

**Therapy Dogs in the Kenmore Town of Tonawanda Union
Free School District Parents and Guardians Information
Letter and FAQs**

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We would like to inform you that your child's school **Kenmore East** is participating in a therapy dog intervention. This is a wonderful opportunity for our school community. Research has shown that therapy dogs support psychological growth and increase social skills and self-esteem in children and adolescents. Therapy dogs have been trained to provide emotional support, positively impacting learning, social emotional functioning and communication skills. This letter is intended to provide initial notice of the plan to include a therapy dog in our schools. On behalf of everyone at your child's school, thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation and support of this therapy dog intervention.

1. Who is the dog at my child's school?

Kai is an **Old English Sheepdog**, who has completed and been registered with Therapy Dogs International (TDI). The therapy dog's handler is **Patricia Busch, LMSW**.

2. What does A therapy dog do at school?

The dog has many different jobs at school. The therapy dog will be working with students. The dog will also work with their handler to provide assistance for students including, but not limited to, effort, participation, social awareness, confidence, engagement and belief in their power to succeed.

3. I am worried about allergies. Is this concern being considered?

Despite being a hypoallergenic dog, the handler coordinates with our school nurse to be aware of students who have allergies. Please reach out if additional concerns are present.

4. My child is afraid of dogs. What should I do?

Please contact **Mrs. Busch** if your child has an aversion to dogs. There are several rules that our dog and **Mrs. Busch** follow at school to ensure that all our students and staff feel safe.

5. Whom do I contact with questions?

Please contact **Mrs. Busch** if you are interested in learning more about these programs and how they may help your child. They can be reached at **716-874-8402 ext. 22531** or by email at pbusch@ktufsd.org.

What do I need to do if I do not want my child to work with the therapy dog at school? If you have any reservations and do not want your child to participate in the Therapy Dog program, please use the below QR code to access the Opt-out form. If you are unable to access the QR code, please contact the individual identified above.

