



Stafford Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

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Steven A. Moccio
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Staff, Parents, and Community Members:

The Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program was initiated in 1952 and is one of the oldest and most prestigious honors through which excellence in teaching is recognized. Through an annual process beginning at the local school district level and continuing to the national level, the program celebrates teachers that have distinguished themselves in the profession and have inspired a love of learning in their students.

Nominated by her colleagues and selected by a district committee of her peers, I am pleased to announce that **Ms. Jacqueline Sidor is the Stafford 2019 Teacher of the Year**. Jackie is a graduate of Central Connecticut State University where she earned a B.S.E.D. in Art Education and a Master of Science degree in Art Education. She began her career as a 0.8 FTE art teacher travelling between Staffordville School, West Stafford School, and Stafford Elementary School. Jackie was appointed as the full-time art teacher at Stafford Elementary School in 2014 where she invigorates the school with creativity and enthusiasm while providing students with a venue to showcase their talents through school displays. Her personal commitment transcends the traditional art class, as she can often be found before school with students in her room weaving. Whether it be concert decorations or when she created a fast motion video on how to make a mural of the community, Jackie leads the way and brings people together. School culture and climate are instilled in students through Jackie's work as she collaborates with teachers to make Stafford Elementary School a warm, welcoming environment. Her use of a positive behavior system allows students to be rewarded for good behavior with either the Golden Paint Brush or Silver Paint Brush Award that can be proudly displayed outside of the classrooms.

Within Jackie's essay for consideration she speaks of building her students' confidence, sparking imagination, and inspiring students to explore and think creatively. Her work within the classroom is not solely regarding their artistic ability, but rather instilling the power in each student to believe in themselves and become extraordinary problem solvers. Jackie recognizes the cross-curricular possibilities present in the art classroom and maximizes the opportunity to allow students to be themselves while celebrating the differences within others. Collaboration and creativity go hand-in-hand as Jackie helps students build connections to their local community through displays within the schools and community. Jackie's students have worked alongside the Main Street Business Association where they displayed work on Main Street and worked on a collaborative mural downtown. Through Jackie's hard work and dedication to her students, she has created an environment where students are comfortable and their imaginations can run wild.

Other staff members who participated in the selection process include: Mrs. Adrian DePellegrini, SES; Ms. Jennifer Forziati, SVS; Mr. Scott Martin, SHS; Ms. Kim Robbins, WSS. Also nominated, but who chose not to go forward with district consideration were: Ms. Donna Bourque, SMS; Ms. Laurie Dillon, SHS; Ms. Patricia Kritzman, SMS; and Ms. Lisa Lobik, PK-8. Please join me in congratulating all of our nominees and wishing Jackie well as she represents Stafford Public Schools in the State competition.

Sincerely,

Steven A. Moccio
Superintendent of Schools