



Michael T. Gavin

headlines, they can have a little bit more background and understanding about a culture that they're not used to. Students are used to Western cultures, so this is especially important in learning about Eastern cultures.

Studying a foreign language allows a student to gain skills in basic communication in that language. Our burgeoning global studies program pushes us beyond the traditional language studies. For instance, a course in Mandarin studies not only the language, but also the culture, providing students with a greater perspective about the world at large."

Q: How can schools incorporate wellness into students' lives?

A: "It's important for not only schools to do it, but for everyone. Both for our young people and adults to really take a look at that perspective of well-being, mind, body and spirit. We all live in very fast-paced times," says **Bill Christ**, head of school at Hathaway



Bill Christ

that they probably aren't. But they can do that if they take more of a conscious approach to the factors that help them become the strongest person they can."

Q: How does technology enable more efficient learning?

A: "Technology improves communication between teachers and students and between students and one another. It improves opportunities for collaboration," says **Jeff Sutliff**, principal at St. Joseph Academy. "It also assists in organization and it gives teachers a greater ability to assess student learn-



Jeff Sutliff

Brown. "Things are coming at us from all different directions, and one of the concerns we have is asking, 'Are people really living balanced lives?' I think in a lot of cases, the answer is

ing faster and more reliably so they can adapt instruction to best meet the needs of the students. Students aren't forced to learn something that they already know. They're given an opportunity to move at a pace that's most appropriate for them. The possibilities are really growing. Just in the last five years, there's been a revolution in terms of how many opportunities are available for students outside of what you'd expect of a traditional high school classroom."

Q: What role does the physical school environment play in education today?

A: "First of all, we know that there are individuals whose learning needs require a high-stimulus environment and some who require low stimulus," says **Renata J. Rafferty**, president at Magnificat High School. "The more the environment can accommodate a range of social interactions, the more comfortable the student is going to be,



Renata J. Rafferty