Dr. Daniel J. Dooley
Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Allyson Milazzo
Business Administrator



Ms. Lindsay Reed
Director of Special Services/Curriculum
Mr. Kevin Burns, Principal
Emma C. Attales Middle School
Dr. Shelly Ward Richards, Principal
H. Ashton Marsh Elementary School

## **Animal Assisted Activities/Animal Assisted Therapy Programs**

## Dear Parent/Guardian:

I am pleased to announce that Absecon School District is now going to be offering Animal Assisted Activities and Therapy to our students by using our very own Certified Therapy Dogs, Skye and Hope.

Working with animals has been shown to benefit students in many ways including:

- Increasing levels of motivation
- Improved academic skills, including but not limited to reading fluency
- Helping to build trust and provide a sense of security
- The provision of unconditional acceptance
- Promoting character traits that include: caring, cooperation, empathy, gratitude, humanity, nurturance, patience, perseverance, respect, responsibility, self-control, self-esteem, and service

I am very excited to provide our students with the opportunity to work with Skye and Hope throughout the school year. If you are interested in having your child work with Skye and Hope, please complete and return the permission slip below to your school counselor. For additional information, please review the accompanying packet and look for updates on our website in the near future at <a href="www.abseconschools.org">www.abseconschools.org</a>. If you should have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me directly at (609) 641-5375 ext 1033.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Reed
Director of Special Services/Curriculum





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## 2021-2022

## **Animal Assisted Activities/Animal Assisted Therapy Programs**

Students Name:		
Classroom Teacher:		Grade Level:
Any known pet allergies: Yes / No	If yes, Please explain: _	
Parent/Guardian Signature:		Date:

