



SCHOOL DISTRICT 145

Commitment to Excellence

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are excited to introduce you to a new member of the Eagle Elementary team, Mazy! Mazy is a 7-year-old Labrador Retriever and Certified Pet Therapy Dog. Mazy will accompany Ms. Allen to school at various times throughout the week. Mazy will work closely with some students in the building to help provide support with academic, social-emotional, or behavioral needs. Any student will be able to schedule time with Mazy.

There are multiple benefits of having a therapy dog “working” in the building. We have expectations of both Mazy and of students & staff interacting with Mazy.

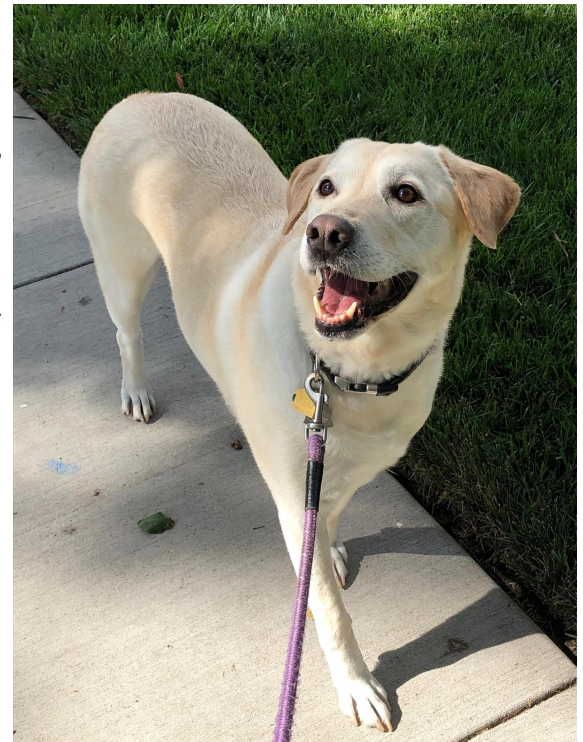
BENEFITS OF HAVING A THERAPY DOG AT SCHOOL:

Cognitive: companionship with a dog stimulates memory and problem-solving and can increase reading fluency.

Social: a dog provides a positive mutual topic for discussion; encouraging responsibility, well-being, and positive interactions.

Emotional: a dog at school improves self-esteem, acceptance from others, lifts mood, can help teach compassion, empathy, and respect for others, and helps reduce stress.

Physical: interactions with a furry friend reduces blood pressure, provides tactile stimulation, and often provides motivation to complete tasks.



MAZY'S JOBS:

- Mazy will be available to the students that Ms. Allen assists to help de-escalate when they are upset/overwhelmed.
- Mazy can be used to help facilitate social skills conversations with students.
- Mazy can be available for students to read to her.
- Mazy will interact with students at arrival and dismissal.
- Mazy can visit classrooms to see learning.
- Students may earn PAW PRINT passes to visit Mazy.
- Mazy can walk with students at recess

EAGLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE ABOUT:

Allergies: Please make sure that the school is aware if pet allergies are a concern for your child. Ms. Allen and Mazy will do their best to avoid intentional interactions with these students.

Who will care for Mazy: Ms. Allen will be in charge of Mazy at all times. Mazy will always be on a lead or will be in her kennel in Ms. Allen's office when she is not working directly with Ms. Allen and students. At times, Ms. Allen may have students assist her with daily tasks necessary for Mazy's care. (i.e. short walk, freshwater) Mazy will start working in the building one day a week.

Fear of dogs: Some children have had upsetting experiences with dogs (or other animals). If this is a concern of your students, we would ask that they let the office know and they will relay the information to Ms. Allen. Even though Mazy is calm and gentle around children, Ms. Allen will do her best to ensure Mazy does not interact with a student where she would cause them anxiety.

Healing Heart Therapy: Mazy is a trained therapy dog and Ms. Allen has provided the necessary paperwork and documentation of the training needed to allow her to come to school. She will be on a lead at all times and always accompanied by Ms. Allen. Mazy is also fully insured through Healing Hearts Therapy to carry out this role at school.

EXPECTATIONS WHEN INTERACTING MAZY (PAWS)

Permission

- Ask permission from the adult to interact with the dog
- Permission allowed at times that won't disrupt or distract others
- Move on if not given permission

Approach and ask

- Approach with no more than 2 students
- Approach by letting the dog sniff your hand first
- Ask the dog to sit before petting

Wait and watch

- Wait your turn with calm voice and body
- Watch how others gently talk to her and pet her

Soft voice, soft-touch

- Voice levels 1-2
- Gentle touch when petting

We hope you will join us in welcoming Mazy to the Eagle Elementary team and embrace all that she has to offer the school and our students!

If you have any concerns, please feel free to reach out to Ms. Allen:

Ms. Laura Allen
Eagle Elementary Guidance Counselor
(402) 781-6117

laura.allen@district145.org