On Wednesday, January 7 at our annual Arieh Diamond Memorial Lecture, our school had the incredible zechut (merit) of a visit from Israel's Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi, Rabbi David Lau (http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?fs=001YQEmXwvG0hQyh5MPeATtf1g0Pe7ILOAD6FOQNFUJh30MhvgZD1jAyp6QpocF0u0CYaNnejaUJGEsoyKdn4FGpxkeKOMyf1RHKBCPqZ0lz5PVlyOFy6Mv34UJMwvRkJmvXUag_i7Wlp7u6uTMBgyvux3YOCxK258xWq64xfvmT-Z7GEVO_8&c=6EdCiLjri46QoyYoazQRmRvRvhvWLmDrDF4H9GyF0_C2O5j5s5xRUw==&ch=ci8lX1qjxcjYvK8f556fAt-SRM. OsiaKCG-qG-z40V3fWNSQw==). This was an historic moment for NCJHS and for the Chief Rabbinate reaching beyond their traditional boundaries and communities. In fact, NCJHS is Rabbi Lau’s only non-Orthodox school visit in the US. More than that, he has sought us out. This is a testament to NCJHS’s global Jewish reputation. Prior to his remarks, Rabbi Lau was treated to the Hatikvah by our vocal ensemble. He then spoke to our 11th and 12th graders and invited them to ask whatever questions of him that they want, no matter how provocative. Our students posed insightful, thought-provoking, and intelligent questions that reflected the deep values of our school. Rabbi Lau handled each question, those regarding pluralism, military service for the Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) community, Israeli immigration, and gender rights at the Kotel (Western Wall) with thoughtful responses. Our students did not necessarily agree with all of Rabbi Lau’s positions, but this dialogue was a perfect example of the type of civil discourse NCJHS is teaching our students. 

See more...