

HOMETOWN HERO:

Laura Phipps

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Laura Phipps had been a tremendous support to the students, parents and professional staff at Marley Elementary School. Her in-depth expertise about autism, specifically the characteristics and needs of students on the autism spectrum, has increased our collective knowledge with regard to planning for and responding to the needs of our students.

Ms. Phipps is always responsive to our requests for help and guidance. When she is not able to come to school, she always calls or responds to e-mails in a timely manner. Her observations, insights, and suggestions help us to better meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of our students. Her input for IEPs is beneficial for our students. Proactively, Ms. Phipps helped to train staff members to teach the Friendship Empathy lessons. As a result of her leadership, our staff is able to implement these lessons independently. All classes having students on the spectrum have had the benefit of this instruction. Overall, our students on the autism spectrum are meeting greater success because of Ms. Phipps’ collaboration with our school staff.

Noteworthy is the fact that Ms. Phipps coordinated the Building Bridges project. She enlisted the support and expertise of her colleagues to write lessons for the Building Bridges binder. Now that the project is completed, all schools in Anne Arundel County Public Schools are benefitting from having readily available lessons to address student needs. Furthermore, Ms. Phipps utilized her clinical expertise to write the clinical lessons for the Building Bridges binder.

The students, parents and staff at Marley Elementary School are grateful for Ms. Phipps’ ongoing support of our ASD students. For her unwavering assistance, we feel that she should be recognized as a Hometown Hero.