

Good Morning Distinguished Members of the Committee,

My name is Marie Schluter (I reside at 24781 Nottingham Novi, MI 48374) and I am the proud Principal of Stuckey Center School, which is located at 26000 Fargo, Redford Michigan 48240. Our school is a Wayne County ISD Special Education Program which specializes in teaching students who are certified Emotionally Impaired. Students come to our school when they are too severely emotionally impaired to stay in their local districts. We service 9 different school districts in Wayne County. Our students struggle with severe depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues.

My partnership with The Family Puppy Store began 5 years ago with students coming up with the idea of bringing puppies to school to help them with stress. This was a student driven idea that has flourished into a TREMENDOUS PARTNERSHIP into our specialized program, and the puppies have now been an integral part of helping the neediest students in the county, providing them with stress management breaks, mood improvements, and pure happiness in playing with a puppy during their lunch time period.

The health, care and well-being of all of the quality puppies John and the Family Puppy Store has provided our students is exceptional. The puppies are clean, have high energy, and are very social with every single student they've encountered. The students are able to enjoy the puppies on "Puppy Day," which is organized by the Student Council. They make signs around the entire building letting people know when the "Puppies Are Coming!" It is like Christmas on a monthly basis, and to be able to provide positive hope, smiles, and excitement for 30 minutes during their lunch time, to students who struggle with finding happiness, is a priceless gift.

Speaking of priceless, this is COST EFFECTIVE for the school, since John's goals for the puppies are to have at least 200 human contacts in gaining experience to being very socialized. Our students need the love and affection they receive from the puppies. It is truly a WIN-WIN situation. I have many pictures and videos to prove this, and I also brought with me the students statements who wrote in their own words how powerful these animals are in bringing them stress relief and joy.

At a time when our students across the nation are stressed about many issues while in school, we have found a creative strategy to help them look at how they feel before, during, and after the puppies come. We then build on other stress management techniques from there, and the puppies are the foundation to that discussion.

Speaking of building, my school is for students grades 9-12, but we share the building with the K-8 grades as well, and those students are also certified emotionally impaired. We are trying to build the little kids Puppy Day with the older students by having the younger students read a book to the puppies. This has been a challenge for the younger students because the puppies are high energy. The high school students have offered to help the younger students hold the puppies while the younger kids read to the dog with "uninhibited judgement"... because the puppy is not going to care if the student misreads a word or not. This has been providing some bonding within our 2 school programs, and once again, the puppies are the central focus of this success.

Please take a minute to look at some of the students' powerful statements about how these puppies impact them and support them with their anxiety and stress issues. Animal therapy has proven research tied to healing, and the Family Puppy Store has been a pillar in our school. Other schools want to join in on our success, but John has been focused on helping us, and together, we are providing a SOLUTION to two issues at once. I hope you see the benefits of partnering the Family Puppy Store with school districts.

Respectfully Yours,

Marie Schluter, Ed. S.



Stay
PAW
-sitive



Cedric 12th The puppies

have impacted our school

by helping us get through
a tough day we've

had being able to take

a break with the

cute puppies and

they help the days go

a lot better

to, Puppy family

4/21/10

Animal, the year has been lengthened to our
school. Bring all to you as I expected
to my house after school. You will see
me at home. I will not do it so that
you may have time to get away from
me when and as I want to. And when
I will not come at. You bring me what is left
and to bring me fruities and vegetables
so that I can eat it when I am hungry
and to drink water when I am thirsty.

I think they should let the puppies keep coming to the school.

One reason I think they should keep letting the puppies come is because, there are a lot of kids in our school that look forward to seeing the puppies.

Taking the puppies away from Shockey would be very sad. I love puppies and think they should keep bringing them here.

To whom it may concern,

I believe that the puppies coming from the pet shop to our school is a good stress reliever. The puppies make me smile and laugh and bring me joy throughout the school day.

Closing the pet shop will not stop the pups from coming to my school. Also two local breeders have told me they would continue to bring their dogs to my school. Please don't close the pet shops. -Kamya

Hello my name is
Braxt. I am a senior
at Stuckey. I far one
benefit from having
the puppies here very
much. It helps me get
over my depression and
any other issues I have.
I really hope you can
let the puppies stay
because it really does
make my day better.

To who it may concern, Please do

not take away the Pet's Shops.

The Pet's Shops have programs where

puppies are brought to are schools for

therapy use. I have a lot of Anxiety

throughout the day, but when the

puppies come in my anxiety melts

away. As for my peers they feel more

at ease and can focus more at school

with a stress free environment. The puppies

have a big impact on are school and we

would like to keep it that way.

Sincerely, a stress free student, Vanessa

5-1-18

Courtney S

I would like the puppies to keep coming here. I have a dog myself. I love petting their soft fur and cute ears. It calms me to pet & play with them. I love dogs & animals in general. It makes me happy to see happy, eccentric puppies. They give others comfort & relieve stress as well. I especially love it because I can't see my dog in school. Overall, it would be great if the puppies kept coming to Stuckey.

The contributions

of the pet family have

help our school provide a

environment for students

to relax + relieve build

stress, this helps me

+ others to bring our focus

back to work when it's time to.

Reward 12 grade

Dear to whom it may concern,

Here at Shady Center we

usually have a day called

Buddy Day. This is when puppies

from a store come to visit us.

They have fun with us and then

the students get to look

at the puppies. I feel like

they have a strong impact

on the students and staff.

I hope we get to keep them.

Sincerely, Mason 10th Grader

Puppies help me because petting them and hanging out with them reduces stress and helps me keep a positive attitude throughout the school day.

I think more schools should have puppies because kids with various different issues can benefit. Whether its something as small as schoolwork stress, or something as serious as anxiety. Puppies can help relieve some of those issues.

Sincerely, Gillian.

When puppies come to my school, I feel at ease and I can see that everyone else does too. Puppies are good stress relievers and we all love them. Puppies help me relax and remain calm at a time of panic or stress. Their smiling faces are contagious, and I can always appreciate that. If puppies came to more schools, more students would be happier.

- Rachel

I like when puppies come to school because they help people feel good when they come around and it reduces the stress of our fellow students. If puppies came to more schools there would be less school fights and more of a calm environment for the ~~students~~ To do their work and get through school. I think puppies are great for students to be with an animal to lower anxiety which is a problem with a lot of kids, also puppies can help kids be happy.

Sincerely

Sasha ~~[Signature]~~

I like it when puppies come to my school because they brighten my day and make me think "it was all worth it". Puppies help me cope and give me a reason to keep me going. I feel if puppies came to more schools, it could make students calmer and less aggressive just as it does for me.

Taber

When the puppies come to our school

I feel a sense of peace and relaxation.

They help take off stress off of

school and help with bringing up my

mood. Maintaining a happy mood can

be difficult with someone with depression.

With the puppies coming it really helps

with my mood and others. If more

puppies came to school it will have

the same effect on other students,

boosting mood and reducing stress off

of school.

Lloyd

I Like when puppies come to my school because,
the puppies are so energetic and happy. The puppies
bring happiness to those around them. When we go to
see the puppies I see smiles on people's faces
that I haven't seen before. I feel if more schools
had puppy days that kids would be more positive
and excited to come to school. I think that
puppies bring positive emotions to everyone.

Carley