



August 15, 2022

Dear Lincoln Families,

We are very excited to share with you that a therapy dog will be coming to school! A therapy dog is a dog that has been individually trained and certified to work with a Handler to provide emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship to school district students. A therapy dog must be well behaved and have a temperament that is suitable for interaction with students and others in a public school. Proper training and certification, as well as health and vaccination paperwork are on file as required by board policy 7202.

Please see the websites listed below for additional information stating the benefits of therapy dogs in the classroom:

"Integrating Pet Therapy Into School Life"

- <https://www.webmd.com/mental-health/features/animal-assisted-therapy#1>

"Lessons Learned From Dogs in the Classroom"

- https://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/admin/admin559.shtml

"Canine Visitors: The Influence of Therapy Dogs on Young Children's Learning & Well-Being"

- <https://therapyanimals.org/>

If your child is allergic or if you have other concerns regarding the presence of a therapy dog at school, please respond in writing within ten (10) days of receiving this communication.

Our therapy dog, Roscoe, will also be in attendance at parent orientation conferences on Monday, August 22nd. If this is of concern, please call the Lincoln office at 563-552-4050.

Sincerely,

Megan Elsinger
Principal
Lincoln Elementary School
Dubuque Community School District