

**Stafford Public Schools  
Accomplishments and Achievements  
2014-2015 and 2015-2016**

**School/District & Academic Program Awards & Achievements**

- **Recognized as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Best District by Independent Financial Organization, Nerdwallet.com, for “Best School Districts for the Buck in Connecticut” (2014-2015)**
- **Stafford High School nationally recognized as a 2015 U.S. News and World Report Bronze Award Winner for America’s Best High Schools**
- Implementation of Video Game Development Course at SHS
- Updated the 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 8<sup>th</sup> Year (Grant Funded)
- Revision 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
- Development and Implementation of a New Three-Year Technology Plan (2015- 2018)
- Curriculum Projects Completed for New Courses at SHS: Unified Art, and Video Game Development (2014- 2015)
- Implementation of New Common Core-aligned-Readers/Writers Workshop model and the Core Ready literacy program , Grades Kindergarten through 5
- Adoption of Six Textbooks/Programs- Accounting, Geometry, and Photography textbooks at Stafford High School, Health textbook at Stafford Middle School, *GoMath* for Grades Kindergarten through Grade 5, and a Handwriting Program for Grades PK- 3
- Upgrades in Curriculum Equipment and Materials for Music and Technology Education
- 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
- Addition of content based (Math & ELA) SRBI for 9th and 10th grade
- Based on data collected via freshman HOUSE, the addition of Honors English for 9th graders
- Continuance of Partnership with Eastern Connecticut Science Consortium to Implement Inquiry-based Science Units, Grades 1- 6
- Collaboration with Area Colleges and Universities to Provide Internships and Student Teacher Experiences for 12 Students
- Implementation of a School-wide Community of Practice System for Educators to Engage in a Process of Collective Learning for Positive Impacts on Teaching and Learning
- Expanded Use of STAR Assessments and Web-based Lessons, Assessments and Supports
- Increased Use of Common Core Shifted Practices Across All Content Areas

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**Graduation Rates (2014 data)**

- Four Year Graduation Rate 95% (Increase of 24.63% Since 2010)
- Drop Out Rate of 2.9% (Reduction of 11.17% Since 2010)

**Projected 2015 data\*\* Not finalized as of 12/20/15**

- Four Year Graduation Rate >95%
- Drop Out Rate of 0%

**Post-Graduation Outcomes (2015)**

- **47%** of Graduates Enrolled in 4-year Postsecondary Institutions
- **34%** of Graduates Enrolled in 2-year Post Secondary Institutions or other Post-Secondary Education
- Total **81%** of Graduates Enrolled in Postsecondary Education
- **12%** of Graduates Gainfully Employed
- **6%** of Graduates Enrolled in the Military
- **1%** of Graduates - Other

**2015 Smarter Balanced Assessment Achievements** (First Year of the Assessment, Grades 3- 8 & 11)

- Outperformed DRG F Districts and the State Averages in Grades 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 11 for Reading
- Outperformed DRG F Districts and the State Averages All Grades for Math
- Ranked First in Reading in DRG F for Grades 6 and 7; and in the Top 3 in Grades 3, 8, and 11
- Ranked First in Math in DRG F for Grade 11; and in the Top 4 in All Other Grades

**2015 Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) Achievements- Science**

- Ranked as the Top School in DRG F for Mastery and Proficiency Achievement and Outperformed-State Averages with the Second Highest Achievement Score Ever At/above Goal (55.2%)

**2015 Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) Achievements- Science**

- Grade 8
  - At or Above Goal – 2nd in DRG F- 75.9%
  - At or Above Proficient – 4th in DRG F
- Grade 5
  - At or Above Proficient – 1st in DRG F

**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*

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- Ninety-three (93) 4th and 5th Grade Students Participate in Band and Two Hundred (200) 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade Students Participate in Chorus at Stafford Elementary School
- Districtwide “Disney” Concert for Grades 3-12 at SHS; Attendance was at Full Capacity
- Stafford Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Marched with the High School Marching Band in the Big E Parade and Home Football Games
- Music Department Hosted the Western Connecticut State University Jazz Orchestra
- SMS Stage & Select Choir, each earned 1<sup>st</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Overall Grand Sweepstakes Championship Award
- Two Sold-Out Performances at the SMS Stage and Select Choirs
- 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 Participated in the 2014-15 SMS Stage Door Players Production of Disney’s “Aladdin”
- 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
- Ten (10) SHS Students Selected through Competition to Participate in the All New England Music Festival, 2015

