



A Summers Holiday

- 1- What is your favorite holiday (Halloween through new years time period) of the season? Why? **Thanksgiving. It has all of the benefits of Christmas (Food, Family, Fun) without the headache of gift-giving.**
- 2- Do you have a favorite custom/tradition? **My family likes to watch movies and play games.**
- 3- What do you think the school can do to help create a positive holiday culture? **This is something that I think starts best in the classrooms. Teachers talking about holiday traditions with classes, and giving students the chance to share their hopes, dreams, and plans for the upcoming holidays is important. I think the anticipation of the fun to be had during the holidays is actually one of the best parts.**
- 4- What do you think the school can do to help our community during this time? **We will be working as a staff to provide food and gifts to families in need. Giving to others is the best way to celebrate.**
- 5- Are there things we should be doing year round and not just now? What kinds of things do you plan to institute? **There are hundreds (if not thousands) of things that happen throughout the year where students and staff members help out others – providing clothing, money for food, school fees, etc.**
- 6- Are there changes you have already made to how the holidays are being handled here? **We will be collecting food and gifts for families as opposed to having a staff luncheon.**
- 7- Do you have a holiday message you would like to send to the community? **I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday!**
- 8- Do you think we should get all of the week of Thanksgiving off? **I would enjoy that. How about more time off for Winter Break too? I would be a fan, but I don't think that we are likely to get that without adding days to the school year.**
- 9- What if your favorite food of the holiday season? **Ham! I don't eat much any other time of the year, but I eat a ton over the holidays. I also love peanut butter fudge.**



**Photo courtesy of samhoustonalum-
ni.com**

In This Issue

- Thanksgiving Traditions
- Election Reactions
- Black Friday
- Holiday Poll Results
- Dotson Interview

We followed them through their campaign and saw them at the election. One a successful businessman from Queens, New York, another a former first lady and Secretary of State from Chicago, Illinois. Both unprecedented. Hillary Clinton for being the first woman to be chosen as a Democratic candidate, and Donald Trump for having no political background or aspirations. To our utter shock and surprise, on November 8th Donald Trump won the presidency, although Hillary had won the popular vote, Donald Trump received 306 electoral votes to Hillary's 232. People were devastated and the looks on their faces told it all. Hillary Clinton was always top on the polls, not always by an exorbitant amount but enough for her to lead, so how could it be that a business leader and reality star won the US presidency?

Trump could be boisterous and rude, but was always very determined, it didn't hurt that he was confident as well, and that helped him a lot. At the beginning of his campaign he claimed that Mexicans were bringing drugs into America and that they were rapists. This affected him dearly and according to the New York Times he only received 18% of the Latino vote. He promised to build a wall and make Mexico pay for it as unrealistic as it sounds. This scared thousands of illegal immigrants that currently reside in the US. So how do the students at Sam Houston view Mr. Trump. Diana Rodriguez says "Donald Trump is very assertive I don't think he will follow through with all his actions and he's racist." Carlos Sifuentes said "It surprised me that people voted for him over someone that was more experienced and qualified." It seemed odd that someone who was always being crude and having a morose look for the future would be a potential candidate for such an important task, but ultimately people were ready for change. For example, people were tired of what the Democratic party represented. Whether it was for Obamacare's fail due to unhealthy coverage, or the spreading of Isis. Hypothetically speaking Donald Trump could provide us with a more structured and stable economy due to his expertise in that particular field..

When giving his victory speech, Donald Trump sounded quite sincere and said we owed a debt to Hillary Clinton. This was a softer side that we had never seen, and an improvement upon his usual domineering ways. Now that Trump will officially become our 45th president on January 20th let us see if he can make America great again, as he promised.

Thanksgiving was first celebrated by the pilgrims after their first harvest in the new world in 1621. The feast lasted three days, and many Native Americans attended this feast as well.

Many People do different things on Thanksgiving Day, it could be by the food they make or eat or on what they do once the feast is over. I went around and asked both teachers and students on what their favorite foods were and if they had any special traditions that they're families like to do.

Mr. Kowshik,, a biology teacher, favorite dish is a south Indian classic called "*bisi bele bath*." *Bisi*"means hot, *bele*"means lentil, and *Bath*"(pronounced bawth) means curry. Put that together and you get a hot, lentil curry."It has all the good stuff: carrots, potatoes, peas, lentils, cumin, and an array of other aromatic spices that smell like an Indian Restaurant. He's only had a traditional"(turkey, cranberries) thanksgiving once in his life. The time spent with his grandmother and mother is time well spent to him because they all live in different cities. When he has kids of his own he would like to emphasize giving thanks for what they have rather than dwelling what they don't.

Ms. Benson, 9th grade English teacher, has a dish that is a tradition in her family. It doesn't really have a name but you take ham, cream cheese, and a pickle spear, roll it up and cut it like sushi. According to her, it is very good although, it might not sound so.

