A delegation of educators from Shanghai, China toured our high schools during first semester. The visitors were interested in how American schools work, especially as it relates to differentiating for students' learning needs, technology integration and school culture. To provide a comprehensive overview, the tour was in three sections: elective offerings, core courses and co-curriculars.

Andrew High School was the first stop of the two-day visit. The afternoon began by welcoming our visitors as students highlighted the many elective courses available to students. AP Biology and Technology Innovation Facilitator (TIF), Tracy Sukalo and Chief Technology Officer John Connolly also answered technology questions.

Andrew High School Senior Leader Anna Petro shared her experiences as an American high school student with the delegation of educators from China as they toured the campus. While visiting an art class, technology helped connect her with a visiting educator when asked about a student’s sketch. They used a translation app as they discussed the art project. While the translation was not perfect, it did assist in connecting an American student and a Chinese educator as they learned about each other’s school experiences.

Continued on next page
Nogal named Illinois’ Outstanding School Board President by Illinois State Board of Ed.

District 230 School Board President Richard J. Nogal was honored with the 2018 Thomas Lay Burroughs Award for the State’s Outstanding School Board President by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

“President Nogal’s leadership in District 230 captures all of the qualities the Thomas Lay Burroughs Award represents,” said ISBE Board Member Kevin Settle. “His whole community mindset led him to create Community Connections meetings that bring together partner school boards, mayors, police and fire chiefs, and township and county officials in dialogue to improve and uplift their communities collectively. President Nogal championed collaborative leadership in a decision-making structure that welcomes the sharing of ideas and expertise of board members, administrators, teachers, staff and community members. The Board’s Education, Students Services and Finance Committees meet monthly to share insights that guide the Board’s annual goals.”

In accepting the award, Nogal remarked, “I am honored and humbled. I accept the award not individually but on behalf of the entire board and administration...In District 230 we work closely with our Superintendent and our entire school community to establish, achieve and monitor goals and set a common vision for the benefit of our students. Our Board and Superintendent challenge each other to perform at the highest level and to seek continuous improvement throughout the district.”

Delegation (continued)

The tour continued the following morning at Stagg High School where the focus was on core course offerings to provide an overview of the classes students take for graduation. Members of the Stagg Administrative Team provided an overview and answered questions before visiting several classrooms including English, Social Studies, Math and Science where students interacted directly with the group answering their questions about their classes and student life.

“It was a unique and cool experience to talk to people from China about their education system, their country, and even the Great Wall,” said Stagg senior Jizel Castanon. “It opened my eyes to how people outside of the United States view education and made me really think about how we do things here.”

That afternoon, the group traveled to Sandburg High School where the focus was on co-curricular offerings including a tour of the pool, gyms, art classes, choir room and Performing Arts Center. Making a connection through art, one student shared a paint brush with a delegate while showing him a blending technique.

Sandburg High School Senior Ahmed Almasari shares his paint brush with an educator from China.

The visitors then heard from students involved in clubs and sports about why they enjoy being involved and how it benefits them as students.

“I was learning first-hand about international alternatives of schooling, as well as contributing to potential advancements in education across the globe,” said Petro. “Overall, I learned that education is a unique concept that differs within every culture. What is typical in America is nowhere near similar to what teenagers in China are experiencing.”
The importance of relationships among students, staff and community is the center point of District 230’s What’s Your Story theme for the school year with a particular focus on building relationships that help us make learning relevant and empower students.

“If we focus on our mission to prepare students for whatever path they chose upon graduation, and we intentionally build a relationship that will allow learning to be more relevant, I guarantee that they will rise to the challenge of the rigor that we expect of them and they will be prepared.”

- Dr. James M. Gay, Superintendent

Dr. Gay and School Board President Richard Nogal rolled out the What’s Your Story theme at the back to school Institute Day and it has carried on throughout the semester.

