

School Logo (Information Here)

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Numerous research studies have shown the benefits of therapy dogs in schools. Therapy dogs have been working in schools across the nation for quite some time. There are many benefits to having a therapy dog visit a school campus.

Evidence indicate that benefits include:

Cognitive – companionship with a dog stimulates memory, problem-solving and game playing.

Social – a dog provides a positive mutual topic for discussion, encourages responsibility, wellbeing and focused interaction with others.

Emotional – school dogs improve self-esteem, acceptance from others and lifts mood, often provoking laughter and fun. Dogs can also teach compassion and respect for other living things and well as relieving anxiety.

Physical – interaction with a furry friend reduces blood pressure, provides tactile stimulation, assists with pain management, gives motivation to move, walk and stimulates the senses.

Reading – reading to dogs has been proven to help children develop literacy skills and build confidence, through both the calming effect the dog's presence has on children as well as the fact that a dog will listen to children read without being judgmental or critical. This comforting environment helps to nurture children's enthusiasm for reading and provides them with the confidence to read aloud.

We want to introduce you to (Name of Dog). (Name of Dog) is a (Breed of Dog) and visits our campus (Frequency of Visits). Whenever (Name of Dog) is on our campus, he/she is always with his/her handler and our school counselor. The students are never alone with (Name of Dog). If you would like to request that your child does not interact with (Name of Dog), or your child has an allergy to dogs, please contact the school counselor at _____ . This way we can make the appropriate accommodations when (Name of Dog) is visiting our campus. If at any time you would like to meet (Name of Dog) please let us know and we can set up a time for you to meet him/her.

Thank you,

Administrators Information or Counselor...