



BULLDOGS TAKE PRIDE* IN UNIFIED SPORTS PROGRAM AND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CLASS

Stafford High School (SHS) is pleased to announce impressive performances by students in Unified Sports Program and the Research and Development (R+D) class.

Stafford, CT, November 24, 2016

Stafford High School was proud to be notified that its Unified Sports Program had been named a “Unified Champion Banner School” by the Special Olympics International. This national award will be presented to Stafford High School at the annual Unified Leadership Summit on December 9th at the Aetna in Hartford. The Stafford Unified Sports Program is coordinated by Stafford High School Athletic Director Damian Frassinelli, Stafford High School School Psychologist, Laura Hayes, and Colleen Martin, Stafford High School Special Education Teacher. The program is also supported by many Stafford teachers, staff, students, and parents. This program connects students with special needs with regular education students in a positive environment. The program teaches, among other things, acceptance, teamwork, patience, and a community spirit for all students.

Stafford High School was also proud to see its R+D class recently compete in the Connecticut Electrathon for the first time. This competition, which occurs on November 4th in Lakeville, CT at Limerock Park, provides high school students the opportunity:

■ *To drive an electric powered vehicle as far as possible on a closed circuit course for one hour, using a limited electrical supply.*

■ *To provide a forum where skill and ingenuity may be displayed.*

■ *To provide public awareness and understanding of efficient electrical vehicles.*

(<http://ctelectrathon.org/>, 2016)

Stafford was not only proud to have the chance to participate in a competition, but pleasantly surprised to finish in first place in the competition. The R + D class, taught by Mr. David Gorski and Ms. Nichole Martorelli, was graciously lent a car at the beginning of the school year by Somers High School and after making several modifications, finished the competition completing 46 laps.



Stafford High School R + D class (from left to right--Luke Broadhurst, Schuyler Lamoureux (unseen behind Luke), Chase Walbridge, Billy Bernier, Ethan Lawlor, Nick Ouellette, Mike Bachiochi, Aiden Goodwin (in car), Tim Noto, Jared Rummel, Morgan Burkey, Joe Fonicello)

*P.R.I.D.E.

Stafford High School, in partnership with students, families and the community, strives to nurture learners that are Productive, Responsible, Independent, and Dedicated to Excellence.

Information for the above press release comes from the email and website below. If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Marco Pelliccia at 860 684-4233 or email at pelliccim@stafford.k12.ct.us.

On behalf of the CIAC Unified Sports staff I'd like to congratulate you and your school on being identified as a Unified Champion Banner School. This is a national award sponsored by Special Olympics International. We are planning to make the award presentation at our annual Unified Leadership Summit on December 9th at the Aetna in Hartford. If you haven't already registered to attend the Summit I hope you'll consider doing so. You can register by [Clicking here](#). The Aetna requires that all registrations be completed by November 22nd and that all adults attending show an official identification upon arrival. Members from Special Olympics International will be on hand to present the banners to the Champion Schools.

Congratulations again. The Unified program at your school certainly serves as a model not only for Connecticut schools but for high schools throughout the country.

George J. Synnott

Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC)

Director, Special Olympics Unified Sports

Connecticut Electrathon--<http://ctelectrathon.org/>