



# Class Sizes

## At Roosevelt

Ap bio classroom by Grace Green.

By Grace Green

Roosevelt is full of classes that students want to take, how do the administrators choose the classes and the sizes? Administrators decide classroom sizes based on the type of class and how many students want or must take it. It doesn't matter what year you are or what courses you've taken before, they'll usually put you in any class that's available. Roosevelt has the highest classroom sizes in Des Moines and the surrounding areas, and some educators are struggling to keep up.

"Teachers in our schools are crying out for help," Roosevelt history teacher Brent Wooters said.

The average class size in our school is 29.6 students per teacher. This is almost double the average class size compared to our surrounding

schools. The number of students each teacher has is causing many to transfer to other schools, leaving Roosevelt with fewer teachers than we started off with. The big classes aren't the only problem, staff not teaching the big classes are also a problem.

"The theory is that we have more people in our buildings that don't teach," Wooters said. Roosevelt has as many employees as other schools, but 24 of those employees aren't teaching. For every 11.68 teachers, there's one administrator. With so many staff members who don't teach, the teachers are left with almost 30 students to teach by themselves.

Teachers often have over 200 kids in total and don't have enough time in their day to grade tests, make lesson plans, and attend meetings. Our educators often must

bring their work home to be prepared for the next day. Larger classes not only affect teachers but students as well.

"It's quieter there, you're able to communicate with people more and get to know the people in the class better and work harder with the people you're around," Roosevelt student Lilly Russell said.

Often in larger classes, students find it harder to focus and build strong relationships with their classmates. In larger classrooms, students get less one on one interaction with their teachers, affecting their grades. With these distractions, it's not easy for some students to focus.

"In bigger classes, people scream and throw things and I can't see the board," Russell said. The more kids in a class, the harder it can be to manage. With 30 students in a single room, it can be difficult for an educator to teach while also keeping students focused.

Each student has different needs in the classroom, and it can be hard to meet those needs with so many other kids also needing help.

Even though some classes are smaller than others, they all have the potential to learn. With smaller class sizes students may be able to focus better, work harder, and strive to build personal relations.