



Wimberley ISD

Strength. Innovation. Excellence.

WIGGLY AND WARM, NEWEST WHS TEXANS ARE ADORABLE

Students are Training Puppies for Important Work

Wimberley, Texas, January 14, 2019—There is plenty of love and attention for the three Labrador retriever pups now at the front of Wimberley High School teacher, Tiffany Black's Career Technical Education classroom. While cuddly and cute, these pups, Zinger, Zesty and Zam, have a whole lot of class and homework too. Once they graduate from WHS, they will



move on to advanced training to become full-fledged diabetic alert dogs. The high school is partnering with Freedom Canines International (FCI) to offer this unique learning experience to WHS students.

“We just received our three pups and already our students have picked up some important techniques and tricks for training them. The puppies are very busy and bouncy, so our students really have to balance the right amount of attention they give them with the proper way to

train them for their important service work,” said Black.

The WHS team selected three students from all that applied to be the handlers for the puppies, Timothy “Zane” Shoebroek, Cassidy Heineman, and Skylar Hammond. They are all students in the CTE small animal management/equine science class and eager to make a difference through participating in this program.

“These puppies could save a life some day. They will be trained to alert their owner in case of a drop in blood sugar,” said Shoebroek, who is Zinger's handler.

“I feel privileged to have a part in training Zing to make a difference in someone's life,” he added.

All students who are in Black's different classes throughout the week are learning how to help and handle the pups. FCI Instructor, Todd Kier, is working with them to make sure both pups and students adjust well to each other.

“We're so glad to work with these bright, ambitious and service-minded students to train these pups. These young people are key to our mission of empowering people by providing them with greater independence and freedom,” said Kier.

The pups will be in the classroom until mid-March, then they will accompany puppy raisers to enter all areas of campus. Pups in the classroom became a reality for Black, who wrote a grant

to the Wimberley Education Foundation for funds to launch the initiative. The nearly \$3,000 grant pays for the pup's training and grooming equipment and toys.

[Photo Link](#)

Captions:

1489—Zesty, a WHS service dog in training shows how well she has learned to stay in the kennel until given the command to step out.

1470—Freedom Canines Instructor, Todd Kier works with Jacob Jobes, a WHS sophomore as he trains Zuzax, one of the dogs who will be going to class at WHS until March.

1461—Tiffany Black has new four-legged pupils in her classroom—adding some excitement and important lessons for her students. Three students are each training a Freedom Canine International puppy who will go to advanced training as diabetic alert dogs.

1442—Zesty is continuing her lessons at Wimberley High School, as students like Jacob Quartucci learn the value of training a pup to become a service dog.

1436—Zam, an eager pup, takes a moment to visit the outdoors while training with WHS students in the CTE program.

About Wimberley Independent School District

Nestled in the majestic community of Wimberley, Texas, the Wimberley Independent School District offers the best of both worlds to local families—a small town environment with schools committed to innovation and excellence. WISD campuses include Scudder Primary School for students in PreK-1st grade, Jacobs Well Elementary for students in 2nd-5th grade, Danforth Junior High for students in 6th-8th grade and Wimberley High School, home of the Texans and students in 9th-12th grade. For more information, visit wimberleyisd.net.

Deyanira Romo Rossell
Director of Communications
512-618-2470
951 FM 2325
WIMBERLEY, TX 78676
(512) 847-2414
wimberleyisd.net