Andrea Vargas, a student at Sam, likes to eat her mom's homemade mashed potatoes and cooked green beans. She has a very nice tradition that her family does on Thanksgiving Day, they go to the Houston Zoo Lights in the night and afterwards go shopping because of all the discounts brought by black Friday.

One of the 9th grade geography teachers, Mr. Turpie, likes to watch football on Thanksgiving night while eating his favorite dish a green bean casserole.

Carlos Sifuentes, a freshmen, has a very normal thanksgiving day at his grandma's house every year and his favorite dishes of the holiday are his grandma's homemade tamales and his mom's mashed potatoes with gravy. His family likes to play "The Loteria", the lottery, and enjoy themselves with each other's company.

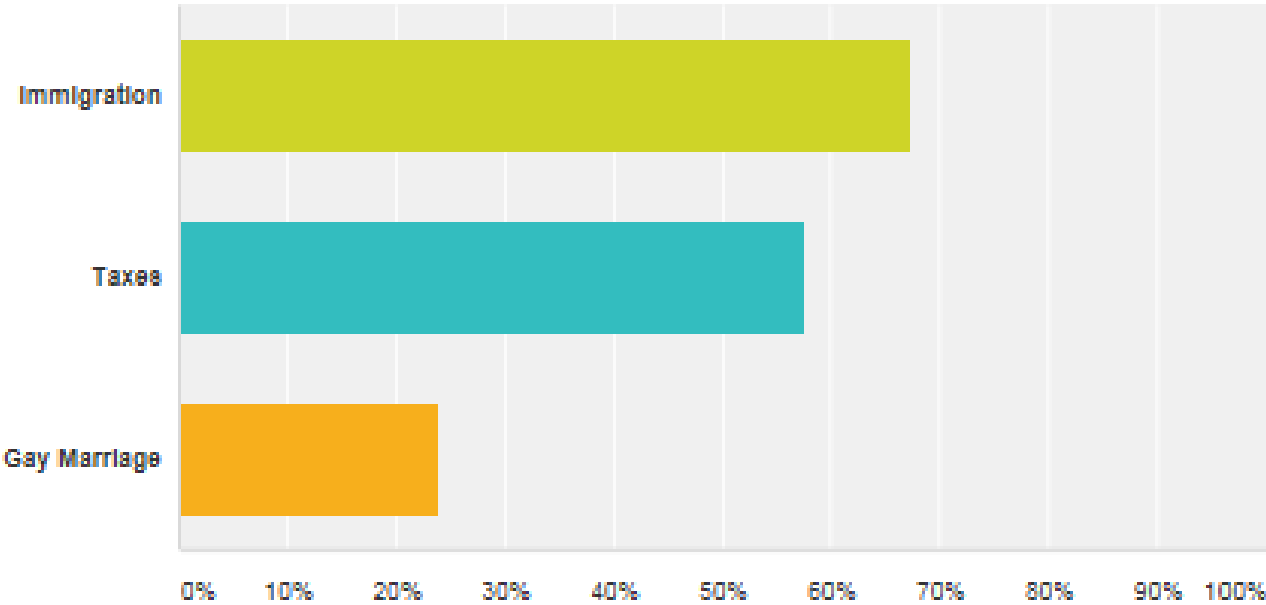


Enrique Grimaldo, a freshmen, likes to eat Pappas BBQ turkey, they always host the dinner at his house and the day after thanksgiving they decorate for Christmas.

Poll Results

What issues would you like to see addressed?

