

Kaliyah Sturges
Journal #8
Capstone

On April 2nd, I was given the exciting news that the MOU between the Tails of Joy and the district was approved, which means my sessions were accepted which I was so happy for. I was glad to finally say all those tears, sleepless nights, dreams I had thinking I wasn't going to graduate had finally come to an end. I was astounded to give Ms. Proll the news, and we shared the same amount of excitement with one another. We began to discuss specific details that needed to be addressed like how many students will be in each group and how much time will each group have with Sophie. So we came up with five students at a time visit for 20 minutes and will have 3 groups originally. I told her how Ms. Boutilier and I discussed on how I could also try and get some of the senior class involved, but Ms. Proll explained that I must focus on what would be an accomplishment in meetings between students and therapy dogs. I must try to keep your focus on that relationship, because you can easily get overwhelmed if you try to accomplish too much, which she's totally right on. I always get caught up in other possible ideas that can distract me on a goal that I originally wanted to accomplish, which was to make sure middle schoolers understand the importance of mental health and understand the benefits of animal therapy. I conferred with Ms. Griffin, Ms. Boutilier, and Ms. Prescott on the current placement of my project and their feedback. Ms. Griffin expressed on how I should come up with possible groups to attend each session and what times will work best with the middle schoolers and Ms. Proll's schedule, so I came to the conclusion that we will have 3 groups (8 students at a time for 15 minutes) times will be between 11:30-12:30 to make sure Ms. Proll and Sophie have enough time with the students, and also have time to leave to ensure they won't be stuck in the parking lot to the school buses. Then we discussed how we will come up with possible groups to take apart in the sessions, so we concluded that one group will be the Student Council and will have a dress down to raise money for the Tails of Joy. Then one group will be chosen by the staff and we will have a raffle to see what the other group will be (get tickets for attendance, good behavior, following CDC guidelines, etc). I also expressed how I will like to give back to the Tails of Joy Giving the opportunity again to work with us, so Ms. Griffin gave me the idea to join her as a guest at the next Student Council meeting, which I was honored to receive the opportunity to do so. So on April 9th, I was able to join the middle school Student Council meeting, where I explained my Capstone to the middle schoolers, my plan to raise awareness to the Tails of Joy organization, and would like their opinion on how to raise awareness. We came to the conclusion that one group will be the Student Council and will have a dress down to raise money for the Tails of Joy. Then one group will be chosen by the staff and we will have a raffle to see what the other group will be (get tickets for attendance, good behavior, following CDC guidelines, etc). Due to us planning having the sessions occur in the courtyard, we haven't had a backup plan might be helpful due to the fact that there's a possibility of poor weather on either days. I am currently working on possible backup plans if they're needed due to poor weather. So

I will start each session by introducing my Capstone purpose to each group of students and why I choose to do this specific topic. Then, I will introduce Ms. Proll and Sophie, and also their journey that led them to where they are today while the students are going up to visit with her (2 at a time). We are currently 5 days away from our first session and I can't be more excited.