

**Stafford Public Schools
Accomplishments and Achievements
2013-2014 and 2014-2015**

School/District & Academic Program Awards & Achievements

- Recognized as the 3rd Best District by Independent Financial Organization, Nerdwallet.com, for “Best School Districts for the Buck in Connecticut”
- Demonstrated Compliance Standards with Federal Head Start Monitoring Protocol
- Participation in the Smarter Balanced Pilot Assessments and the Connecticut Common Core Practice Tests
- Implementation of New Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) Course at SHS: Research and Development [Multi-disciplinary (Technology & Physics) and project-based]
- Implementation of Video Game Development Course at SHS
- Development of Resource Link on District Homepage to Raise Awareness Among Students, Parents, and the Community about Expectations for Common Core Standards and the Smarter Balanced Assessments
- Implementation of Programs After School in Stafford (P.A.S.S.) at SES for the 7th Year
- Development and Full Implementation of New Educator Evaluation Plan for Teachers and Administrators per New CSDE Mandates and Guidelines
- Implementation of Talent Ed, Web-based Evaluation Software Program
- Implementation of Three-Year Technology Plan (2012- 2015)
- Curriculum Projects Completed for New Courses at SHS: Personal Finance, Unified Art, and Video Game Development
- Implementation of New Common Core-aligned Writing Program, Grades Kindergarten through 5 (Calkins Units of Study)
- Adoption of Two Textbooks at Stafford High School: AP Biology and Health
- Implementation of the new Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy for Stafford High School
- Creation of Digital Folders on District’s Teacher Resource Drive for Professional Articles Related to Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM) Modules
- Continuation of the Development and Integration of High Quality Technology-rich Teaching and Learning: Web 2.0 tools, *Discovery Education’s* Video Streaming, *MimioVote* and *MimioView*, and Interactive Whiteboards
- Enrichment and Refinement of Scientific Research-based Interventions (SRBI) Efforts at All Schools
- Continuance of Partnership with Eastern Connecticut Science Consortium to Implement Inquiry-based Science Units, Grades 2- 5

Graduation Rates

- Four Year Graduation Rate of 95% (Increase of 24.63 Since 2010)
- Drop Out Rate of 2.9%

Post-Graduation Outcomes

- 34% of Graduates Enrolled in 4-year Post Secondary Institutions
- 36% of Graduates Enrolled in 2-year Post Secondary Institutions or other Post-Secondary Education
- 21% of Graduates Gainfully Employed
- 7% of Graduates Enrolled in the Military
- 2% of Graduates - Other

Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) Achievements

- Outperformed District Reference Group (DRG) F and State Averages in Science

Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) Achievements

- Ranked 3rd of 17 District Reference Group (DRG) F in Critical Reading
- Ranked 2nd of 17 District Reference Group (DRG) F in Math
- Ranked 3rd of 17 District Reference Group (DRG) F in Writing
- Math Students Demonstrated Considerable Progress While State & National Scores Decreased Significantly

Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) Achievements

- Continuation of the Trend of Increasing Performances as Students Progress through the Grades
- Grade 8 CMT Science (Spring 2014)
 - At or Above Goal – 84.3% (1st in DRG; 30th in State)
 - At or Above Proficient – 95.4% (1st in DRG; 23rd in State)
 - At Advanced Level – 25.9% (2nd in DRG; 46th in State)

Choral Performance & Related Awards

- Kindergarteners Participated in the Music & Art Department Collaboration of the Musical *Lemonade!*
- First Graders Participated in the Music & Art Department Collaboration of the Musical, *Big, Beautiful Planet*
- Stafford Elementary School Band 100% Student Retention Rate
- Stafford Middle School 8th Grade Band Marched with the High School Marching Band in the Big E Parade
- Members of the Stafford Middle School Band Performed with the Stafford High School Marching Band at Two Separate Home Football Games
- Music Department Hosted the Western Connecticut State University Jazz Orchestra
- SMS Stage & Select Choir, each earned 1st Place/Rating of Superior, Music Showcase Festival, Jackson, New Jersey
- Three (3) SMS Students Earned Outstanding Soloist Awards
- SMS Stage Choir Earned its 7th Overall Grand Vocal Championship Award
- SMS Stage Choir Earned its 4th Overall Grand Sweepstakes Championship Award
- Two Sold-Out Performances at the SMS Stage and Select Choirs
- Over 1000 people attended the SMS Musical, “Seussical, Jr.”- SMS Stage Door Players Performed “Seussical” for Students of Staffordville and West Stafford Schools