Mr. Nogal shared the story of the relationship he built with his high school student council advisor Mrs. Salsbury that has endured more than 40 years. She recently shared with him a photo taken in the 1970s of the two conferring about a speech he was to give to the faculty of Evergreen Park High School at a back to school staff meeting. Now a successful lawyer, he shared that her guidance and mentorship provided him with the confidence to pursue his dreams.

District 230 is engaging students as active participants in collecting and telling each others’ stories. Each month Dr. Gay meets with his Student Advisory groups at the three high schools. And twice per year they come together as a joint group. At the fall gathering, Dr. Gay gave them the assignment to seek out and tell the stories of their classmates, staff and alumni. Armed with interviewing techniques taught to them by Stagg High School English Teachers Chris Wendelin and Lisa Thyer who teach an oral history class, students will be asking, What makes you unique? What are you passionate about? and Who at school has your back?

These stories will be shared on the district’s newly re-designed website, social media and other outlets. Our hope is that the stories will inspire others to engage in deeper conversation with those around them in order to better understand each other.

“Relationships with students are a key ingredient to our mission here in District 230,” Mr. Nogal said. “If we continue to build these relationships in the 2018-19 school year, perhaps 40 years from now, in the far-off year of 2058, a District 230 graduate may take the podium at a future event and talk about how a relationship with a staff member has changed their life forever.”

ABOVE: Stagg High School teacher Lisa Thyer shares storytelling techniques with the Superintendent’s Joint Student Advisory. LEFT: Board President Richard Nogal confers with his student council advisor in this photo from is 1970s high school experience.
Throughout first semester, District 230 had the opportunity to share its Period 2: Advisory, Enrichment and Intervention story with educators from across the state of Illinois. We were invited to share highlights of the program at both the Illinois Association of School Administrators conference in Springfield and at the Joint Annual Conference in Chicago.

Since 2012-13, the Period 2 program has evolved to address several key areas including increasing rigor with additional support through intervention programs, connecting students with at least one trusted adult in the school through Advisory, providing a social emotional learning curriculum through Advisory, and allowing time for students to develop deeper understanding and explore interests through Enrichment. Four days per week, Period 2 builds time into the regular school schedule to address these needs. Students remain with the same Period 2 teacher or teachers for their four years of high school, allowing for a stronger connection between the students and adults.

Increased rigor, increased success
Over the past five years, the district has seen great success including enrollment in Advanced Placement and Honors classes growing from 45% to 53% of all students. At the same time, the number of students receiving Ds has decreased from 7.4% to 6.8% and Fs decreased from 2.4% to 1.9%. The added supports provided through Period 2 have allowed students to stretch themselves academically while knowing the extra help they need is available in order to succeed. A student survey showed that 90% of students utilized Period 2 to seek academic support from their teacher and 82% sought academic support from other resources during this time. That success continues beyond high school, too. Data tracking the 87% of students who go onto to college also shows that our graduates are prepared. District 230 holds a 91% college persistence rate of students who return for their second year of college compared to 73.4% nationally.

Advisory lessons
Advisory lessons address a number of important topics. A social emotional curriculum includes lessons about healthy choices, safety, anti-bullying, digital citizenship, stress management, mental health and suicide prevention.

Counselors, social workers and deans are able to meet with students to address these topics along with teachers. There also are lessons related to organization, test preparation, study skills, career exploration, and the transition into and out of high school. Lessons related to substance use have also resulted in students reporting decreased use. The Illinois Youth Survey showed a 22% decrease in our sophomores reporting using any substance in the past year and a 28% decrease for seniors over the past five years.

Safe school environment
Period 2 has also assisted in creating safe learning environments. Mandated safety drills are more meaningful with time to prepare for and debrief following a drill. Relationships between students and the Period 2 teachers also helps students feel comfortable sharing concerns related to the their personal safety or the safety of others.
Board, administration advocate with elected officials, maintain fiscal responsibility

The District 230 School Board and Superintendent Dr. James Gay take the responsibility of advocating on behalf of the school district and its taxpayers very seriously.

