

## News release



Everett Public Schools

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For more information:

**Sally Lancaster, 425-385-5100**

**Kevin Corbett, 425-385-5100**

**Mary Waggoner, 425-385-4049**

### **Korean delegation visits Sequoia to learn about Online High School**

***In groups of 35, visiting Korean educators gather ideas for their own online learning program***

Kevin Corbett works with the district's Online High School program and is helping host visitors from Korean Air and Correspondence University, the largest online program in Korea. Online High School is housed at Sequoia High School, the district's alternative high school.

Air and Correspondence University is a 39-year-old program funded by the Korean government. It serves that nation's youth and adults who couldn't get a diploma because they were forced to work in factories to support their families or because they couldn't afford to pay for high school. "Yes," Corbett emphasizes, "students **pay** to go to most high schools in Korea! A high school diploma is a big deal. Having one allows someone to take a university entrance test or get a job in government or other higher-paid career."

The name "Air and Correspondence University" comes from the days when they used radio to deliver their lessons and mail to exchange student work. Since their beginning, they have taught over 300,000 students and currently have 15,000 students enrolled this year.

As reported in a Feb. 2, 2011 article in the New York Times, Air and Correspondence University has the planet's fastest internet speeds and is a world internet leader.

According to the article, "By the end of 2012, South Korea intends to connect **every home** in Korea to the internet at one gigabyte per second. That would be a tenfold increase from the already blazing national standard and **more than 200 times as fast** as the average household setup in the United States."

Of the first visit to Sequoia, Corbett said, "The teachers LOVED their visit here and appreciated the ability to visit classrooms. They were especially interested in what was posted on walls around the school. There was quite a gathering around the Challenge Day 'Affirmations' poster in the cafeteria and explanations about each phrase. They took pictures of everything! Getting most of their camera's attention were: the architecture of the building, students, teacher workstations, vending machines, textbooks, and hallways. We have much to learn from them about technology, and we have much to share with them."

The next visiting group from Air and Correspondence University will be at Sequoia on June 3.

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