



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 four 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.

Margaret A.D. Maynard has been named the Stafford 2023 Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year. This year's award recognition is one that comes with great sadness, yet is an opportunity to celebrate the outstanding contributions of Mrs. Maynard to the district. Mrs. Maynard lost a battle with illness on January 6, 2022 and the Stafford Public Schools lost a wonderful employee and person. Mrs. Maynard was a paraeducator with the district for over fourteen years. Prior to shifting to her role as the in-school suspension supervisor at Stafford High School, she had previously served as a daily substitute at Stafford Middle School.

The nomination for her candidacy clearly stated the impact that she has had on supporting students in the district. "Marge put her heart into helping the students, and making sure they attended activities, with her own money." Mrs. Maynard was an active member of the CSEA Local 2011, SEIU, the union representing our non-certified employees. It is also noted that the Stafford Public School's local paraeducator award will hereby be renamed the Margaret A.D. Maynard Paraeducator of the Year Award in future years.

The other building finalists nominated for this honor were the following: Ernestine Kuter, SMS and Janice Morton, WSS.

Sincerely,

Steven A. Moccio
Superintendent of Schools