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English department faces staffing changes

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During the upcoming 2020-2021 school year, changes will be seen around the school.

Many of these changes affect the English department.

“Right now we have 28 sections in our school that have five or fewer students enrolled. That does not include special education classes, which by their nature are usually small,” Principal Phil Bressler said. “We were looking at a way to reduce our spending in order to hire other positions.”

These changes include eliminating two teaching positions that work within the English department — the journalism teacher position and the current English III teacher position.

“We are going to absorb those positions with current staff,” Bressler said. “That means people who are already in the building who possess the certifications for those smaller classes will be assigned those classes to teach next year.”

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— *Principal Phil Bressler*

Since the small classes will be assigned to the staff already in the building, English teacher Ian Anderson will have to face some changes.

“I do know I’ll be involved with the yearbook and journalism,” Anderson said. “We haven’t had too many meetings about it really. There are a lot of different options. I don’t have any idea which way it’s going to go, but in the end it isn’t really my decision.”

The changes make Anderson

feel uneasy.

“When something changes there is always a little apprehension and concern,” he said. “The unknown of my department makes me a little anxious.”

English III teacher Kathy Rich is also affected by the decisions.

“These changes affect me by making me unemployed, but I am so grateful to have been the tiniest part of the Black Bear family. I still hope to substitute and continue relationships with my students

and the faculty at the school,” Rich said. “Solving budget issues is never easy. It just all adds up and requires creative balancing of the budget.”

She just wants her students to be happy.

“I think my students know that I have loved the opportunity to teach them, and I will always be cheering them on in academics and in being golden. That is the expectation of the class, to treat others as you wish to be treated,”

Rich said. “Being at SHS has made me a better teacher and given me many more individual reasons to love Sterling.”

As a past student of the journalism classes being affected, Morgan Anderson is not impressed.

“Having those journalism classes, such as yearbook and magazine, helped me in so many ways while I was in high school and while I’ve been in college,” Anderson said.

She doesn’t agree with the decisions made.

“Personally, I think Sterling High School should rethink its decision to get rid of Todd Vogts,” she said. “The point of having him teach these classes is because he is qualified. He understands ethical journalism, the meaning of student-led publications, and goes the extra mile to teach writing, design, photography, and advertising. The purpose of student journalism is the students. He knows and understands the value of a student-led class and cares about the future journalists of the world. The publications would die if he left, no questions asked.”