



There's a dog in my school!!

What should I do???

About Ruby

- Ruby is a Goldendoodle (half Poodle/half Golden Retriever.)
- She is 6 months old.
- She is a training to become a certified therapy dog through Alliance of Therapy Dogs. She visits our school and many public places.
- Ruby likes to go for walks, play “chase me”, play “fetch”, chew “sticks”, nap, hang with her dog bestie Toby, bark at birds and grasshoppers and.....), but most of all, Ruby enjoys loving her family and friends and being loved.
- Ruby has times when she is active with lots of energy and other times when she is calm and just wants to snuggle her humans.



What is a School Therapy Dog?

A therapy dog is a dog that is trained to provide affection, comfort and love. The dog must pass an obedience evaluation, but perhaps most important, the dog should have a stable, friendly, easy-going personality. Dogs can provide therapy in many environments, including hospitals, schools, nursing homes and camps.



Why Come to School?

- Dogs can help students, and staff, in many ways!
 - Help students and staff to relax and be calm.
 - Help model and teach respect, responsibility, empathy, compassion, tolerance and acceptance.
 - Help someone that has worries.
 - Be a friend without judging.
 - Help with self-esteem and confidence.
 - Help us to smile.
 - Maybe even help to read!



Where Will I See Ruby?



- Ruby will help greet students in the morning.
- Ruby will sometimes come to your classroom.
- Ruby will help Mrs. Eubanks with small groups of students.
- Ruby will sometimes be in the hallway!
- Ruby will sometimes take walks outside the school.
- Ruby might even be in the school office.

But Ruby will also need some “down time” where she can relax, have a snack, take a break or have a nap. She will do this in the counselor’s office.

R.O.A.R. With RUBY!

Our school rules are “Respect Others and Act Responsibly. We must be respectful and responsible everywhere, including when visiting with Ruby. We can do this by following these 4 steps: Approach, Ask, Pet and Goodbye.

1. Approach

- Walk up slowly and calmly. Body and voice under control. This is respectful.
- No more than a few students at a time. If there are already students with Ruby, patiently wait your turn.
- If in the hallway, do not leave a class line to pet Ruby. That would not be responsible.

2. Ask

- Ask Mrs. Eubanks to pet Ruby before petting her. This is being responsible AND safe. Mrs. Eubanks needs to be aware of Ruby’s behavior and your actions. Always ask and wait for an answer before petting any dog.

R.O.A.R. With Ruby!

3. Pet

- Ruby should be sitting or lying down when petted. Ruby must know you are there, so do not try to surprise her. Use slow, calm movements.
- Treat Ruby with respect. Pet her gently. Do not pull her ears or tail. Do not put fingers or objects in her mouth. Use a quiet voice when talking to her.
- Personal space. We all have it, even a dog has personal space we must respect. Do not put your face in her face.

4. Goodbye

- Often there will be many students waiting to say hello to Ruby, so to be respectful, our turn cannot be too long. This will usually be about a minute, maybe less. Listen for Mrs. Eubanks' directions.

Anything Else To Know?

- Ruby must be with Mrs. Eubanks whenever visiting students and staff.
- Ruby must wear a collar and be on a leash whenever she is in school. Ruby will also sometimes wear her favorite school colors and participate in school dress up days!
- Ruby must be clean, well-groomed and healthy to visit our school.
- Do not yell at Ruby in the hallways or when arriving or leaving the school. Remember to always be calm and in control of your body and voice!
- Do not feed Ruby!

