



EA PAWS Program



Informational Meeting
June 1, 2023



Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Program Purpose
3. History
4. Program Components
5. Options for You
6. Next Steps and Training Dates



01

Welcome and Introductions



02

Program Purpose



EA Strategic Plan



EAST AURORA
SCHOOL DISTRICT 131

STRATEGIC PLAN

MISSION

Our purpose is to educate and empower all students to reach their full potential.

VISION

Our future graduates will be confident and productive global citizens committed to improving their community.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES



EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

Meet the diverse needs of all students by ensuring a safe and inclusive learning environment.



OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Utilize systems and resources that promote operational excellence, efficiency, and fiscal accountability.



COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

Engage in continuous improvements through collaborative, student-focused, and data-driven leadership.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Ensure the academic success of all students by closing the opportunity gap.



See our five-year plan at
d131.org/vision

Reach your full potential!



Alignment



EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

Meet the diverse
needs of all students
by ensuring a safe
and inclusive learning
environment.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Ensure the
academic success
of all students
by closing the
opportunity gap.

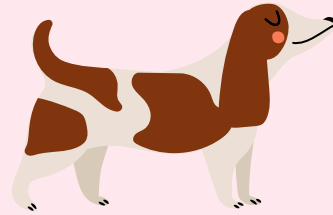


Human-Animal Bond



- Safe Relationship
- Builds Trust
- Unconditional
- Non-judgemental
- Animals are sometimes less threatening than people

Research shows an **Increase** in:



Self Esteem, Empathy, Responsibility,
Anger Control, Communication, Social
Skills, Academic Skills, Teamwork,
Patience, Coping with Illness/Injury,
Energy Levels, Mood

A light pink cloud-like shape is centered on a light blue background. It is decorated with several dark purple paw prints of varying sizes. The text is positioned within this pink shape.

Research shows a **Decrease** in:

Anxiety, Loneliness, Isolation, Depression,
Depressive Symptoms, Feelings of
Distress, Stress Levels for Students and
Staff, Test Anxiety, Fear, Physiological
Arousal, Fatigue, Pain



All dogs are therapy dogs,
• the majority of them are just
freelancing
-unknown

03

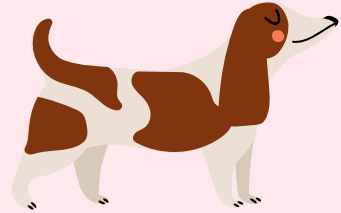
History



History in EA



- EA – Guest Reader Snoopy
- Adventures Program – Vuolo
- Dixie Doodle, Patsy Gallagher



Guest Reader

Snoopy

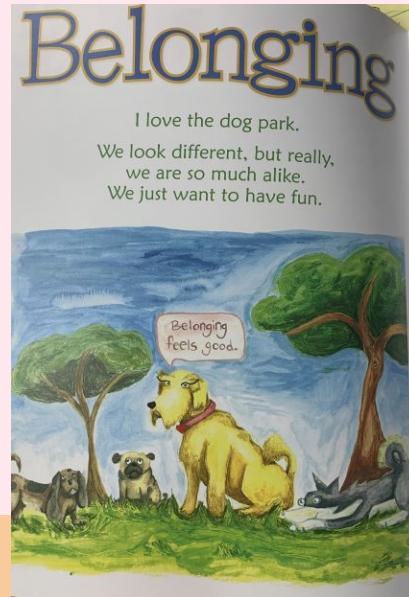
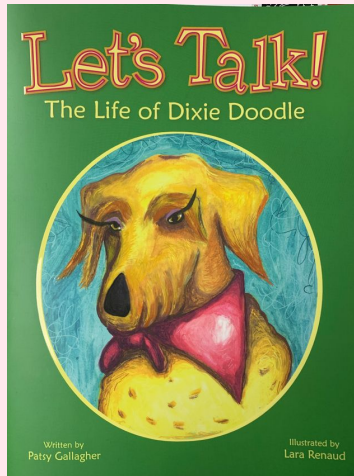


