



Smithtown Central School District
Smithtown High School West
100 Central Road, Smithtown, NY 11787

John Coady
Principal
(631) 382-2900

Russell Stewart
Interim Superintendent of Schools

September 9, 2019

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We are writing to let you know that we are continuing to use an exciting tool that will be working with one of our students this year- a Service Dog!

The service dog will accompany the student to school each day and will attend all activities with the student. This specially trained animal is here to help our student gain more independence and assist with their medical condition.

A service dog is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability. The work or task is directly related to the person's disability. Some examples of trained tasks are alerting to specific sounds such as the person's first name or fire alarms, retrieves items dropped, provides stability when standing or walking, assists in opening doors and much more.

The federal law, Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), allows a service animal to accompany his or her human partner into all places of public accommodation including school, place of employment, businesses, organizations and other such locations. This federal law applies to all locations open to the public.

The federal law states that fear and allergies are not valid reasons for denying access to the team. In an effort to create a balanced, safe learning environment for all students we ask that you contact Matt Prah, Assistant Administrator for Special Education, at 382 - 2072 at your earliest convenience if your child has a documented allergy to dogs and/or if there are any extenuating circumstances that we should consider for class placements and seating arrangements at school events.

Thank you for your continued support!

Respectfully,

John Coady