ELECTIONS BY THE NUMBERS

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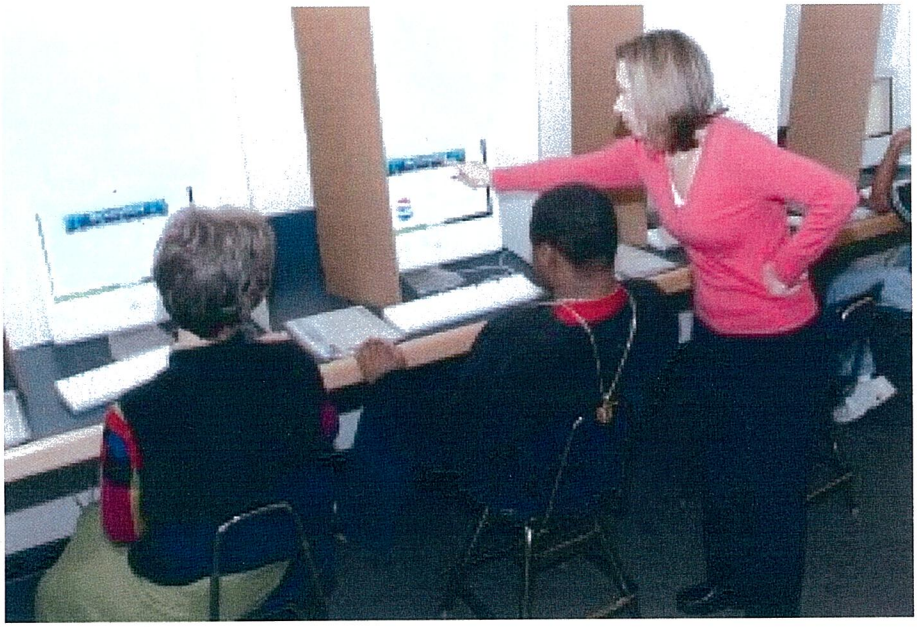

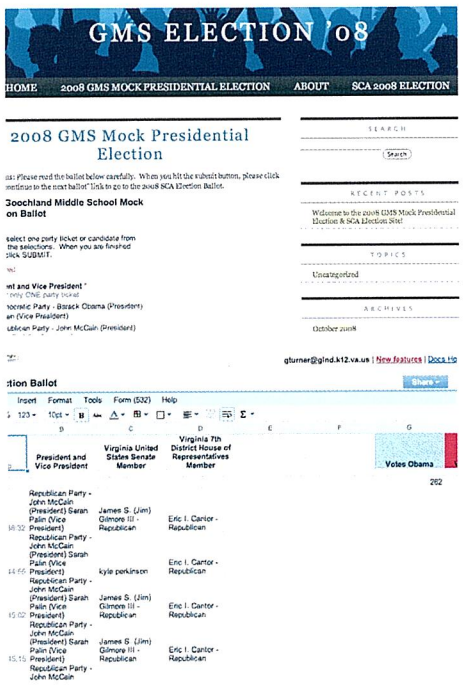

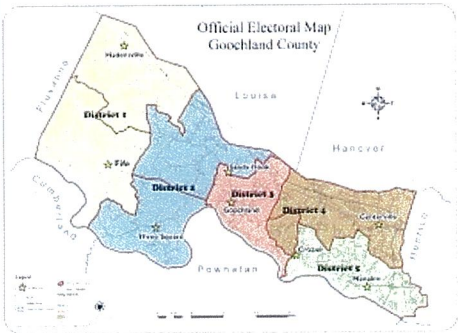

In our 2008 mock election we included all Goochland Middle School students, staff, teachers and administrators. We wanted to give our students an experience as close to the one they would have if they had gone into any voting precinct in Goochland County on election day.

Questions we wanted to answer with our mock election:

1. Do students mimic the opinions of their parents?
2. Do Goochland Middle School students really have strong opinions about this election?
3. Will our mock election be a direct reflection of the general election vote in Goochland County?

Why did we hold a mock election?

We focus very heavily on data at Goochland Middle School not only as teachers and administrators but we attempt to teach the students how to use and interpret data through monitoring their achievements throughout the year in each of their classes.

We use testing data, demographic data, experimental data and other data as interdisciplinary teaching tools. As we studied the election process and campaigns through the on-going presidential election last fall in all of our Social Studies classes, it was clear that many more students were paying attention to the presidential candidates and the issues surrounding the election.

We saw that collecting the election data would prove to be a useful tool in teaching students to interpret and understand the use and purpose for data in their every day lives.

This presentation can be viewed at: http://www.slideshare.net/gturner/elections-by-the-numbers