



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Mays Chapel Elementary School teacher honored with statewide gifted and talented education award**

TOWSON – Stephanie Stefanik, a Grade 5 teacher at Mays Chapel Elementary School, has earned the Outstanding Teacher as Leader in Gifted and Talented Education Award from the Maryland Gifted and Talented Advisory Council’s Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education (EGATE) program.

Stefanik will be honored during the advisory council’s virtual awards ceremony on Wednesday, Feb. 23. In its award letter to Stefanik, the council wrote: “It warms our hearts to know that there are so many outstanding people working on behalf of our gifted and talented students and so many hard working, impressive gifted and talented students.”

“Well before Ms. Stefanik joined our Mays Chapel team, she recognized her calling in advocacy for advanced academics,” wrote Mays Chapel Elementary Principal Stephen Coco. “The cornerstone of her advocacy for advanced academics is centered on creating equitable access to rigorous, engaging instruction to all students regardless of race, ethnicity, or gender. Her work has made a significant impact on our students. She is a true champion of removing barriers to learning at high levels.”

Stefanik earned her bachelor’s degree from Frostburg State University and a master’s equivalency from Goucher College. She has been teaching for 16 years and has taught Grades 3 -5 at Glenmar, Dundalk, and Mays Chapel elementary schools. She has been an advanced academic facilitator in BCPS for eight years and had the role at Dundalk Elementary before moving to Mays Chapel Elementary in 2019.

*(Editor’s note: A photo of Stefanik accompanies this release.)*

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