An Educational Trip to the Intrepid

The AP Physics 2 course finished a unit on Fluid Dynamics. In Fluid Dynamics scientists study, the movement of air and gasses. The class was able to take a private tour of the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum to focus on the physics of flight. When a plane takes off it has thrust and lift to assist them, but gravity and drag add resistance. Getting those four in balance allows for a plane to fly in the air.

This visit helped students reinforce concepts learned in class. They were able to see the hydraulic sling shot system used to accelerate planes. The students compared various aircraft designs in order to better understand Bernoulli's Principle. Daniel Bernoulli was a Swiss mathematician and physicist. He came up with the principle that slow-moving fluids (air or gasses) exert more pressure than do fast- moving fluids (liquids or gasses). This principle helps scientists understand airflow pressure on different areas of the plane.

This year as an added bonus, Mr. Van Orden accompanied the group and was able to add his Naval experiences to the discussions.

It is always great when our students have the opportunity to go outside the classroom to enhance their learning experience. Sounds like everyone acquired plenty of information during their visit.