Adventures Program

Vuolo



Dixie Doodle, Patsy Gallagher



04

Program Components



Healing Hearts

- Guidance
- Obedience Training
- CGC Testing
- Assessments
- Insurance





Overview of our Program



- Training Provided Onsite
- August 2023 Implementation in Elementary
- Expansion to Middle and High as Pet Teams become available

Program Components:

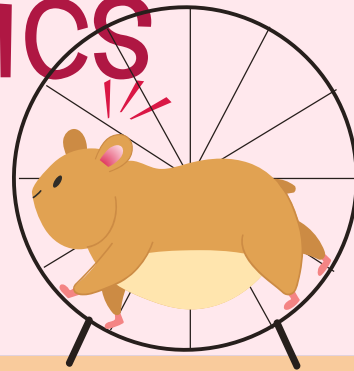
- **Obedience Training Schedule, CGC Testing**
- **Schedule=** 3 days per week, up to half day
- **Pet Team Composition** = 1 Pet, 1 Handler
- **Beginning in Elementary Schools**
- **Supporting in Schools=** Social Work Groups, Crisis Situations with a Clinician, SEL Time in Classrooms, Reading with Students, Other Academic Areas with Students

05

Options for
You



Pet/Handler Characteristics





Ideal Pet Characteristics:

- At least 6 months old, ideally around 2 years old
- Obedient, Calm, Friendly
- Good in Crowds and around Children
- Any Breeds

The slide features a light pink background with a large, rounded white shape in the center. This shape is decorated with several dark purple paw prints of varying sizes, scattered around its perimeter. The title 'Ideal Handler Characteristics:' is written in a bold, sans-serif font. 'Ideal' is in a reddish-pink color, while 'Handler Characteristics:' is in dark purple.

Ideal Handler Characteristics:



- Calm Demeanor
- Friendly
- Comfortable with Pets
- Confidentiality
- Normal Employment Requirements
(fingerprinting, onboarding, etc...)



Option 1:



Handlers Only

- 
- You do not own a pet and you may not want to
 - Attend Training with the Pet on your Pet Team
 - Paid position: \$25 an hour, up to a half day, three days per week
- 






*We are working to explore flexibility with EA 131 employees who are interested in being handlers



Option 2:

Pet Owners Only



- 
- You own a pet, want your pet to be in the program with a trained (and available) handler
 - Attend Training with your Pet and the assigned Handler on the Pet Team
 - Voluntary, but all training and insurance would be paid for by District
 - Your dog would need to be available three days per week, up to half day,
- 
- 


*We are working to explore flexibility with EA 131 employees who are interested in being handlers



Option 3:



Handler & Pet Owner

- 
- You own the pet and you want to be a handler
 - Paid for being a handler: \$25 an hour, up to a half day, three days per week
 - Attend training with your pet



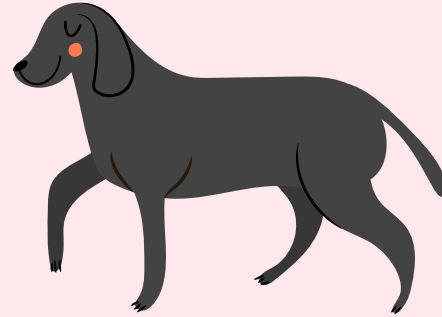
*We are working to explore flexibility with EA 131 employees who are interested in being handlers

“Some people don’t understand why I
talk to animals. That’s okay, the
animals understand.”

