



Dear Parent/Guardian:

We will soon start a new unit on the humane treatment of animals and how other living beings are connected to and bring joy into our lives. We will have lessons on how to be responsible and kind to our animal friends, both domestic and wild. We will learn what animals can teach us about kindness, empathy, and compassion and how that relates to animals, people, and the natural environment.

Research shows that these types of lessons:

- Increase social-emotional skills for students as they practice how to relate to different animals, how to keep themselves and animals safe in varying situations, and how to build kind relationships based on healthy interactions with animals.
- Harness young people's natural fascination and affinity with animals as a foundation for building compassion, respect, and social and emotional learning.
- Strengthen academic engagement and has a measurable impact on increasing pro-social behaviors of students.

Our students will gain knowledge and tools to make safe and responsible decisions when encountering real-world situations with animals of all types. Many of the lessons are literature-based and include activities in reading, writing, math, science, and/or social studies.

Our goal is to develop a generation of youth who will create positive change for animals, people, and the natural world based on well-informed facts about behavior and communication.

At the conclusion of these lessons, your child will bring home a journal that memorializes their learning and reflections about how these concepts can be applied in real life. They may be very enthusiastic to share this journal and their accomplishments with you.

With Appreciation,

The Texas Humane Network