

## Addendum to Parent/Student Handbook

**Animals on Campus** It is not an uncommon practice for parents to bring their pets, particularly dogs, with them to school to drop off and/or pick up their student. Although the Sherwood School District does not have a policy specifically related to this topic, the Hopkins staff would like to establish expectations which will help to keep our school as healthy, safe and respectful as possible. **As a general rule, it would be the schools preference that animals not come on grounds without prior approval of the principal, and then only for a special occasion such as “show and tell.” This is particularly true as it pertains to animals entering the building. We would ask that animals no longer enter the building with the notable exception of service dogs or prearranged visits.** Keep in mind that our MPR (the in-building pick up area) also serves as our school cafeteria. This area is cleaned and sanitized each day in preparation for breakfast the next morning. In spite of this, if you choose to bring your pet onto the grounds, but not into the building, please remember to note that our city does have a “leash law” that requires animals to be on a leash at all times when in public. In a practical sense this is best practice whenever you mix hundreds of children with an animal. In a worst case scenario, owners who bring their pets to school should be aware that they run the risk of assuming any liability if an incident occurs between their pet and another person. Next, it is only respectful that an owner would clean up after their pet. Most of us can relate to the frustration of our kids, or ourselves, tracking an animal’s mess into our cars or homes because the owner didn’t have the courtesy to clean up. Even the act of urinating on a plant can lead to other animals following suit and eventually plants can be damaged beyond recovery. Please know that the staff understands that animals are a valued and critical part of our students, and our own, life experience. We just believe that as with all things, there is an appropriate time and place to enjoy them. Thank you for understanding and for honoring our request.