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- Thirty-six (36) SHS Students Selected to Participate in the North Central Connecticut Conference (NCCC) Concert, Windsor Locks, 2014
- Fourteen (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
- Fourteen (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, 29<sup>th</sup> 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
- Student Artwork Displayed at Stafford Fall Arts Festival, Hyde Park
- Student Artwork Published on *Artsonia* (PK-8<sup>th</sup>) and *Square One* (PK-5<sup>th</sup>) Websites, through which Items May Be Purchased (e.g. Aprons, Ornaments, Mugs, Shirts, etc.)
- Staffordville Students Participated in Field Trip to UConn's Benton Art Museum
- One First Grader was Awarded 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**

- School Scholar-Athlete Award Recipients (175+) High Honor/Honor Roll
- Baseball Ranked #1 in Class S State Tournament
- Invitation to Attend Unified Leadership Conference
- Girls Field Hockey Raised >\$3,000 in Annual "Play for the Cure" Event (again)
- SHS Unified Participated in the 2nd Annual NCCC Unified Basketball Tournament (with SHS Band, DJ and Refreshments)
- Unified Basketball Hosted Games Along with Ice Cream Social's with League Teams
- Stafford Invited to Youth Summit, Hartford
- Multiple All-Conference, All-State Athlete and All-State Academic Award Winners
- Multiple Student Athletes Invited to Participate in All-Star Competitions

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- Girls' Indoor Track North Central CT Conference Champions 2015
- Baseball North Central CT Conference Champions 2015
- Scott Martin Named North Central CT Conference Baseball Coach of the Year
- Brian Mazzone, 1st year SHS Football Coach, Pequot East Football Coach of the Year
- Stafford Received \$2000 Grant to Implement Unified Sports at Stafford Middle School
- Athletic Boosters Purchased School Record Display Boards for Indoor and Outdoor Track
- Unified Basketball Team Invited to Play at Mohegan Sun Arena for the State Basketball Championships for the 2nd Time

**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**

- 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 Conference Presenter, Hartford, CT
- West Stafford, Staffordville, & the Stafford Board of Education Received Recognition from the Office of Early Childhood for our Commitment to Providing a High Quality Program and Dedication to the Children of Connecticut for Meeting the 2017 State-funded Education Qualifications Benchmark on June 30, 2015

**Successful Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM) Program**

- Implementation of Module 5 and 100% Success Rate TEAM Modules for 6<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year

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

- Recipient of Competitive School Security Grant- \$465,000
- Programs After School in Stafford (P.A.S.S.) Grant-\$188,252- at Stafford Elementary School
- 3M Corporation Ingenuity Grant for Robotics \$2,500 for Stafford High School
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- Recipient of a donation from 3M Corporation- Office Supplies and Technology Equipment-\$26,748 during 2015
- Common Core Professional Development Grant- \$9,600
- Maintained Stafford's Family Resource Center (\$109,615.00), School Readiness (\$117,487.00), and School Readiness Quality Enhancement (\$3,881.00) Grants. Moved 9 SR slots to from WSS to SVS

**Technology Connections Beyond the Classroom and IT Accomplishments**

- District Featured in Larry Jacobs Educational Technology National Radio Talk Show about the Use of Mobile Devices in the Classroom
- Interactive Whiteboard Activities Developed by Stafford Teachers Published on Educational Blogs
- Technology Integration Specialist Invited to a Google Summit to Participate in Designing Future Teacher Collaboration Using Technology
- Stafford Middle School Continued its Partnership with Scientists at the Long Island Sound Project and Grade 6 Students
- Continued Distance Learning Experiences (Grades 1- 5): Collaborative Projects with Classes Around the United States; NASA: Robotics in Space Program, Yellowstone National Park Rangers, "Guess the States" Project with Students in Maine and Michigan, "Town Mouse, Country Mouse" Project with Students in New York and Buffalo Bill Center in Wyoming; (Grades 6-8): Cleveland Museum of Art: Ancient Egypt, CILC: Forensic Science
- 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 Software Program "Classroom Complete Press Online" (Grades K- 1)
- Participated in Digital Literacy Curriculum Grade 5 with Common Sense Media Digital Passport
- Increased Use of Google Classroom (Google Apps for Education) Throughout the District, Another Means of "Flipping" the Classroom
- Provided Google Accounts, Allowing Access to Chromebooks and Classroom Application, to All Students
- Increased Access to Mobile Devices at the Primary Schools by Providing a Chromebook Cart and an iPad Cart ( of 24) to Each School to Use with Various Programs, Such as STAR and Lexia
- 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
- District Representation and Presentation at CECA (Connecticut Educators Computing Association) Conference on Google Apps for Education)

