our identified students and is proactive in her approach to daily tasks... She is extremely organized and offers insights into areas she feels students may or may not experience difficulties."

Other staff members nominated for this honor were the following: Ms. Meagan Coporale, WSS; Ms. Pat Laska, SVS; Ms. Amanda Mayer, SMS; Ms. Lisa Ostrowski, SMS; Ms. Janet VanDeventer, SVS; and Ms. Cheryl Verney, SES. Please join me in congratulating all of our nominees and wishing Deborah well as she represents Stafford Public Schools in the state competition.

Sincerely,

Steven A. Moccio  
Superintendent of Schools