

Dear NCEMS Families,

NCEMS will be incorporating a therapy dog as part of the Counseling Team. Students may be in contact with a therapy dog in training throughout the school year under the supervision of Sheriden Haverkamp, the School Counselor. Tex, the therapy dog in training, will be working towards an Alliance of Therapy Dog Certification. Tex has received all the necessary vaccinations and a health exam.

Therapy dogs provide many benefits. They help children learn compassion, empathy, responsibility, respect, and self-discipline. Additional benefits include improved self-esteem and promoting class bonding. This can provide an escape, or happy distraction, and build confidence in student academics. Trained therapy dogs offer comfort and non-judgmental love. Studies have proven that even a short amount of time with a dog can decrease levels of anxiety and increase emotional security.

As a Therapy dog team, Tex will always be in the presence of Mrs. Haverkamp. Tex will be under the supervision of Sheriden Haverkamp, his handler, and no student will be left alone with Tex. Therapy dog participation is voluntary. Students will be required to demonstrate self-control to participate in therapy dog sessions.

In this program, students will be required to wash their hands before and after interaction in order to mitigate potential allergic reactions. However, the potential risk of injury and allergic reaction exists, and no amount of instruction or precautions will totally eliminate all risk of injury or reaction. Student participants have the responsibility to help reduce the risk of injury by participating in the activity in a safe and effective manner.

By signing the form parents acknowledge that there will be a Therapy Dog on the NCEMS campus.

Questions or Concerns call (785) 336- 2173
Email Sheriden Haverkamp at shaverkamp@usd115.org

I acknowledge a Therapy dog on NCEMS campus

Sign:

Date:

Sheriden Haverkamp	5/17/22
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