

September 14, 2021

Joe Rosonke, President  
Members of the NHCS D School Board  
New Hampton Community Schools  
710 W Main St.  
New Hampton, IA 50659

Dear President Rosonke and School Board Members:

Thank you very much for taking the time to consider adding a classroom dog to New Hampton High School. Your time is valuable and you have many decisions to make on a regular basis to make our schools a better place for our students, employees, and the community.

There are many benefits to having a classroom pet; one being that it is proven to lower stress, which subsequently opens the mind to learn and process new information. In the Spanish classroom, the goal is to do just that because learning another language can create frustration and difficulty. Plus, students in general are stressed about all of their classes and by having a classroom pet, they have a place they can relax.

Izzy was born on December 21, 2020 and came to live with my husband and I in February. Her dog parents are trained and certified, which speaks to her breeding. Since Izzy's arrival we have been attending training classes and working one-on-one with Trainer Roxy Anderson of Finishing School for Dogs in Cedar Falls. In July Izzy passed both the Canine Good Citizen and the Urban Canine Good Citizen tests.

While Izzy is still a 'puppy' in her adolescent stage of life, she is very well adapted to being around people and mature for her age. She has visited the classroom on a few occasions and has done well. There is a corner in the room with a kennel for Izzy to utilize when she needs a break or there are students who are unsure of her presence. There will also be a place for students to sit and visit with Izzy while they work or during down time in the classroom.

Upon your approval, I hope to start bringing Izzy into the classroom slowly by bringing her two days a week, and eventually increasing the days from there. I will work with Mr. Manson in this process to make sure that both Izzy and I respect the wishes of the school while providing an outlet for students and a comforting distraction to a stressful day.

If there is anything you would like to address prior to the board meeting, please feel free to contact me anytime at (563) 568-7344 or [k\\_ward@new-hampton.k12.ia.us](mailto:k_ward@new-hampton.k12.ia.us). Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kris Ward  
New Hampton High School  
HS & MS Spanish Teacher