

Breeze, the Therapy Dog, FAQ's

1. Q. Why do we want to have a dog at school?

A. Therapy dogs improve attendance, have a calming effect, and are an incentive to meet behavioral and academic goals. They also help students to increase confidence, improve test scores, meet sensory needs, and overcome fears.

2. Q. How is this different from a pet dog at school?

A. Breeze is trained and has passed testing to be a certified therapy dog. Breeze's certificate is posted outside Mrs. Frank's room and registered with a recognized national organization. In addition, Breeze has three years of on-the-job experience in schools in New York.

3. Q. So we have a dog running wild at school?

A. No, Anna Frank and Breeze are part of a team. Breeze works with the trainer, Mrs. Frank, at all times.

4. Q. My child is terrified of dogs. Will Breeze scare my child?

A. Breeze will make no unwelcome approaches to students or staff. Breeze is calm, does not bark, and is trained not to jump. Students will never be forced to be near or touch the dog.

5. Q. What about children with allergies?

A. Students can avoid problems by not petting or standing near Breeze, and washing hands after touching breeze to remove hair and dander. Breeze will not be allowed in classrooms where teachers or Mrs. Richmond have identified students with severe pet allergies.

6. Q. Is my child at risk of being bitten?

A. Children and the dog will not be left unsupervised. Dog behavior and reactions are constantly under supervision and evaluation. Temperament testing was part of Breeze's certification process. Any sign of aggression at home, school or during a therapy visit would immediately disqualify a dog from the program and Breeze would not allowed back at school.

7. Q. What is the difference between a therapy dog and a service dog?

A. Therapy dogs are specially trained to offer comfort, companionship, and affection to those in need of a friendly presence. These gentle animals are used in a variety of situations. Service dogs are trained to aide in the daily physical needs of the owner.

8. Q. What else do we know about Breeze?

A. Breeze's shot and health records are up to date and on file with the school district. In addition, [Therapy Dogs Incorporated](#) carries insurance for Breeze and Mrs. Frank. Breeze is regularly bathed, brushed, cleaned and housed with the Frank Family nights and weekends☺