

WELCOME!



*Dog's name to be voted on by Class of
2017 from a list of five!*

Over the years, numerous research studies have been undertaken to validate the benefits of animal assisted activity and in particular the contribution of therapy dogs. Empirical evidence has shown that therapy dogs can enhance children's psychological development, improve social skills, and increase self-esteem among other benefits. Dogs can also teach responsibility, compassion, and respect for other living things. Dogs in the classroom can be used to calm fears, relieve anxiety, and teach skills. Here is a summary of potential benefits (Data adapted from the Australian Companion Animal Council)

- **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
- **Social** – A visit with a dog provides a positive mutual topic for discussion, promotes greater self-esteem and well-being, and focused interaction with others
- **Cognitive** – Companionship with a dog stimulates memory, problem solving and game playing
- **Emotional** – An adorable four-legged visitor improves self-esteem, acceptance from others, and lifts mood often provoking laughter
- **Environmental** – A dog in a facility decreases the feeling of a sterile environment, lifts mood and this continues after visit.

<https://www.petinsuranceeu.com/therapy-dogs-in-schools/>

- Dog will go through obedience and therapy certification training prior to beginning “job” at Natick High School
- Dog will stay with Tara during the day, travel to meetings, etc.
- Dog will have a place behind the circulation desk for it's “prep” period/down time. Students will not be allowed behind desk without seeking permission
- Gates will be available to “block off” circulation desk area for any student/staff who may be dog phobic

Dog/ Student Safety

Preparing for
the day to
day life of a
Therapy Dog
at NHS!



- What if a student/staff is allergic to dogs?
- What if a student/staff is afraid of dogs?
- What is the dog's schedule?
- Can I bring my dog to work?
- Where does the dog go after school?

Since you
asked:

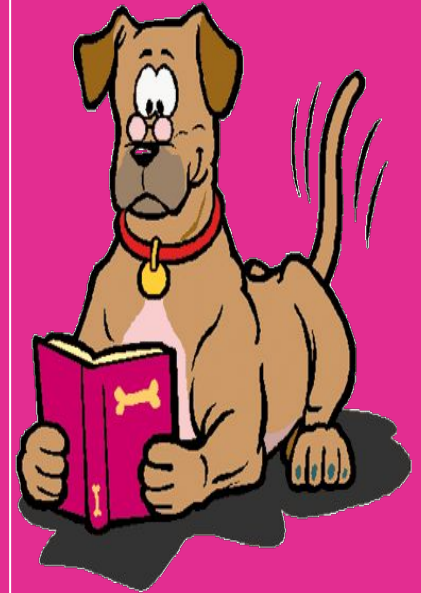


Therapy Dog Procedures

Therapy Dog Parent Letter

Therapy Dog Faculty Letter

Therapy Dog
Documents



Hazel and her puppies

Thank You!

