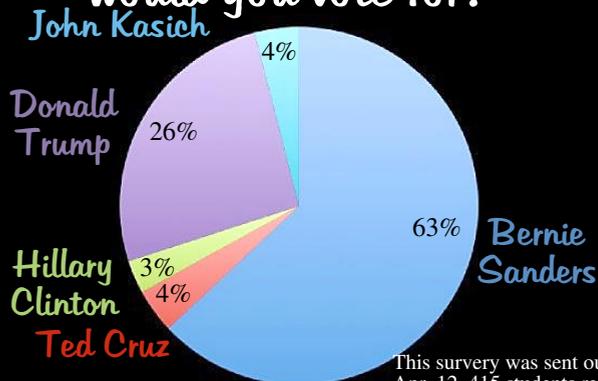


Which Presidential Candidate would you vote for?



This survey was sent out Apr. 12. 415 students replied.



Once in a Lifetime Opportunity

Seniors David Taylor and Matt HermesenWhite and junior Ryan Williams pose for a picture with former President Bill Clinton, who was campaigning for his wife Hillary at Cornell College Jan. 28. Photo by Clinton's secret service agent.



Meeting the Candidates

Above: Seniors Matt HermesenWhite, Jaylee Delancey, and David Taylor pose with Presidential Candidate Hillary Clinton Oct. 7 at Cornell.

Right: Senior Matt HermesenWhite takes a picture with Presidential Candidate Bernie Sanders at a rally in Cedar Rapids.



Expanding Views

Above: Pictured with Senator Rand Paul in October is Senior Adam Gage worked on the Rand campaign by making phone calls and knocking on doors. He also attended a Republican debate in Des Moines and worked at the caucus.

Right: Senior Matt HermesenWhite poses with Candidate Martin O'Malley.



Developing Opinions

Above: Senior Joe Corcoran draws an editorial cartoon about Jeb Bush's failing campaign, writing "Does Jeb Bush have the tools to fix his campaign?"

Above Left: MVHS Students Kai Walberg, Lara Celeghin, Nicole Margheim, and Theresea Gruber-Miller pose for a picture at the north side Democratic Caucus.

Left: Sophomore Casey Noska gets a picture with Republican Candidate Donald Trump. Trump came in second to Cruz in the Iowa caucus.



Students Meet Presidential Candidates

Attending the Caucus

Below: A group of members from our community meet at Elliott's First Street Building to watch the north side Democratic Caucus.



By Rachel Bell

From the Capitol to the smallest farm town, all eyes are glued on Iowa for one month every four years. We Iowans bask in the attention of candidates who visit our small towns to gain our loyalty during caucus season.

Many Mount Vernon students flocked to the numerous rallies and gatherings in hopes to meet the next president of the United States--and each had a uniquely different experience.

Senior Matt HermsenWhite racked up a total of six different rallies from early October to late January, meeting both Democratic and Republican candidates. Initially a Clinton supporter, he visited multiple rallies in order to make an educated decision, and the time he put in paid off. "I had heard of Bernie but I didn't know what his views were," said HermsenWhite. "I supported Clinton before, but I was a strong Bernie supporter when I left. It was his high energy and eloquent speaking that hooked me." HermsenWhite later became the caucus precinct captain for Sanders in Ely, Iowa.

Junior Gabe Golberg finished the Iowa Caucus week with a split decision. "As of right now, I would vote for Bernie Sanders or John Kasich. None of the political front runners appeal to me this year. At this point, I don't know if Bernie's economic policies would necessarily work, but with how upfront and honest he is, I see how he will be beneficial to our country. I like Kasich because he truly cares about people, and like Bernie, he is upfront and honest," said Golberg.

Many high school students don't entirely understand the hype of the Iowa caucus, and in turn find it uninteresting. Teenagers and young adults commonly believe that they are insignificant when it comes to politics, that their involvement doesn't really matter. "Maybe politics and everything included with that subject doesn't really interest everyone," said senior David Taylor, "But it's important to understand a thing or two on how our government is led and by whom. So go and do some research and when you vote you can make an educated pick."



Feel the Bern

Above: Attending a Bernie Sanders rally at the Veterans Memorial building in Cedar Rapids are seniors Matt HermsenWhite, Jenny Deininger, and Erin Belding.



Who would you vote for?

"I would vote for Bernie Sanders because I think he represents everyone in America besides the one percent, and has everyone's best interest in mind. I believe he is the best choice for the next President of the United States."

- Erin Belding '16



"If it is between Hillary and Trump, I would definitely vote Hillary. I would rather have our country stay as we are than plummet to our deaths. Hillary Clinton is the lesser of two evils."

- Ethan Wenz '17



"As of right now I would vote for Bernie Sanders or John Kasich. Although economically they are on opposite ends of the spectrum, their traits of honesty and compassion make them frontrunners for me."

- Gabe Golberg '17



Undecided Stance

Senior Lily Dahlstrom listens to a Bernie Sanders supporter at the north side Democratic Caucus. Clinton narrowly beat Sanders in the Iowa Caucus Feb. 1 with 49.9 percent to Sanders' 49.6 percent of votes.

