

Rogers High School

Puyallup, WA

Overview

Rogers High School Woodworking Program teaches 150+ students a year the basics of cabinet making and carpentry. With strong ties to the professional community, the Rogers HS program provides a steady pipeline of apprentices and young talent into the local woodworking and building industry.



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Jon Cerio
Rogers High School
Woodshop Instructor



SawStop.com

Challenge

When Jon Cerio started teaching the woodworking program, he was asked to inventory the classroom and compile a “wish list” of tools he needed to properly outfit the High School woodshop. As a veteran woodworker with over 15 years of professional woodworking experience prior to becoming a teacher, Jon was aware of the quality and safety of SawStop cabinet saws and included them on his wish list, recommending the district remove two Powermatic PM2000’s that were still running strong.

The school district agreed to purchase most of Jon’s wish list items, but questioned his request for the new SawStop cabinet saws. Jon felt strongly that the SawStop saws were essential not to just running a safe classroom, but also to continue to provide the industry with a stable of young woodworkers. “A classroom table saw accident has so many consequences,” explains Jon. “First, it’s a terrible, traumatic experience for the student who has the accident, not to mention the liability risks for the school. There’s little chance he or she is going to be able to – or even want to – pursue a career in woodworking. But those other 29 students in the class are also turned off woodworking, so it really deprives the industry of potentially 30 good workers.”

Solution

Jon wrote a letter to the school district outlining the safety advantages of SawStop saws and asked the district to write a letter explaining their refusal to buy the saws for his program. “Within a few hours, I had approval to buy two new SawStops,” reports Jon. “I wanted to protect myself from any liability if an accident happened. It turned out to be a pretty good way to get funding.”

Benefit

Jon feels at ease knowing that SawStop’s Safety System is in place in case one of his students has an accident. In addition, the school district has publicized the purchases to demonstrate to the community the creative ways they look out for student safety. But the biggest benefit to Jon is that he’s safely introducing the next generation of woodworkers to the profession he loves.