



Therapy Dog Program

Introducing Fergus and Ares

Meet the Dogs



Fergus

New to therapy/comfort, this young collie already has shown himself to be exactly what students need.



Ares

A seasoned veteran, this Airedale mix brings a smile to all who are lucky enough to meet him.

What can Fergus and Ares do for your students?

Research-based therapy

Studies have shown that visits with a therapy dog can have positive mental and physical effects on children and adults. Some of these benefits include a decrease in stress and anxiety, an increased feeling of acceptance, and a decrease in aggressive behavior. A therapy dog's primary job is to allow unfamiliar people to make physical contact with it and to enjoy that contact. Children in particular enjoy hugging animals, while adults usually enjoy petting the dog.

In classrooms, Fergus and Ares have had children read to them, visited one-on-one with a child, calmed a child who was having emotional outbursts, stopped by for short, fun-filled visits and even offered comfort to some who were grieving. Students respond positively because the dogs do not judge them. The dogs are there to offer unbiased, moral support for the children.

When are the dogs available?

Fergus and Ares are available to visit area schools on Fridays and are scheduled on a first come, first serve basis.