

Travis Brorsen and his best friend Presley, a brindle boxer, are teaching kids across the nation about good manners and kindness, including Broken Arrow first graders. Brorsen taught students the acronym P.A.W.S., positive attitudes will succeed. Travis and Presley, winners of the CBS reality show, "Greatest American Dog" brought their character education and bullying prevention message to 1,200 first graders at the Broken Arrow Performing Arts Center. This year, Broken Arrow Early Childhood Centers have adopted the "Adventures with Travis & Presley Character Education and Bullying Prevention program. The curriculum is research based, meets Common Core standards and has been adopted by the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Brorsen grew up in Perry, Okla., and graduated with a degree in Agriculture Communications from Oklahoma State University. He was living in Los Angeles, pursuing an acting career when he heard about auditions for the "Greatest American Dog" program. Brorsen nor Presley had any formal dog training. The two learned to work together through challenges on the show. "The show was about building a positive relationship with owners and their dogs," Brorsen said. "When I created a positive environment with Presley, he responded. Brorsen realized Presley has a disposition and capacity to learn, much like an elementary school student. After winning the show in 2008, the dynamic duo traveled the country speaking to kids in assemblies and demonstrating their skills. "One teacher said, "I've never seen kids so attentive," Brorsen said. Brorsen put together a team of educators and they developed curriculum incorporating self-control, character education and bullying prevention. The program is now used in 700 classrooms in the United States. "Our message focuses on self-control, core values and treating each other with respect," said Brorsen. "If children can learn these skills at an early age, their educational productivity will increase and behavioral issues will decrease." For more information about Travis & Presley, go to adventureswithtravisandpresley.com.