

Vocational-Technical Service: Administration of Justice

By Tyler Silva

Meeting began at 0630 hours at Manteca's Weston Ranch High School for the Lathrop Sunrise Rotary Club on August 23rd, 2012 when the club visited Mr. Waller's Administration of Justice class. The visit was part of the club's outreach to learn about career-vocational education and service in law enforcement and its related occupations.

Like many of the vocational classes, the class is only available to high school juniors and seniors. The reason for this is because the classes are designed for students who may not be contemplating on the traditional four-year college but would like to transition into the workforce immediately after high school. In the case of law enforcement, many of its occupations require a junior college degree and attending an academy. Additionally, the candidates must at least be twenty one years old to enter the field. The requirements may seem a bit stringent for many high school students but enrolling in the class give students a broad glimpse into the vocation, from law enforcement agencies at the local, state, and federal levels. According to Waller, when it comes to administration of justice, students are inherently developing their resume at the high school level because excellent citizenship is implicit.

In the first trimester, Waller's class consists of book instruction and a carefully scripted mock bar-fight, complete with arrest and processing. The second trimester begins with the criminal trial that resulted from the bar fight. Through the role-playing, students see the process unfold from arrest to criminal trial. Various law enforcement agencies also provide hands-on training, distinctive of vocational education.

The visit served as an understanding of vocational educational that is available for students and on this meeting day, it was ultimately a learning experience for the club.