

WIN-E-MAC SCHOOL DISTRICT

RANDY BRUER, SUPERINTENDENT

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February 17, 2022

Win-E-Mac Families:

We have exciting news for the students at Win-E-Mac. In the coming weeks we will be welcoming a therapy dog to our school. "Zoey" will be working with us two days a week and will be handled by our mental health provider and owner, Melissa Smeby. Zoey is a 2 1/2-year-old AKC Golden Retriever. The studies and data surrounding the benefits of therapy pets in the workplace, schools, hospitals, etc. is very positive and we feel that now more than ever, our students would benefit from this experience.

We want our families comfortable with this, so we want to let you know that Zoey had to pass health and behavioral tests by a licensed observer/veterinarian. Melissa also had to pass a handler's test with Zoey to prove they were both ready for this job. We also understand that there could be some children that do not want Zoey around them or in their mental health sessions. In this case, we have arranged a different room for the dog to be in during that time if that were to happen. If Zoey is out of her handler's office at any time, she is on a leash as well.

Please note that the therapy dog will be on a limited time basis for the remainder of the school year but will be available to the district again next school year.

We are thrilled to be able to offer this experience and therapy in our school. Please reach out to the school with any questions you may have.

Thank You,

Randy Bruer, Superintendent



ISD #2609

Win-E-Mac School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer