

VOTE! on Nov. 5

By Kate Boyce
opinion editor

As election day approaches, voters are getting ready to cast their ballots. Some seniors will be voting for the first time.

Some students like senior Emma Gardner are already gathering information about the candidates.

"To decide on who I'm voting for, I'm actually going to do research. I am also going to talk to adults in my life that have voted in the past," Gardner said.

Along with figuring out who to vote for, Gardner realizes the importance of her vote for Indiana and for the county.

"No matter what you believe in, every voice counts," Gardner said. "I am going to vote in the future, even the smaller elections. Those are the elections that affect our community."

Teachers have a unique insight on students voting for the first time. Mr. Rick Guipe, government teacher, stressed how important young voters are to

the process.

"It's absolutely important for kids to vote. It's a right given to them when they turn 18 and through the 28th Amendment. Half of my students are going to be able to vote in the upcoming election," he said.

Mr. Guipe also wants all of

16 and 17-year-olds who cannot vote get paid \$100-\$115 on election day. Search for Hoosier Hall Pass online for more information.

his students to know the facts and research before casting their votes.

"A couple of ways students can get informed is watching the news and getting online to read about the candidates' different platforms. They should read literature sent to their homes, too," he said.

Being an informed voter is important, but it is even more important to be eligible to vote, according to Mr. Diego Morales, Secretary of State.

"You have to be 18 and a US citizen. Then, you can go to

indianavoters.com. The application process takes less than two minutes. Another way you can register is to do it in person at your county clerk's office," Mr. Morales said.

Students who are not eligible can get involved in the election process through a new Secretary of State initiative.

"Hoosier Hall Pass is a new initiative. It is for 16 and 17 year olds

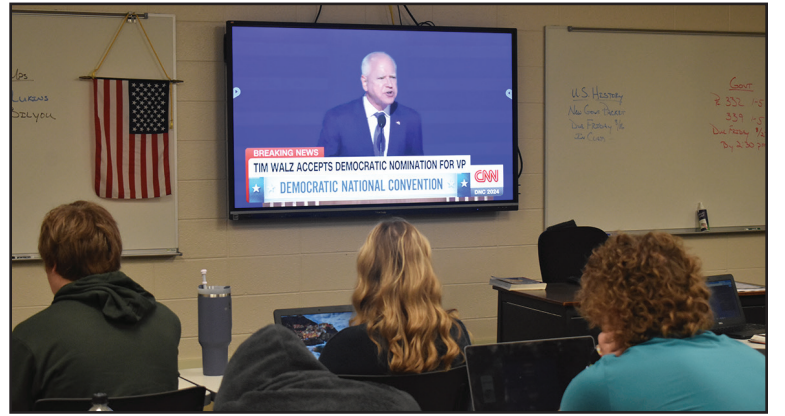
who cannot vote. It recruits them to be poll workers. They can help people with the voting process. They get paid \$100-\$115 on election day, and they get an excused day off of school," Mr. Morales said.

Mr. Morales wants students to know the importance of voting and being a part of the election process.

"It is your civic duty to vote, and as a US citizen, you are blessed with the opportunity to vote. The one piece of advice I would give to Hoosiers is vote," he said.



Student section leaders display a Trump flag at the football scrimmage. Senior Will Riley placed the flag in the student section as a banner. KJ Jones photo



Students view Democratic National Convention footage in Mr. Rick Guipe's government class. The convention took place in Chicago with speeches from Vice President Kamala Harris and Governor Tim Walz among others. Ava Brawley photo



Sophomore Mahel Clouet works on homework in the IMC. He is an exchange student from France. Lily Disney photo



Junior Hieu Nguyen works with the team during soccer practice. He is an exchange student from Vietnam. Lily Disney photo



Sophomore Berenice Leorat-Ruiz hangs out in K105 during PowerHour. Leorat-Ruiz is an exchange student from Spain. Lily Disney photo

New students arrive from different countries

By Deiana Forde
copy editor

Every year students, travel from around the world to experience life as a Woodman through foreign exchange programs.

"I came to America on the 23rd of July, maybe three weeks ago. I love being here. I love the mood, everybody is always happy, and everything here is big. In France, we don't have that. People in France go to school, learn, and that's it. But here, there are sports after school, and it's really good," sophomore Mahel Clouet said.

Clouet gets to experience new activities in America.

"I come from the west of France, which is about three hours from Paris. Here I play soccer, and I like it so far because I had never played it before I came here," Clouet said.

He is not having a hard time adjusting, but naturally there are cultural differences.

"I don't find it hard to adapt so far. I am good at understanding people here, but I am not so good at speaking in English, so that makes things a bit harder. The biggest difference is when my host family takes us to eat out a lot of times at restaurants. In France, we cook everything so we would just eat at home," Clouet said.

Clouet revealed how he is managing his new school schedule.

"I enjoy my classes a lot. My favorite class is French. It is so funny because the American French accent is so funny, but I like it. Some of my classes are challenging because I have to translate everything. Sometimes, that can be quite difficult. My hardest class is chemistry so far," Clouet said.

He has not decided if he wants to extend his stay beyond his exchange program dates.

"I am not sure if I will stay longer yet. I am just here for three weeks right now, but I have always known that I want to live in America, so maybe later I will come back," he said.

Sophomore Berenice Leorat-Ruiz is an exchange student from Spain.

"I have been in America for like three weeks or

four from Spain. I like coming to high school here and living in the houses because they are bigger and there are more things to do. The classes in school are calmer, and I don't find them very challenging besides English class. My favorite is construction because I like building," Leorat-Ruiz said.

There is one aspect of America she has had trouble adapting to so far.

"It's hard to adapt to the food. The food here tastes worse, and the meals are very different than I am used to. In Spain, we eat more vegetables, and it is healthier. I like the food here, but there is less flavor, and here in America, we eat lunch a lot earlier in the day at like 11 a.m. In Spain, we would eat meals a lot later at around 2 p.m.," Leorat-Ruiz said.

Freshman Aberdeen Couturier's family is hosting a foreign exchange student for the first time.

"This is my family's first year. I'm used to being an only child, but now I have a sister. Nothing has been challenging yet because I love Berenice; she is the best," Couturier said.

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