

Dear STOC Families,

Please review the message sent to us from our Diocese and Insurance Company

As you begin the 2025-2026 Academic Year, please advise all families to not bring any animals onto the school grounds or to school athletic events. Your school and the Diocese could be held liable for injuries a person sustains due to an incident involving an animal on school grounds or at a school event, regardless of where it is held. Such an incident is not limited to a dog bite, for example. A small animal could cause someone to trip and fall, and they could seriously injure themselves. A barking dog could scare a child or cause someone to recall a past traumatic event. If animals are brought to school or an event they must remain in their vehicle. Many see animals as extensions of their family, but consideration must be given to all. Please note that this expectation does not apply to Service Animals. In Massachusetts, dogs and miniature horses are considered Service Animals, and dogs that only provide comfort or emotional support are not service animals. For more information please visit: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/about-service-and-assistance-animals>

Sincerely,

Christopher Borba

Christopher Borba, AIC, ARM, CCLS

Claims/Risk Manager II