

# Hello! My Name Is Kelly

I am AIM's Facility Dog. I am a Black Lab/Golden Retriever/Poodle mix, and am 2.5 years old. My handlers at AIM are Mike Dunn (College), Amy Schwab (OT), and Julie Luzier (Speech). I was trained by [Paws and Affection](#), a non-profit dedicated to training and placing service dogs for young people with a range of disabilities.

## My Role As A Facility Dog

Unlike a service or companion dog, who is dedicated to a specific individual, as a facility dog I am able to interact with all of the people at AIM, including staff, students, and friends. This means that as long as I am with someone I'm comfortable with -- Mike, Amy, or Julie -- I could come to classrooms, come on field trips, join in games, hang out during exams, and be present at meetings. My handlers are continually looking for ways to continue to get me involved in different aspects of the school, so you will probably see me around the school doing all sorts of fun things..

## My Handlers Are My Voice

Many facility dogs are typically found in hospitals, courthouses, and schools. These dogs have roles at their places of work, but are primarily guided by a small group or singular handler. Because my language is limited -- I'm not a big barker either -- my handlers are my voice. Please be mindful of their requests for me, and respect their advocacy on my behalf.

## My Schedule

During the day, you might see me all over the school, but I'll be spending most of my time in Speech & Language, Occupational Therapy, and College Counseling. These are my homes, and I look to these places for relax time. Just like anyone else who works all day, I need my downtime, so please be respectful of when I'm resting or just laying down.

## Rules For Me

1. **Watch My Diet.** I'm definitely a foodie, but also a pretty strict dog-food-aterian with some occasional other treats. Please don't give me your pizza. I might love it a little too much.
2. **Be Sure I'm Not Alone.** Wandering around AIM by myself is a no no, so if I am, let one of my handlers know.
3. **Work Time Is Not Social Time.** When I'm at AIM, like any other working dog, I'm at my workplace and am focused. If your dog accompanies you to campus, please be sure to keep them on their leash.
4. **No Jumping.** Sometimes when I get excited, I like to jump up and give kisses. This is not really polite behavior, so please don't encourage it.

## Rules For People As They Interact With Me

1. **Teacher Permission First.** When you see me in the in hall or around, ask permission before asking to pet me.
2. **Ask To Pet.** I'm cute, what can I say. But, please ask one of my handlers if it's okay to pet me first. Please approach me calmly and pay attention to instructions from my handlers.
3. **Start With One-Handed Pets.** I know that it might be tempting to grab my cheeks or ears, or to give me a hug, but as we get to know each other, it's best to start with one-handed pets. That way I can get to know you, and you can get to know me.
4. **Be Patient.** Sometimes I can get overwhelmed when there are too many people petting me. Be sure to wait your turn to pet, but also be sure to be mindful that other people might want to pet me too.
5. **Respect My Breaks.** Just like anyone, I need breaks to go out for sniffy walks, to take a nap, or just to relax. Those breaks are important for my well-being, and sometimes means that I need a little no-pet time.

## Worried You're Allergic to Me Or Wary Of Dogs?

If you are allergic to dogs or afraid of dogs, please complete the portion of the Magnus Health Form that opts out of working with me and let my handlers and Nurse Thea know that you shouldn't spend time with me. My handlers do give my coat a good brush each day before school so I shed as little as possible, but I am not a shedless dog. Also, I don't want to scare anyone, so please let us know your preferences.

## For Those Who Love Reading About Dogs

If you're interested in learning more about therapy dogs, facility dogs, and other four-legged friends in schools, check out these readings: [Iowa Department of Education](#) - Students Paws and Reflect; [Walsh, Alison E.](#) - Therapy Dogs & Oral



Reading Fluency; [Putz, Jordan N.](#) - Animal Therapy & Students; [U.S. Dept of Justice](#) - Benefits of a Facility Dog in Court; [Bradley & Maldonado](#) - Facility Dog & Student Learning; [MindShift](#) - How Reading Aloud to Therapy Dogs Can Help.