—Someone **Unknown**



Certification Requirements:

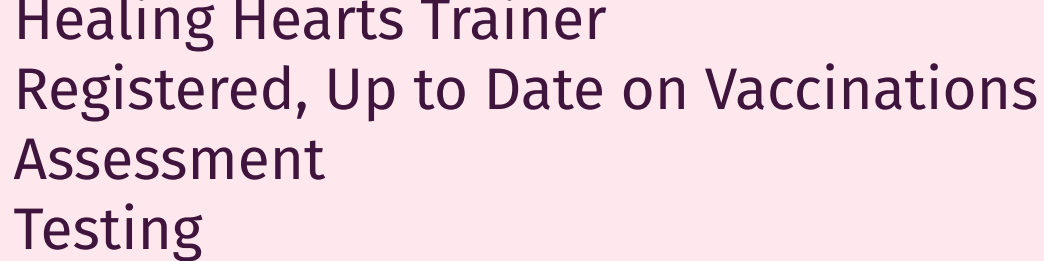


- **Required to be a D131 Comfort Dog:**
 - Canine Good Citizen Test Pass (CGC)
- **Optional:** Therapy Dog Certified

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Obedience Training Components:

Healing Hearts Trainer
Registered, Up to Date on Vaccinations
Assessment
Testing

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Session 1 Training Dates:

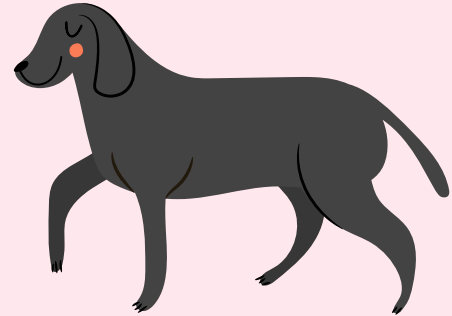
- Thursdays
- 6:45pm (about an hour)
- **June** 8, 15, 22, 29
- **July** 6, 20
- No Class July 13
- Location: 1480 Reckinger Rd.
Aurora, 60505 (GCC Gym)

Session 2 Training Dates:

- Thursdays
- 6:45pm (about an hour)
- **August** 3, 10, 17, 24, 21
- **September** 7
- Location: 1480 Reckinger Rd.
Aurora, 60505 (GCC Gym)

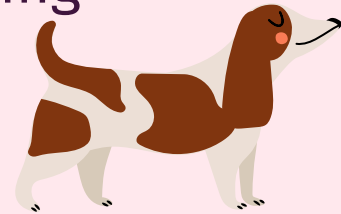
CGC Testing:

- Onsite assessment and CGC testing
- Once a pass, can begin with their facility schedules

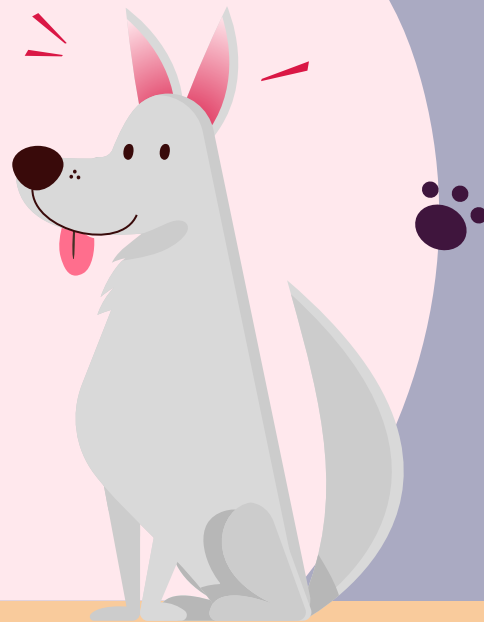


Next Steps:

- Fill out the **commitment form** letting us know which option you would be interested in and let us know which training session you will be attending



The best
therapist
has fur and four
legs.





Thank You

- Board President, Annette Johnson and Board of Education
- Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Norrell
- Marcia Perrin and Vuolo, Patsy Gallagher and Dixie
- Healing Hearts, Linda and Kim
- HR Team, Stephanie Steinbrecher, Student Services, Joe, Wendy, and other Experts in the Field

