



# ABSECON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

800 Irelan Avenue, Absecon, NJ 08201  
(609) 641-5375 \* FAX (609) 641-8692



Dr. Daniel J. Dooley  
Superintendent of Schools

Tina Maruca  
Business Administrator

Lindsay Reed  
Director of Special Services/Curriculum

Joseph Giardina, Principal  
H. Ashton Marsh Elementary School

Kevin Burns, Principal  
Emma C. Attales Middle 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 about providing 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 by December 1, 2018. For additional information please review the accompanying packet and look for updates on our new website in the near future at [www.abseconschools.org](http://www.abseconschools.org). 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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**2018-2019**

## **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: \_\_\_\_\_