



**Nettle Middle School**  
Haverhill Public Schools

150 Boardman Street  
Haverhill, MA 01830  
978-374-5792

Principal: Eileen Doherty  
Assistant Principal: Julio Perez  
Assistant Principal: Brendon Parker

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December 12, 2024

Dear Nettle Families,

I am excited to introduce a new member to our school community who will undoubtedly make a positive impact on our students' well-being and overall school culture.

It is with great pleasure that I introduce you to Nettle's Comfort dog, **Tucker**. **Tucker** is a gentle and friendly English Labrador, specially trained to provide emotional support and comfort to our students. he will be a valuable addition to our school's resources for promoting social and emotional well-being.

Comfort dogs have been shown to have numerous benefits in educational settings, including:

1. **Stress Reduction:** Interacting with comfort dogs can help reduce stress and anxiety, which can be especially beneficial during exams and other stressful times.
2. **Improved Focus:** Spending time with **Tucker** can help students improve their concentration and focus in the classroom.
3. **Increased Social Engagement:** **Tucker** will encourage positive social interactions among students and create a welcoming atmosphere.
4. **Emotional Support:** **Tucker** is available to provide comfort and companionship to students who may be experiencing emotional difficulties.
5. **Positive Behavior Reinforcement:** The presence of **Tucker** can be used as a reward for good behavior and achievement, motivating students to excel in their studies.

**Tucker** will be working closely with Ms. Lawler, her handler, and he will be available to visit classrooms and spend time with students in designated areas of the school. **Tucker's** trained handler, will always be accompanying him in order to ensure the safety and well-being of our students. Please be assured that **Tucker** is well-trained and is certified through the Alliance of Therapy Dogs he is up-to-date on all vaccinations and licensure requirements.

We believe that **Tucker's** presence will create a more positive and nurturing environment at Nettle Middle School, and enhance the social and emotional well-being of our students. We are thrilled to have him as a part of our school community and are confident that he will have a positive impact on all our students.

If your child has any allergies or concerns related to **Tucker's** presence, please do not hesitate to contact our school nurse, Diane Adebayo at (978)374-5792 or email at [diane.adebayo@haverhill-ps.org](mailto:diane.adebayo@haverhill-ps.org).

We are looking forward to a wonderful school year with **Tucker** as a part of our team. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about **Tucker** or our comfort dog program, please feel free to contact me directly.

Thank you for your continued support, and let's welcome **Tucker** with open arms and open hearts to our school community.

Sincerely,

Eileen Doherty  
Principal

Welcome **Tucker!**

