

HENDRICK HUDSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Hendrick Hudson High School

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JAMES L. MACKIN, JR.
Principal

LAURA G. NEIER
Assistant Principal

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Assistant Principal

Ramona FAQ Sheet

Who is the dog at my child's school?

Ramona is a 2-year-old red Labrador Retriever. Ramona was selected with careful consideration by the Guiding Eyes for the Blind Foundation to join our program. When she is not at school, she lives with the SAILOR Program Teacher, Mrs. Feal.

What does Ramona do at school?

Ramona will be a part of the SAILOR program team and ABC program across the district. She helps several kids reach goals related to self-esteem, emotional regulation, friendship, or attention issues among many others. She will also serve as a job for students in the program who are interested in working with animals.

I'm worried about allergies. Is that being considered?

We have worked with our school nurse and are aware of students who have allergies. Ramona is well groomed to minimize excess dander. One important protocol used when working with Ramona is having staff/students wash hands before and after working with her.

What if a child is afraid of dogs. What should I do?

Please let Mrs. Feal know if your child has an aversion to dogs. There are several rules that Ramona and Mrs. Feal follow at school to ensure that all our students and staff feels safe. That is a primary focus of this program.

What is Ramona's training?

Ramona has received basic Guiding Eyes for the Blind training in obedience. She continues to develop her skill set to meet specific needs of the program. She is working on accruing hours towards her official therapy dog certification.

What do I do when I see Ramona?

Ramona is a faculty member at the school and should be treated as such. Ramona will have a vest that she wears when she is working. During this time, follow the guidelines of no touch, no talking, and no (or minimal) eye contact. While Ramona is very well trained, we want to minimize unnecessary distractions. Ramona is trained using positive reinforcement and finds a great deal of joy from excited and happy people. To her, that means job well done. Please refrain from speaking to her in baby talk or at a high-pitched voice. That excitement she gets during training exercises and you may confuse her. Ramona will have times throughout the day where she is on a break. She will be in her crate or designated space free of major demands. During this time she will have her vest off. You can pet her and show affection, but again refrain from an excitable tone of voice.

Please contact Mrs. Feal if you are interested in learning more about Ramona and her roll at the High School. She can be reached at christina.feal@henhudschools.org