

Animal Assisted Activities

Illini West High School will be implementing an Animal Assisted Activities (AAA) program this fall. AAA is a program where animals are used within classroom and with individual and PBIS counseling sessions to promote any of the following benefits:

- Lowers student anxiety
- Lowers blood pressure
- Calms nervous/agitated students
- Reduces stress and loneliness
- Increases motivation
- Increases self-esteem

There is much research available on the use of AAA within schools and the positive affects it has on students and faculty. Please check out the various websites and references listed on the back of this form.

Illini West will be using is a 3 year old red bone coon hound named Red. Red and his owner have received all the training and certification necessary to be in a school facility around students from Delta Society, an organization that promotes the use of animals for therapy purposes and trains dogs and their owners. All veterinarian and certification records are on file in high school office should anyone wish to view these documents. Please be assured that Red will never be left unattended and that all safety precautions for the students and Red have been addressed. Should you have any questions regarding AAA, please contact Rhonda Miller, Special Education Coordinator @ 217-357-2136, ext. 1532.

Several teachers have expressed interest in having Red visit their classrooms on a regular basis, but we need parent permission to allow this. Please sign and return the permission form either giving permission or denying permission for Red to be in your student's classroom. Please be aware that Illini West has established "no dog zones" such as the cafeteria, kitchen, student cooking areas, and shop areas.

Please complete and return with registration paperwork.

_____ I give permission for the Animal Assisted Activity dog to be present in classroom(s) where my student is present.

_____ I DO NOT want the Animal Assisted Activity dog in classrooms where my student is present.

_____ I would like more information about the Animal Assisted Activity program.

Student's Name _____ Grade _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____