

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



**ABSECON**  
**PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
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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



The S.M.I.L.E Program is geared towards children who need more confidence in reading. A team consisting of a handler and a dog visit the classroom, or the therapy animal visits during library time and acts as an independent center, and children spend 5-15 minutes one-on-one for a reading session. Children sit and read to a cuddly, comforting animal to improve their literacy, inflection, communication, and vocabulary skills while boosting their attention span and confidence. In addition to improving literacy skills and overall interest in reading, a therapy dog program in schools offers the following benefits to the reader:

- **Compassion**
- **Confidence**
- **Stress Relief**
- **Better Focus**
- **Socialization**
- **Improved Moods**
- **Boosted Attention Span**
- **Calming**
- **Teaches Children to be Gentle and Kind to Animals**

If you would like your child to participate in our S.M.I.L.E Program with Skye and Hope, our District Therapy Dogs, please return the completed form to your child's Homeroom Teacher.



Sincerely,

Kevin Burns  
Principal

Leslie Satt  
Principal

Please visit our website at [www.abseconschools.org](http://www.abseconschools.org)



### Silent Mentors in Literacy Education

Students Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Classroom Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Any known pet allergies: Yes / No If yes, Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_