Welcome back Huskies!!! It’s another new year and yet another fresh start. It’s time to begin working hard in order to keep succeeding. We would like to give a warm welcome to all the 5th graders. Welcome to your new home! And to all the 8th graders, this is just the beginning of a long journey to adulthood.

This year the tables have turned and with the new year, so to has come many changes. As you can see, one of the biggest changes is the concept of school uniforms. We have white, black, red and gray shirts and black or khaki pants. We also have skirts, sweaters, vests, and fleece jackets. These uniforms dress us up for success.

Another new change is our new vice principal: Mr. Brian Rivera. You might have seen him visiting your class introducing himself. Congratulations on your new promotion Mr. Rivera. Also we would like to welcome the new teachers and returning teachers. You are the ones that help us each and every day. Finally to all the students; keep working hard and good luck this upcoming school year!

by Nathalia Henriquez
Popular Vote
VS.
Electoral College

So how do we vote for President of the United States? And why do we vote at all? To answer that we need to find out what types of voting we have in the United States. Currently there are two forms of voting going on, on election day.

The first is what we call the Popular Vote. This is very simply put, the vote of the people. It is our vote! This is what makes our great nation a democracy. This type of voting is literally the voice of the people.

The second type is called the Electoral College. This is a little more complicated in nature. To put it simply, this is a group of delegates in each state that "promise" to vote for the candidate that has won the popular vote of that state. These votes are called elector votes.

So how do we decide who wins? We decide this through both votes. Usually the candidate who wins the popular vote also wins the elector vote. However there have been cases where these two do not agree and one candidate wins the popular vote while the other wins the elector vote. When this happens the electoral college is the one who decides the election. This is a very complicated process, but to put it simply, electors vary based on state size with most states not having the same amount of electoral votes as another.

The last time that this occurred was in 2000 when George Bush won the Electoral Vote but Al Gore won the popular vote. But because President Bush won more electoral votes, he won the election and became President of the United States.

Our election will be very simple. Anyone under the age of 10 will not be able to vote. Everyone else will be allowed to vote if you filled out and turned in a voter registration card. We will base our election on the Popular Vote of McGinnis School. One thing everyone must follow... All parts of the voter registration for MUST be filled out.

Students, we know that you can’t vote yet, but if you could, who would you vote for and why?

Make your voice heard!

The Husky Howl is running a contest to see what can be the most persuasive and convince an undecided voter who to vote for! Winners will win a special prize, and your essay will be featured in the next edition of the Husky Howl!

So.... the assignment:

Write a letter to an undecided voter named “Joe the Plumber.” In your letter, explain why Joe should vote for either Obama or McCain. In your article, explore at least three important issues, and explain why the candidate that you support has better ideas on those issues.

In your introduction, start with a grabber, be sure to identify your purpose for writing, and state your main idea or thesis.

In you body, be sure to include strong support, details and examples. Start each paragraph with a topic sentence, and present your ideas and paragraphs in a logical order.

And don’t forget your conclusion!

Put your completed essay in Mr. Heidelberg’s mailbox in the Office and Good Luck! The deadline is November 1st.
Political Parties

The United States has two major political parties the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. However throughout the history of our country there have been hundreds of other smaller parties that have come and gone. Modern presidential elections are usually made up of the republican, democratic and independent nominees. For the purpose of this election we will focus on the two major parties the republicans and democrats breaking down each parties history and beliefs to gain a better understanding.

Political disclaimer- these are general beliefs held by the majority of members in each party. However there are plenty of people on both sides that do not agree with everything the party supports. Making educated and informed choices for yourself is the only way to truly know what you believe in.

Liberalism is loosely defined as the attempt to maximize individual freedom and that the government should provide the necessities to ensure this freedom. There are many degrees of Liberalism each differs greatly based on topic and persons involved.

Conservatism is loosely defined as favoring traditional ways of doing things. They believe policies in government should change very slowly over time and very little.

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<th>Republican View</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Donkey</td>
<td>Elephant</td>
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<td>Thomas Jefferson, James Madison</td>
<td>Abraham Lincoln</td>
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<td>President Candidate</td>
<td>Barack Obama</td>
<td>John McCain</td>
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<td>Vice President Candidate</td>
<td>Joe Biden</td>
<td>Sarah Palin</td>
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BARACK OBAMA

Barack Obama is Democratic Senator from Illinois. Obama serves on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, which oversees our nation’s healthcare, schools, employment, and retirement programs. He is a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, which plays a vital role in shaping American policy around the world, including our policy in Iraq. Obama also serves on the Veterans’ Affairs Committee. During his eight years in the Illinois state Senate, Obama worked with both Democrats and Republicans to help working families get ahead by creating programs like the state Earned Income Tax Credit, which in three years provided over $100 million in tax cuts to families across the state. Obama also pushed through an expansion of early childhood education, and after a number of inmates on death row were found innocent, Senator Obama enlisted the support of law enforcement officials to draft legislation requiring the videotaping of interrogations and confessions in all capital cases.

