

Kids Voting



January, 2008

KIDS VOTING USA

OVERVIEW...

Mission Statement

- Kids Voting USA is working to secure the future of democracy by preparing young people to be educated, engaged voters.

Kids Voting USA is a National Organization

- **52 affiliate programs in 27 states**
- **4 million students**
- **Kids Voting Southeast Pennsylvania**

Kids Voting USA is a Nonpartisan, Nonprofit Organization

- **Not aligned with a specific political party or position**
- **Not financed by political parties**

No Child Left Behind

Kids Voting USA was authorized in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

(P.L. 107-110)

“...Programs to promote voter participation in American elections through programs,...such as Kids Voting USA. “

KIDS VOTING USA
IMPACT...

KIDS VOTING USA

Brings Civic Skills to Life

- **Students learn the importance of voting and being involved**
- **Students develop skills to be informed, participating citizens**

KIDS VOTING USA

Brings Civic Skills to Life

- **Students learn how to have a voice in the decision-making process**
- **Voting turnout for 18-year-old KIDS VOTING USA participants is 6 percentage points higher**

KIDS VOTING USA

Increases Adult Voter Turnout

- **3% - 5% increase in adult voting**
- **Kids impact their parents through the “trickle up” effect**

KIDS VOTING USA
EXPERIENCE...

Kids Voting USA Is Unique – Students “Learn by Doing”

- **Classroom activities provided for grades K-12**
- **Participate in an authentic voting experience using a ballot that replicates the adult ballot**
- **Lessons about citizenship and democracy reinforced several times before turning 18**

Students Learn Life Skills

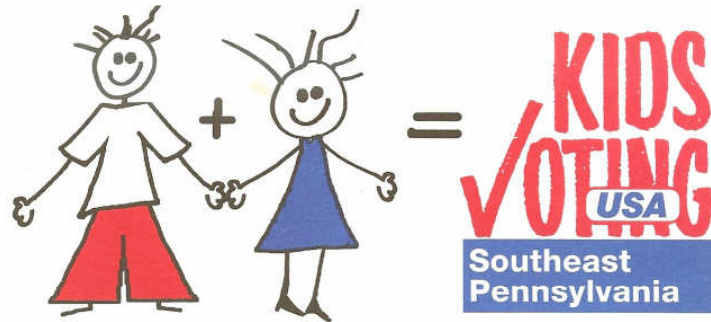
- Students learn to gather and analyze information to make well-informed decisions
- Students develop critical-thinking skills
- Students experience a variety of opinions and ideas

Family Interaction is Enhanced

- **Students are motivated to start political discussions at home**
- **Builds an increased sense of empowerment and self-esteem**
- **Voting and civic participation become a family affair**

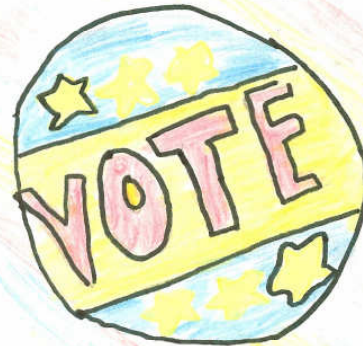
Kids Voting USA Connects the Classroom, Family & Community

- **Partnerships are critical to program success**
- **Everyone can play a role in preparing tomorrow's citizens**



"Take Your Parents To Vote" Day November 7

"It's Your Job to Vote!"



Kelsey A.
Name

Groveland
School

5th
Grade

League of Women Voters of Bucks County

Kids Voting USA

Classroom Activities

- **Designed by educators with classroom experience**
- **Aligned with the National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies as well as state standards**

**KIDS VOTING USA
IN THE CLASSROOM...**

Updates and Improvements

Classroom Activities Revision

Completed in January, 2006

Guiding Thoughts

- **Organization:**

- Make resources easy to navigate
- Make activities easy to use

- **Content:**

- Build upon our elections and voting focus
- Support civic learning content with other core subjects

Outline of Updates and Improvements Made

■ Organization:

- Created separate resources: K-8 and 9-12
- Organized content by major themes

■ Content:

- New features created: discussion questions, literature connection activities, etc.
- Provided more opportunities for reading, writing, and math

Kids Voting USA Classroom Activities

- **Students develop information-gathering and decision-making skills**
- **Students prepare for an authentic voting experience**

Organization of KIDS VOTING USA Classroom Activities: Hard Copy

- **Two sets of classroom activities: K-8 and 9-12**
- **Both resources (K-8 and 9-12) have an Educator's Guide**
- **K-8 resource has K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 grade level divisions**
- **Additional Resources section, universal to K-12; it contains an Appendix, Glossary, and Bibliography**

Organization of KIDS VOTING USA Classroom Activities: CD and Web Site

- **Educator's Guide**
- **Activities organized by grade level divisions: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12**
- **Additional Resources section, containing an Appendix, Glossary, and Bibliography**

The Four Themes

- Within each grade level section, activities fall under one of four organizing themes:
 - Elections and Voting
 - Democracy
 - Suffrage/The Right to Vote
 - Active Citizenship

Each theme has...

- Introduction to Theme (including objective)
- General Activities
- Discussion Questions
- Literature Connection Activity
- Culminating Activity

Introduction to Theme

- Explains in one sentence what the theme is about
- States the main learning objectives for the theme

General Activities

- Collection of engaging, civic learning activities
- Activities are organized by main concepts (My Vote Gives Me Power, etc.)
- Activities are relatively short (generally less than a class period)

Discussion Questions

- Lists of questions organized by main concepts (My Vote Gives Me Power, etc.)
- Used to prepare for or to revisit an objective students have mastered
- Used in whole group discussion, small group discussion, oral assessment, written assessment, etc.

Literature Connection Activity

- Specific reading selection for the theme
- The reading selection has a corresponding activity
- Selections vary from fiction to non-fiction

Culminating Activity

- **Activity that engages students in a meaningful summarization of what they have learned**
- **Requires more time in (and outside) the classroom than a general activity**
- **Often are service-learning oriented**

Using Kids Voting USA Activities

- **Activities can be used throughout the school year**
 - Can be used on “off year” (every other year)
- **Activities are flexible and adaptable to fit lesson plans and time requirements**

Distribution

- To access the activities electronically:
 - Kids Voting USA Web site, www.kidsvotingusa.org
 - Go to the “In the Classroom” section
 - Password
- CD’s can be copied and distributed to teachers



KIDS VOTING SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA

NEXT STEPS

What's Next . . .

- **Timeline**
- **Spring Meeting – April 2nd on Election Specifics**
- **Important Dates to Remember**
- **District Volunteer Coordinator Responsibilities**