- Forty (40) SMS Students Selected by Audition to Participate in Stage & Select Choirs, Traveling Annually & Competing Nationally
- Eleven (11) SMS Students Selected by Audition for Eastern Regional Middle School Music Festival (Band & Chorus)
- One (1) SMS 6th Grade Student Selected to Participate in the Prestigious Hotchkiss Summer Music Portals Program for Middle School Students in Lakeville, CT
- Three (3) SMS Choral Students Participated in the “America’s Hometown Thanksgiving Parade” with the Westchester Brassmen Drum and Bugle Corps in Plymouth, MA
- SMS Stage and Select Choir Performed the National Anthem for the Springfield Falcons Professional Hockey Club
- SMS Stage and Select Choir Members Participated in a Master Class with Dr. Chris Shepard, World Renowned Choral Director
- SMS Music Teacher Brett Duchon Nominated for the Music Educator’s Grammy Award
- SMS Stage and Select Choir Donated Food to the Stafford Soup Kitchen
- SMS Stage and Select Choir Attended Performance of Les Miserables in NYC
- Thirty (30) Percent of Students Enrolled at SMS Participated in SMS Music and Theatre Programs
- Sixty (60) Students auditioned and are participating in the 2014-15 SMS Stage Door Players production of Disney’s “Aladdin”
- Secured Two World Famous Hip Pickles Drum Band Performances at Stafford Middle School
- Five SHS Students Accepted to be Part of the First Chair Honor Band Event in February 2015 at UCONN
- Three Successful SHS Performances (in Addition to Preview for Senior Citizens and SES Students) of “Singing in the Rain”
- SHS Students Directed Shows Performed for SES (Fall 2014, “Alice in Wonderland” and “The Little Princess”)
- Sizable (\$500) Monetary Donation from Music Department to SafeNet Ministries
- Eighth Graders Marched with SHS Band at Big E Mardi Gras Parade & Performed Together at Two Football Games
- Ten (10) SHS Students Selected through Competition to Participate in the All New England Music Festival, 2015
- 36 SHS Students Selected to Participate in the North Central Connecticut Conference (NCCC) Concert, Windsor Locks, 2014
- 14 SHS Students to Participate in the Real Men Sing Music Festival at UConn, 2015
- Four SHS Students Selected to be Members of the Windham Concert Band
- One SHS Student Member of Springfield Youth Symphony
- 14 SHS Students Inducted into International Thespian Society, 2014
- SHS Music Department Students Made & Donated 60 Blankets to the Cancer Center, Lawrence Memorial Hospital
- Multiple Student Musical Performances (Elementary through High School) Throughout the Town, State, and Region (Including West Point, Gillette’s Castle, Sturbridge Village, Big E, Wadsworth Museum, 29th Annual Coffee House, Two Fall Dinner Theaters, Madrigal Feaste, Annual Spring Performance, Thanksgiving Ecumenical, Carole Sing, Rotary, Lions, Italian Society, Avery Park, Public Library, Enfield Hospice, Nursing Homes, Senior Citizens, Cemeteries, and Parades etc.)

Visual Arts Performance & Related Achievements

- >350 Students, PK-12, Participated in Art Show at Stafford Public Library
- 40 Students Selected to Display Artwork, on a Rotating Basis, at the Pinney Building, Board of Education Meeting Room through June 2014
- Student Artwork Displayed at Stafford Fall Arts Festival, Hyde Park
- Student Artwork Published on *Artsonia* (PK-8th) and *Square One* (PK-5th) websites, through which Items May Be Purchased (e.g. Aprons, Ornaments, Mugs, Shirts, etc.)
- Staffordville Students Participated in Filed Trip to UConn's Benton Art Museum
- One first grader won the 2014 Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET) Dream Big Contest for Tolland County
- Grade Eight Student's Artwork Published in the *Hartford Courant* and *Journal Inquirer*
- Eighth Grade Student Published on Yearbook Cover
- Six Students, Grades 6-8, Participated in Collaborative Mural Project
- SHS Unified Art Class for Credit: Student Artwork Featured on Special Olympics "Penguin Plunge" Note Cards/Establishing a "T-Shirt" Business to Commence in Spring 2015

Scholar-Athletes, All-Star Games & Tournament Participation and Awards

- Twelve (12) of 17 Sports Teams Participated in the State Tournament
- School Scholar-Athlete Award Recipients (175+) High Honor/Honor Roll
- Baseball and Softball Ranked in Top 5 of Class S State Tournament
- Invitation to Attend Unified Leadership Conference
- Girls Field Hockey Raised >\$3,000 in Annual "Play for the Cure" Event
- Boys Basketball, Hale Ray Christmas Basketball Tournament Champions, 3rd Consecutive Year
- First Annual Unified Basketball Tournament (with SHS Band, DJ and Refreshments)
- Unified Basketball Ice Cream Social with League Team
- Participated in Unified Olympics at Woodstock Academy
- Stafford Invited to Youth Summit at Wesleyan University
- Multiple All-Conference, All-State Athlete and All-State Academic Award Winners
- Multiple Student Athletes Invited to Participate in All-Star Competitions
- High Percentage of Students Participate in Middle/High School Athletic Programs

Health Services Achievements

- School Nurses Documented 27,661 Visits to Health Office
- Of the 27,661 Visits, 97.4% Return Rate to Classroom
- Audiological, Vision, Weight, Height, and Scoliosis Screenings Totaled 4,354
- Secured Lead Poisoning Prevention Grant to Provide Educational Program for Parents, Physicians & Staff
- Managed/Co-managed with Physician/Mental Health Colleagues 550 Students with Medical/Mental Health Conditions on "Alert" List
- Administered 8,549 Medications or Treatments Totaling an Estimated 712 Hours of Care

