



Our Lady of Consolation

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

4865 11 Mile Rd NE Rockford, MI 49341

November 8, 2014

Dear Parents and Students,

We are happy to report that Beau, our new school therapy dog, has completed his initial training and is now working on "manners" training. Over the next couple weeks, Beau will begin visiting school accompanied by his handler, Mrs. Petersen.

Manners training is crucial for Beau's development. He has been practicing off-campus using a "place" cot and a training collar, which will also be used in the building. The cot, located in the office, serves as Beau's designated spot for breaks, and he must stay there until his handler releases him with the command "break." The training collar gently vibrates to remind him to focus on commands and does not cause any pain.

While Beau is friendly and excited to meet students, everyone is asked to wait for Mrs. Petersen's signal, "Make a Friend" before approaching or petting him. Beau is also adjusting to the school environment and will always be on a leash with Mrs. Petersen. You may see him walking up and down the halls while class is in session. He is getting used to the sights, sounds and smells.

For those uncomfortable with dogs, it's perfectly fine to let Mrs. Petersen or a teacher know, and a separate meet-and-greet can be arranged later if desired. No student will ever be forced into an uncomfortable situation with Beau.

We are looking forward to Beau's first visit. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Mr. Varner
Mrs. Petersen and Beau