Obama supports a woman’s right to choose to have an abortion. Obama is against using the death penalty. He supports the creation of a universal healthcare system and the legalization of marijuana for medicinal purposes. Obama is against an increase in the number of troops sent to Iraq. Obama opposes the use of school vouchers which will take money away from public schools that need it. He wants higher pay for teachers, cheaper college tuition, and to lower the dropout rates.

Obama wants to improve the economy by adding tax incentives for companies that keep jobs in the United States and he wants to begin renegotiating NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement). He wants to stop predatory lending and mortgage fraud by increasing penalties for those who practice it. He plans to balance the budget by forcing full disclosure of all congressional pet projects and forcing lawmakers to pay for all new spending or new tax breaks through new revenue and cuts in other programs. Obama also supports an increase in the minimum wage.

Joe Biden

Joe Biden is the Democratic nominee for vice-president. Joe Biden has been a Delaware Senator since 1972. Biden has worked to preserve land, employ more police officers, and lower healthcare costs for children within Delaware. As the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations committee, his priority has been to bring home American troops without leaving chaos in Iraq. He offered a 5-point plan that provides a political solution to end the war which was supported in the Senate. While serving in the Senate Judiciary Committee, Biden passed several bills to stop crime.

Biden wants to ensure that all veterans have top-notch medical treatment in a fully funded VA health care system. Biden is committed to making college cheaper so everyone has a chance further their education. Biden believes in tax relief for middle-income Americans and making the wealthiest pay their share. He supports tax credits for companies that create jobs. He wants to create healthcare for the 9 million children who currently don’t have coverage. He believes in paying teachers more and reducing class sizes in public schools. Biden wants to increase minimum wage.
John McCain

McCain is a Republican Senator from Arizona. McCain was a pilot during the Vietnam War. He was a POW (prisoner of war) for several years. He earned several medals for his role in the war. In 1982, he was elected to Congress representing what was then the first congressional district of Arizona. In 1986, he was elected to the United States Senate. In 2000, Senator McCain ran unsuccessfully for the Republican nomination for President of the United States. He is currently the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services. He also serves on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, and the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

Senator McCain has seven children and four grandchildren. He and his wife, Cindy, reside in Phoenix.

The economy is in serious trouble and McCain believes he can fix it. He suggests balancing the budget by curbing wasteful spending and overhauling entitlement programs, including Social Security and Medicare. He supports lowering taxes to help small businesses and a cut in the corporate tax rate. He be wants to add tax breaks to businesses that are investing in equipment and technology.

Several of McCain’s other stances on issues include being against abortion except in cases involving rape or incest. He is a supporter of the death penalty in cases involving federal crimes such as treason. He opposes the creation of a universal health care system. He is a supporter of the recent increase in troops sent to Iraq. He opposes legalizing marijuana for medical use. McCain is a supporter of school vouchers, which will allow parents to move children from failing public schools to private schools, instead of trying to fix the schools that have problems.

Sarah Palin

Palin is the Republican vice-presidential nominee for McCain. Palin is a former mayor of Wasilla, a small town of about 9,000 people, in Alaska. She has been governor of Alaska for the last year and a half. Under her leadership, Alaska invested $5 billion in state savings, overhauled education funding, and implemented the Senior Benefits Program that provides support for low-income older Alaskans. She created Alaska’s Petroleum Systems Integrity Office to provide oversight and maintenance of oil and gas equipment, facilities and infrastructure, and the Climate change Subcabinet to prepare a climate change strategy for Alaska.

Palin lacks experience in foreign policy which is considered to be important for someone who would become president if something tragic were to happen to the president. Palin is against abortion in all situations. She believes that creationism should be taught in schools instead of evolution. She feels that the current global climate shift is not caused by humans. She is a lifetime member of the NRA and a strong supporter of the right to bear arms.
A Plethora of Activities

The students at the William C. McGinnis school are welcome to participate in any number of after school activities. There are many different sports and after school programs available for students of all grades.

Students in the 6th to 8th grades will be able to participate in sports and join soccer, cheerleading, softball, baseball, wrestling, basketball tennis and track. The students in 5th to 8th are gladly accepted in the after school programs such as NJ After 3 Boys and Girls club and 21st Century.

The Fall season is underway and has boys and girls soccer as well as cross country and cheerleading. In the winter students can join Basketball – both boys and girls- cheerleading and wrestling. In the spring, students can join softball, baseball cheerleading and track. Please remember that only 6th through 8th graders may participate in sports.

In conclusion, the NJ After 3 Boys and Girls club and 21st century club provide a great many activities to all students which include- sports, homework club, photography, dance, computers and many more… Any and all of these activities are a great way to start your year here at McGinnis School.

- Madelin Hernandez