

## **North Korea Escapee Talks to Darien High School Students**

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**Date :** December 30, 2015

Jinhye Jo's harrowing escape from North Korea at age of 13, and ultimate arrival in the United States brought a personal viewpoint to history for Darien High School (DHS) sophomores.

This month, Jo shared her story of tragedy, abuse, and torture along her journey, which included spending time in a Chinese prison, during four assemblies with 10th graders.

The DHS History Department sponsored Jo's visit in connection to the study of Southeast Asia - Korea, in particular- and the World Studies curriculum.

Beyond her story of escape, Jo answered student questions about North Korean history and life, including questions about the Korean Conflict and use of propaganda. History teacher Chris Buckley, who coordinated the event, said the students gained some new perspectives.

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— an [announcement](#) from Darien Public Schools

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“First-hand accounts such as the one provided by Jinhye Jo allow students the opportunity to make real world connections to the content shared in class,” said Buckley. “Students become more engaged and active learners, and the material becomes memorable in a way that is difficult to replicate.”

Jo’s story is highlighted in the RFK Human Rights Speak Truth to Power curriculum. RFK Human Rights is a global NGO that works to recognize and advance the work of human rights defenders around the world.

The organization was founded by Ethel Kennedy and is a living memorial to her husband, Robert Fitzgerald Kennedy. Buckley is a senior Lead Educator for RFK Human Rights and was able to coordinate Jo’s visit to Darien through the organization.

For more information on Jo or RFK Human Rights, please go to: [RFK Human Rights](#)