Board of Education & Staff Awards and Nominations

- First Recipient of the “Legends of Literacy” Award Presented by MyOn Reader and the International Reading Association to Mrs. Janice Gowdy
- Director of Athletics & Recreation Mr. Damian Frassinelli, Selected for National Athletic Administrators Five-Year Strategic Planning Committee
- Director of Athletics & Recreation Selected to be a Connecticut Voting Delegate at National Level
- Director of Athletics & Recreation: Unified Leadership Summit (Wesleyan University) Conference Presenter

Successful Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM) Program

- Implementation of Module 5 and 100% Success Rate TEAM Modules for 5th Consecutive Year

Recipient of Competitive Grants & Corporate Donations (Totaling \$787,075)

- Programs After School in Stafford (P.A.S.S.) Grant-\$188,252
- 3M Corporation- New Technology Engineering Course-\$20,000
- Recipient of a donation from 3M Corporation- Office Supplies and Technology Equipment-\$5,861
- Technology: Investments in Education Grant-Upgrading Wired/Wireless Environments and Purchase of Computers/Laptops/Tablets in Preparation for Smarter Balanced Assessments-\$572,962
 - Upgraded All Campus Building-to-building Connections to Support 10GB Backbone
 - Upgraded Core Switch to the Newest Operating Engine (sup8) for Providing 10GB Connections to the Campus
 - Upgraded All Data Closet Connections to 10GB in All Campus Locations
 - Upgraded Wireless Environment from Wireless G Standard to the New AC Compatible Standard Building in a Long Future for our Controller
 - Upgraded or Installed about 120 New Access Point Supporting the AC Standard in All Buildings
 - Upgraded 100 Student/Teacher Computers
 - Added ~100 Redeployed/refurbished Computers to the Environment for Student Testing
 - Added 3 Laptop Carts to Support Testing (1 at SHS, SMS, and SES)
 - Added 7 Chrome Carts (3 SHS, 2 SES, and 2 SMS)

Connections Beyond the Classroom

- Stafford Middle School Featured in the Long Island Sound Newsletter about the Connection between Scientists at the Long Island Sound Project and Grade 6 Students (Page 4) http://longislandsoundstudy.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/SoundUpdate_MakingADifference_forweb.pdf
- Continued Distance Learning Experiences (Grades 1- 5): Collaborative Projects with Classes Around the United States; NASA: Robotics in Space Program, and Yellowstone National Park Rangers

- Utilized Discovery Education Webinars (Grades 2- 12)
- Continued Monthly On-line Technology Professional Development Program, “PD in Pajamas”; Includes Educators from Across the Nation
- Participated in Pilot Tablet Program with Minno Tablets for Various Classes, Grades K, 5, and 6-8
- Began Implementation of Google Classroom (Google Apps for Education) Throughout the District, Another Means of “Flipping” the Classroom
- Provision of Google Accounts, Allowing Access to Chromebooks and Classroom Application to All Students
- Provision of Chromebook Carts (of 24) to Students in Lower Elementary Schools for Access to Various Programs Such as MyOn, STAR, and Lexia
- Purchased iPad Carts (24 devices each) for Students in Lower Elementary schools-Used for STAR Testing, Common Core Lessons, Lexia, MyOn, and Class Projects; Incorporation of the Kasper System to Assist with Management and Roll-out of New Apps to iPads
- Provision of Discovery Education Subscriptions to Now Include Staffordville and West Stafford Schools
- District Participation at the GAFE (Google Apps for Education) Summit with Educators from Around New England

Expansion of Academic & Behavioral Interventions for Students

- Successful Implementation of “hurRAH”, a Read-At-Home Program at West Stafford School
- Successful Implementation of “Read-At-Home” Program, SVS
- Successful implementation of the Student Transitional Education Program at SMS
- Increased Collaboration/SRBI at All Grade Levels, Resulting in Improved Student Academic and Behavioral Achievement
- Implementation of a New Web-based Universal Benchmark Assessment System (STAR), Aligned to Expectations of Common Core State Standards (CCSS), Grades K-11
- Continued Promotion of Numerous Students through Expanded Credit Recovery Options

Other Accomplishments and Achievements

- One SMS Student Awarded Secretary of State Award for Citizenship
- SMS Eagle Exclusive [Newspaper]
- SMS 8th Annual Family Bread Baking Event (160 Participants)
- SMS 12th Annual “Teen Read Week” Celebration (50 Participants)
- In Collaboration with Stafford Energy Advisory Committee: Solar & Geothermal Projects/Multiple Grant Application Submissions
- Added Backup/Disaster Recovery Server to House Replicas of ALL Virtual Servers
- Added Storage Solution for Aging Architecture; New Solution is Capable of Utilizing the 10GB Infrastructure for Faster Speeds to End Users and Expands Amount of Space to 27TB vs. 12TB
- Redundant Offsite Storage of Critical Backups
- New Stafford Public Schools Website
- Relocated District Offices from the Pinney Administration Building