“We are committed to providing the best possible education for our students while maintaining fiscal responsibility to our taxpayers,” said School Board President Richard Nogal.

Advocacy
Board members and the superintendent are in regular contact with state representatives and senators to assure they understand the potential impact of legislation on our schools and our community. It is not unusual for elected officials to seek input from Nogal or Gay, as well.

“The open lines of communication between the district and those representing us in Springfield have allowed District 230 to have a measurable impact on shaping legislation and assuring our voice is heard,” said Superintendent Gay.

The superintendent also represents the district’s best interests during advocacy initiatives in Springfield through the Illinois High School Districts Association and the Illinois Association of School Administrators.

And, elected officials are invited to district-sponsored events including a bi-annual Community Connections meetings that brings together partner school district, city/village, county and state officials to discuss topics of mutual concern.

Fiscal Responsibility
District 230 has a long-standing commitment to fiscal responsibility. It has posted balanced budgets for each of the past 16 years while maintaining high quality educational programming for students. At a time when nearly half of school districts in Illinois are deficit spending, District 230 has remained committed to posting balanced budgets. All while holding the line on taxes by requesting 0% tax levy increase over the prior year’s extension for five of the past eight years. District 230 continues to earn Financial Recognition, the highest rating provided by the Illinois State Board of Education. The district's bond rating also continues to be strong and was upgraded to a Moody's Aa1 rating.

The District is committed to long-range planning. The 25-year facility plan will keep the community's investment in school facilities well maintained and appropriate for learning.

Successful Schools, Successful Students Touchstone
District 230 established the Successful Schools, Successful Students Touchstone in conjunction with staff, students, parents, as well as higher education, business and community leaders to guide its work in preparing students for their future.

For all students of Consolidated High School District 230 we provide programs and services so that each student demonstrates:

- Character that embodies accountability, responsibility, integrity, ethical citizenship, respectful relationships and positive leadership
- Ethical, effective communication and “real world” skills necessary for success as an active participant in a rapidly changing, technologically global community
- Critical thinking, effective problem solving and organizational skills
- Their fullest potential by setting future-focused goals that result in adaptability for an ever-changing career climate
- Growth through learning experiences that balance and blend rigor, relevance and relationships.
NCAA Basketball Party

Whoop It Up!

D230 Foundation Supports Sandburg, Stagg & Andrew

NCAA Final Four
Giant Screens
Beer, Wine & Pop (5-10 pm)
Buffet (6-8 pm)
21 and older event
Super Raffle Drawing
Games & Attractions

Saturday, April 6, 2019
4:30 p.m. - ?
Elements Banquet Center
Orland Park
$50 in advance  $60 at door

$25 per ticket
Only 1,000 Tickets Sold
13 Guaranteed Winners

1st Prize ...............$5,000 (1 winner)
2nd Prize .............$2,500 (2 winners)
3rd Prize ..............$1,000 (2 winners)
4th Prize ...............$500 (4 winners)
5th Prize ...............$250 (4 winners)

Winner need not be present. Drawing at Whoop It Up! event.

Legacy Hall 2019

District 230 Foundation Legacy Hall recognizes alumni who have created a legacy for current and future students to follow in the halls of District 230.

Join us as we honor the Legacy Hall Class of 2019!

Friday, April 12, 2019
5:30 p.m. Social Hour
6:30 p.m. Dinner & Presentation
Silver Lake Country Club, Orland Park

Get tickets at:
d230foundation.org

District 230 Foundation

The District 230 Foundation is a partnership between community volunteers and school leaders to provide educational opportunities and services for students beyond what the typical budget can fund. The Foundation provides grants that bring teachers’ creative ideas to life for students, as well as scholarships to graduating seniors from Sandburg, Stagg and Andrew High Schools.

The District 230 Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; contributions are tax-deductible in accordance with the law.