

Meet Bentley and Buddy (CGC, PA, EAD), The ES Educational Assistance Dogs

Eastside is the proud home of two amazing Goldendoodles. Bentley (6 years old) and Buddy (2 years old). They come to school regularly for student support, incentives, and sweet smiles.

Bentley and Buddy live with their handler, Jill Fletcher, the principal of Eastside. Bentley is under the care of Little Woods Animal Clinic and is groomed regularly by Rosie's Pet Spa. Buddy is under the care of Lake Hamilton Animal Clinic and Briendals Grooming.

Bentley came to Eastside in June of 2021. He started training with Kathie Ball of Loving Dog Training when he was a puppy. He quickly passed his puppy test and training. Ms. Fletcher worked with Bentley and Mrs. Kathie to complete CGC (Canine Good Citizen) training. He passed his assessment in the fall of 2021. Training continued weekly to prepare for the Public Access Assessment and the Educational Assistance Dog Assessment. He passed those assessments in the spring of 2023.

Buddy started his journey at Eastside in the spring of 2025. Like Bentley, he also trained with Kathie Ball and quickly earned all credentials for a Service Dog. In the spring of 2026, Buddy proudly passed his Educational Assistance Dog Assessment!

The dogs help students at school if they are stressed, sad or just need a friend. They walk through classrooms, hallways and the cafeteria to visit friends. Ms. Fletcher leads them throughout the day. They also spend time in the classrooms with trained teachers.

At Eastside, teachers recognize students with outstanding character and behavior by using two different awards. One award is called "Pup Bucks". Students are able to earn a pup buck and then once a week, the students get to take a picture with one of the dogs (sometimes both) and give him a high five and a special treat.

PAWS (Principal's Award for Wonderful Students) awards are presented to students who go above and beyond to make a difference. These students get a certificate and a personal picture with the pups and staff. These pictures are displayed in the hallway, shared on our social media, and a copy is sent home to parents.

Bentley loves the students and staff. He is working really hard to not bark at visitors in the office. Please be patient with him as he gets more comfortable with visitors in the building!

Buddy is very social and loves to greet everyone with a smile, tail-wag and sweet sniff! You are encouraged to pet and love him as you feel comfortable.

Thank you for your support. If there is any reason you or your child does not feel comfortable interacting with the dogs, please complete the form below and return it to your teacher. If you are comfortable with them, there is nothing you need to do.

Sincerely,

Jill Fletcher; Principal/Handler



EAD OPT OUT NOTIFICATION:

I do **NOT** want my child, _____ to interact with the school dogs. Please share any concerns: _____

Parent Signature and contact information: _____

Date: _____