

Portage Area School District
84 Mountain Avenue, Portage, Pennsylvania 15946
Phone (814) 736-9636 Fax (814) 736-9634

Parent Opt-out for Therapy Dog Support

Portage Area School District will continue with the therapy dog program. Research has shown that therapy dogs in schools can help build strong social emotional skills in students. A therapy dog presence has also been shown to reduce anxiety, help students work through anger management concerns, reduce bullying tendencies, and address other personal and social issues that all of our developing students deal with.

The dog handler will have specific guidelines to meet cleanliness and grooming requirements. The school also requires regular veterinarian checks for registered Therapy Dogs along with regular evaluations to maintain certification.

Please complete the form below acknowledging if you would prefer your child NOT to have contact with the Therapy Dog and return it.

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

I understand that my child may have incidental or student initiated contact with the school therapy dog. I understand that the therapy dog may be in my child's room and may be a part of the counseling process. I understand that this permission form will remain 'active' during this school year. If I should change my mind regarding my child's interaction and participation with the therapy dog, I understand I must provide this in writing to the school office. If this form is **NOT** returned to the district upon enrollment/ start of the 2024-2025 school year, you are giving permission for your child to participate in the therapy dog program.

No, my child may NOT have contact with the therapy dog.

Due to Allergies

Fear of Dogs

Other

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

If you have any questions, please contact the School Social Worker, Ashley Shaffer, LSW at 814-736-9636 ext. 1620.

Pete Noel
Superintendent of Schools

Jeff Vasilko
Business Administrator

Dennis McGlynn, Esq
Solicitor

Troy Eppley
Director of Student Svc.