

Hello! My Name Is Scoop

I am AIM's Facility Dog. I am a Golden Retriever. My handlers at AIM are Liz Strauss (Counselor) and Amy Schwab (OT).

I was trained by [Canine Assistants](#) in Georgia, but my friends at [Paws and Affection](#) gave me the opportunity to work here.

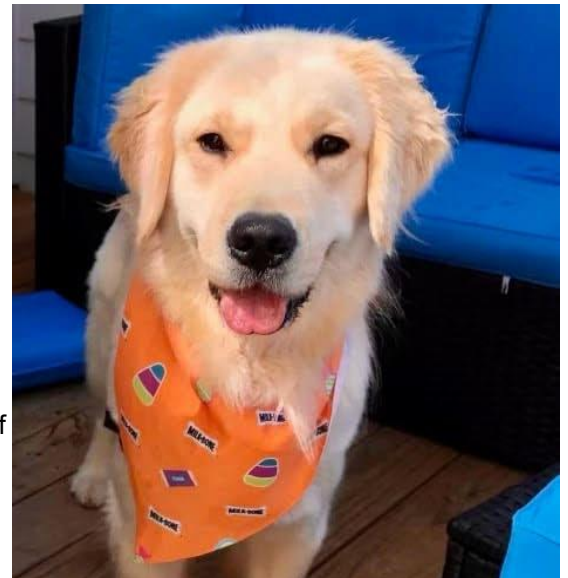
My Role As A Facility Dog

Unlike a service or companion dog, who is dedicated to a specific individual, as a facility dog I 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 -- Liz, or Amy, -- I can 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 get me involved in different aspects of the school, so you will see me around the school doing all sorts of fun things.

My Handlers Are My Voice

Insta Handle: [@scoop_at_aim_academy](#)

Because my language is limited -- I'm not a big barker -- 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'll see me all over the school, but I'll be spending most of my time in Occupational Therapy and Upper School Counseling. These are my homes, and I look to these places for comfort.

Just like anyone else who works all day, I need my downtime. Please be respectful when I'm resting or just lying 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. I try not to, but it's hard. I know this is not polite behavior, so please don't encourage it.

Rules for people as they interact with me:

- 1. Ask Permission.** When you see me, ask permission from your teacher AND my handler before petting me.
- 2. I'm calm, you're calm.** I'm cute, what can I say? But, please approach me calmly and I'll stay calm too. Pay attention to instructions from my handlers.
- 3. One-Handed Pets.** I know it's 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. Wait your turn to pet, but also be mindful that other people want to pet me too.
- 5. Respect My Breaks.** Just like you, I need breaks. I like to go out for sniffy walks, take a nap, or just 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 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.