



3/25/2022

Dear Families of Our Students in 7th and 8th Grades,

I hope that you are well. Although we only have ten weeks left in this school year, I am writing to keep you in the loop regarding a staffing issue for our 7th grade science and health class.

Many of you may be aware that there have been nationwide shortages of teachers and staff for schools this year. In some states those shortages have been so significant that the National Guard has been brought in to teach classes. [Here is a link to one article among many about this issue.](#) Although we have not done this in California, we are still impacted significantly by staffing shortages.

In fact, at Woodworth-Monroe we have had a science and health opening all year. We have worked closely with our district staff to recruit a teacher to this position. Unfortunately, those efforts have not been successful.

In an effort to provide our students with the best possible experience, in light of the circumstances, we worked with our district staff and found a Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher to fill this position. While this teacher is not credentialed to teach science or health, he is credentialed and uniquely experienced to teach both drama and robotics/e-sports.

Therefore, we are finally in a position where we have a regular teacher for students. This means that they won't have day-to-day substitutes. However, they will not have science or health. Like drama and robotics/e-sports, *health is an elective for middle school students.* Our students who were enrolled in health will now have robotics/e-sports, and our students enrolled in 7th grade science will now have drama.

While we know that this is not ideal, we believe that it is the best solution at this time. Students in drama will gain significant skills in public speaking. They will also work on continuing to build their reading and writing skills. Students in robotics/e-sports will develop a full range of collaboration, problem solving and tech skills, and we already have a waiting list of students who want into this class. Our new teacher, Mr. Stengel, will be sending a syllabus to all students enrolled in each of these classes.

Thank you for understanding these truly unique circumstances. Please be assured that we always want the best for your child, and our students. This is the best that we can do under the current national staffing challenges.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Warmly,

Stuart Caldwell
Principal, Woodworth-Monroe TK-8 Academy