

KRHS Celebrates Law Day 2017



May 1, 2017 is Law Day and this year's theme was "The 14th Amendment: Transforming American Democracy." Mr. Mark Hontz is an attorney with the law firm of Hollander, Strelzik, Pasculli, Hinkes, Wojcik, Gacquin, Vandenberg, and Hontz in Newton, New Jersey. Mr. Hontz donated his time to delivering a very informative speech to the students of Kittatinny Regional High School about the history of the 14th Amendment.

He explained after the Civil War the 13th amendment was passed abolishing slavery;



However, states had power of their own and pushed back with Black Codes which essentially restricted the freedoms the 13th amendment had given to the African Americans.

As a result, the 14th amendment was written with three clauses:

- Privileges and Immunities
- Due Process
- Equal Protection

This is the amendment that allowed the Supreme Court to decide some very big cases. For example, 1954 Brown versus Topeka Kansas, the Supreme Court ruled that school segregation was unlawful.

As Americans, we have these wonderful rights, but how many of us would be able to name them? They are the very foundation of our government. People immigrate to the United States because of these freedoms. Thank you Mr. Hontz for sharing your knowledge on the 14th amendment. You have reminded us how fortunate we are to live in the United States. It is a shame Law Day comes only once a year.