**PK-6 Principal**

Mr. Ben Hansen

**Activities Director**

Mr. Nate Greene

**7-12 Principal**

Ms. Kristina Hanzel

**Superintendent**

Mr. Harlan Ptomey

**Cedar Bluffs Public Schools**

P.O. BOX 66, 110 MAIN STREET

CEDAR BLUFFS, NEBRASKA 68015

Phone: (402) 628-2080

Fax: (402) 628-2108

http://www.cedarbluffsschools.org

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

This letter is to inform you that there will be a service dog in our school assisting one of our students. The child is in Miss Neiman’s 3rd grade classroom and the service dog is a trained diabetic alert dog. This dog is trained and is able to assist her and alert staff when she experiences dangerously high, or low blood sugars threatening to her health.

This certified service dog is highly trained and recognized by an accredited training facility. The student’s right to have a certified service dog is protected under Human Rights legislation and the American’s with Disabilities Act and therefore can be with the handler/student in all aspects of her education. ***The following is the law:*** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires a school district to modify its policies, practices or procedures to permit the use of a service animal by a student with a disability. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requires school districts to allow a child to bring a service dog to school as a part of a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act prohibits disability discrimination in schools. The Office for Civil Rights, responsible for school district compliance with Section 504, has determined that a school district violates Section 504 when it does not allow the use of service animals & this effectively denies a student with disabilities the equal opportunity to participate in or benefit from an educational program. Allergies and fear of dogs are not valid reasons for denying access or refusing service to people using service animals. When a person who is allergic to dog dander and a person who uses a service animal must spend time in the same room or facility, for example, in a school classroom they both should be accommodated by assigning them, if possible, to different locations within the room or different rooms in the facility.

The dog’s trainers and parents of the student will come ahead of time to the school to help students identify with the service dog and how it will fit into daily school routines. All students will be informed as to proper procedures around the animal because the animal is not a pet but a certified working service dog while at school.

We anticipate the service dog will be a benefit to the student’s health and learning and we look forward to this new addition to our school community and should overall positively impact the overall atmosphere at school. Thank you for your understanding and support. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office. The estimated time for the dog’s arrival right now is late September, or early October.

Sincerely,

Ben Hansen

Principal

CBPS PK-6