

Ewa Makai Middle School
Dog Therapy Parent Opt-Out Form

Research has shown that animal-assisted support in schools can promote physiological and psychological well-being in students. A therapy dog presence has been shown to promote positive social interactions, reduce stress and anxiety, increase confidence, compassion and self-esteem. Therapy dogs have been used for many years in different capacities across schools in the United States to support student learning and well-being.

Ewa Makai Middle School works with service dogs from Hawaii Fi-do. Hawaii Fi-do has been internationally accredited since 2008 under Assistance Dogs International, Inc, a leading authority in the assistance dog industry. Their service dog teams have worked with children, veterans, and seniors throughout Hawaii providing animal-assisted support in a variety of ways.

Benefits and Risk

Animal-assisted programs have been shown to have numerous physical, psychological and social benefits for students. Therapy dogs can help to decrease stress, promote relaxation, and increase positive social interaction and relationships. There is little to no risk involved in participation in this program. Participation in our EMMS Dog Therapy program is voluntary and your child can choose freely to participate or not participate at any time.

Questions:

If you have any questions about the EMMS Dog Therapy Program, please contact Dog Therapy Program Coordinator, Marie Aguilar at marie.aguilar@k12.hi.us or at (808)687-6992.

Please keep the prior portion of this form for your records.

Student's Name (Print): _____

Student's Signature: _____

____ I do not want my child to participate in the EMMS Dog Therapy Program.

Parent/Guardian's Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Date: _____