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- UniFLOW Printing and Scanning System Deployed- Allows for Direct Saving to H: drive and Email
- Re-imaged Laptop Carts at SES to Improve Student Access and Useability
- Installing New Work Station Computers for Staff at SHS
- Virtual Server Migration to a More Efficient and Effective Platform
- Created a Replication Server for Virtual Environment to Provide a Live Backup in Short Amount of Time
- Installed 24/7 Monitoring System (Solar Winds) for Servers and Switches to Provide Notification when Issues Arise
- Installed two iPad Carts for the Primary Schools
- Continuing Installation of iPads and Chromebooks Across the District
- A WSS Kindergarten Class Skyped™ with a Classmate who was Visiting India
- WSS First Grade Classes are Conducting Virtual Science Labs
- WSS and SV Kindergarten Students are Working on Informational Text Re-telling on iPads
- WSS and SV First Graders, Who are Receiving Technology Enrichment, Participated in “Hour of Code” During the Week of December 7th, a Global Event Focused on Computer Science and Programming
- All WSS & SVS Kindergarten and First Grade Students use iPads in the Classroom on a Regular Basis to Improve Language Arts and Mathematics Skills
- Beginning in January 2016, Pre-kindergarten Students at Staffordville School to be Provided Small Group Instruction in Readiness Skills Using the iPads

**Expansion of Academic & Behavioral Interventions for Students**

- WSS Students Read 3,000+ Hours at Home as Part of the Reading At Home Program
- Continued Successful Implementation of the Read-A-Saurus Read-At-Home Program at Staffordville School; Parent and Community Volunteers Read to Students Not Participating at Home
- 100% of First Grade Students at Staffordville School Achieved the End-of-grade Goal for Reading in June, 2015
- Pre-kindergarten Teams at WS and SV Revised and are Now Implementing a New and Improved Curriculum to Increase Student Growth and Achievement
- PreK, K, and Grade 1 Students at WS and SV are Implementing the New “Handwriting without Tears” Program (Beginning August, 2015)
- 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
- Continuation and Enhanced Use of the 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

- Completion of a Three-tiered SRBI System Including Skill/content-based Interventions for Grades 9-12

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### **Other Accomplishments and Achievements**

- Implemented AppliTrack Online Recruiting System
- Implemented “PayForIt.net”, Online Meal Payment System for Parents / Guardians
- One SMS Student Awarded Secretary of State Award for Citizenship
- SMS Eagle Exclusive [Newspaper]
- SMS 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Bread Baking Event (160 Participants)
- SMS 12<sup>th</sup> Annual “Teen Read Week” Celebration (50 Participants)
- In Collaboration with Stafford Energy Advisory Committee: Installation of Solar & Geothermal Projects
- 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
- Obsolete Equipment made Available to Town
- SES Faculty and Staff Donated \$850 to Families in Need During the 2015 Holiday Season; Hundreds of Canned Goods Donated to Food Bank.
- WSS Staff and Families Collected Canned Goods and Food Items for Stafford Social Services; Staff Purchased Gifts for 10 Families; \$400 in Gift Cards Donated to Family Resource Center (FRC) by Community Partners Distributed to Families in Need this Holiday Season
- SHS Blue Torch Newspaper, Quarterly Distribution
- Monthly Student Advisory Meetings at SHS
- Monthly Partners in Education (PIE) Meetings at SHS
- Bi-annual Parent Advisory Open Forum at SHS

### **Improvements to Buildings and Infrastructure**

- Installed Fencing Around Various Areas of Security-related Infrastructure
- Completed Security Camera System Installation at all School Buildings
- Completed Electronic Fob Access System at All Facilities
- In Conjunction with the Town, Upgraded Various HVAC Equipment as Made Possible by the Geothermal/solar Projects (Includes New Boilers and Rooftop Units at SMS)
- Repainted Parking Lots at SMS, SES, WSS and SVL
- Replaced Four Walk-in Refrigeration Units (SVL, SMS and 2 at WSS)
- Installed Emergency Shutdown Buttons at WSS, SVL and SMS (Security Measure)
- Replaced 415 Linear Feet of Concrete Sidewalk and Made Repairs to Many Other Damaged Areas



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- Installed Variable Frequency Drives on Domestic Water Booster Pumps at SVL (Energy Conservation Measure)
- Installed Door and Window Markings to Interior and Exterior Doors and Windows (Security Measure)
- Installed Security Blinds on Classroom Doors (Security Measure)
- Implemented New 2-way Radio System
- Purchased New Scissor Lift to Increase Maintenance Capabilities for District & Town
- Security Upgrades to Building Entrances
- Replacement of Corridor Flooring at SVL (Phase 1)
- Replacement of Air Conditioning Condenser at SVL (Energy Conservation Measure)