



Heritage, Growth, Promise. This is the mission statement for Owen Middle School. With this in mind, teachers planned a unique event for 7th graders recently. Science teacher Brittany Krasutsky says the idea came when she saw how excited students were to have puppies visit the classroom for a lesson about genetics.

"It came about because I rescued two puppies and brought them to show my class. We've been talking about genetics, and I brought the puppies to school to demonstrate how two puppies can be born in the same litter and look nothing alike," said Krasutsky. "It was so fun having the puppies at school; the kids really loved it, and I just thought it would be a great experience as a team to get parents involved and at school."

Krasutsky invited parents and community partners to bring their exotic pets or rescued animals to school for a unique show and tell. Students met a lamb, ferrets, a dwarf goat, ducks, bearded dragons, a cat, dogs, and a pig!

"This turned into a wonderful community bonding experience," said Krasutsky. "Seventh-grader Ethan Barnwell said he had 'never met a pig in person before'. Cameron Colley said 'he'd never even seen a ferret before or been close to a live lamb'. Anastasia McKay talked about her four ducks and one goose and how early she gets up to take care of her pets on the farm. The parents were thrilled to connect with the kiddos! We wrapped up the event with an ice cream treat."

Krasutsky hopes to make this an annual event.

