



Rush-Henrietta Central School District

www.rhnet.org

Therapy Dog

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As part of our commitment to supporting student mental health, I am excited to announce that a Therapy Dog program is coming to Burger Junior High School. Therapy dogs have been shown to offer benefits to students who need social-emotional support.

Rush-Henrietta supports the implementation of a therapy dog program for the academic, social, and emotional benefit of interested students. We have established guidelines and safeguards for all staff and students who may come in contact with a therapy dog, both in formal classroom study and in informal, less structured situations. Therapy dogs have been trained, evaluated, and certified to work with a handler to provide affection and comfort to individuals in a variety of settings including schools. Each handler has also been trained, evaluated, and certified to work with a particular therapy dog. Therapy dogs are not covered by the same laws that protect service animals.

The use of a therapy dog may include small group and individual interventions focused on social and emotional wellness. Our school staff are looking forward to using this program as part of our goal of supporting the mental health needs of students using research-based practices and interventions.

Should you have any other questions, concerns or comments, please contact me.

To opt-out of participation with the therapy dog program, please fill out this information and return it to me at sblisswalker@rhnet.org

Student's Name _____

Any known allergies, aversions or history of animal abuse/neglect

Parent/Guardian's Name (Printed) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Sincerely,
Stephanie Bliss-Walker