Answered: 92 Skipped: 8

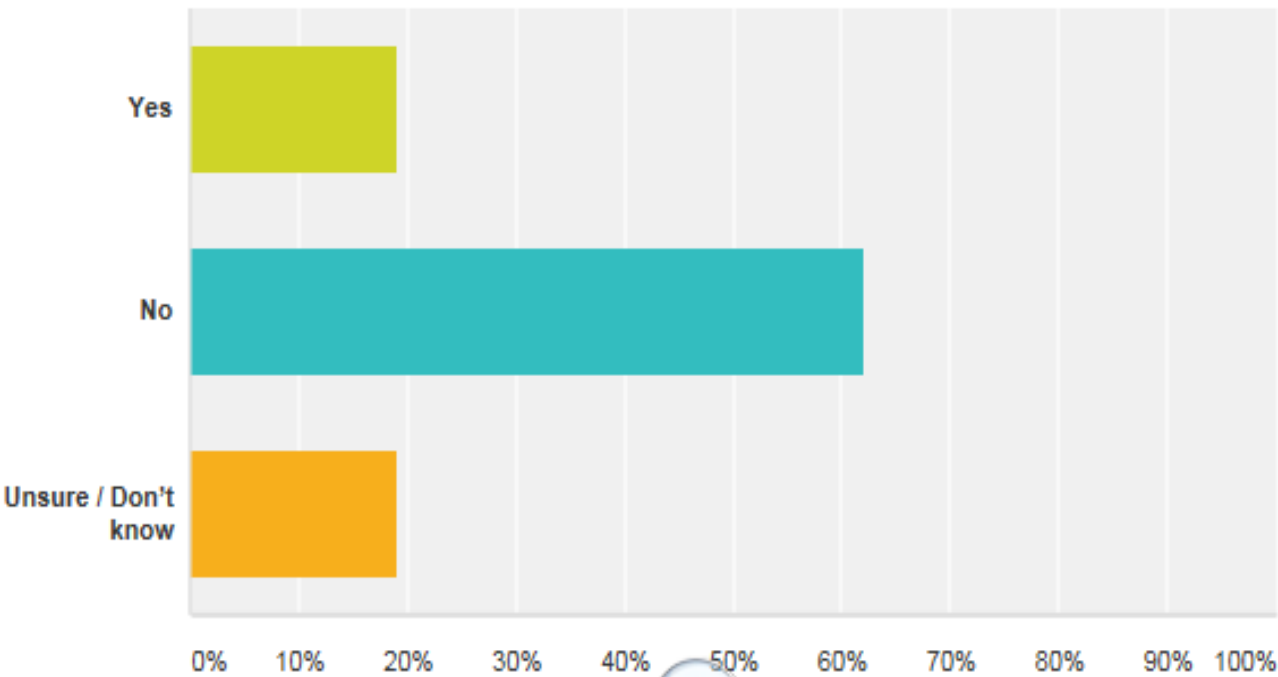


Answer Choices	Responses	
Immigration	67.35%	62
Taxes	57.61%	53
Gay Marriage	23.91%	22
Total Respondents: 92		

Poll Results

Are you a registered voter?

Answered: 100 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
▼ Yes	19.00%	19
▼ No	62.00%	62
▼ Unsure / Don't know	19.00%	19
Total	100	

For the 2016 year at Sam Houston MSTC the big talk amongst the staff and students has been about the new school of which construction begins in 2017. Not only due to the immense excitement for this change, but also over the concerns of to maintain the current building. With many convinced that HISD and the staff ignores its duties in maintainancing the building, Mr. Dotson offered a different perception which corrected these criticisms saying “I think HISD does a good job. Can we do it better? Definitely. That is in any organization there will always be something to make better.” further saying “ It is just about communication. If I say HISD does not do its job then that is saying I do not mine.”

Dotson was then asked how much time he really spends in attempts of bettering the school by making phone calls, composing emails, and spending extra time saying “I am here from 7 in the morning to 7 in the evening so I at least give 12 a day. And on Saturdays we usually do 6:30 in the morning to 10:30 at night”. He further elaborated saying “ I start making and receiving phone calls at 6:30 in the morning. Police department sometimes calls me in the morning at 5 in the morning, at night, and weekends. I wish I could tell you how many phone calls I get and make. About 5 phone calls an hour I would say. But it varies.”

They community may continue to say that Sam’s staff does not care for the well being of the school. Dotson offered opposition eagerly saying “All of this is in support of teachers and students to be successful. As long as everybody has what they need to do their job then they can be successful and that is what I am here for.” also stating “The culture of the school is getting better. It is an effort by many teachers. It is a slow change. But the culture of Sam Houston is not just administration, or teachers, it is not even just the students. It is a combination of all, but who can really lead the change in culture is the students.”

Dotson asserted the change in culture is up to the students most of all by saying “ We don’t have to take our phones out and celebrate but not celebrate somebody who just got accepted to Texas A&M Posse Program. But we are not making that a big deal, yet we make the fight a big deal. Because why not? Kids are the main attraction and the kids do not realize the big part they play in that.”

Commentary on the changing culture of Sam Houston MSTC from Mr. Dotson

Many kids continue to want the school to be the best without ever working to make it the best. Dotson capitalized on this by stating “One thing we have to remember is that kids being involved in the culture of the school changes the culture of the school because you begin to care about it. Then you care because you have invested in it. You are asking for something, but you will not invest in it. We want it! But we don’t want to contribute to it. We just want to show up when everything’s said and done. Everybody has to have their part. And if everybody does their part then Sam Houston will come around again. If you look academically of where we are academically we sometimes beat out schools like Reagan at times. Yet everybody flockes to Reagan. It is not about the school. It is about the culture. It is about investing. That is up to the students.”

Mr. Dotson is an Administrator at Sam Houston MSTC. He has worked at Sam since 2008. He held the position as Sam’s Head Tigers Coach before being promoted to an Administrator in 2013.

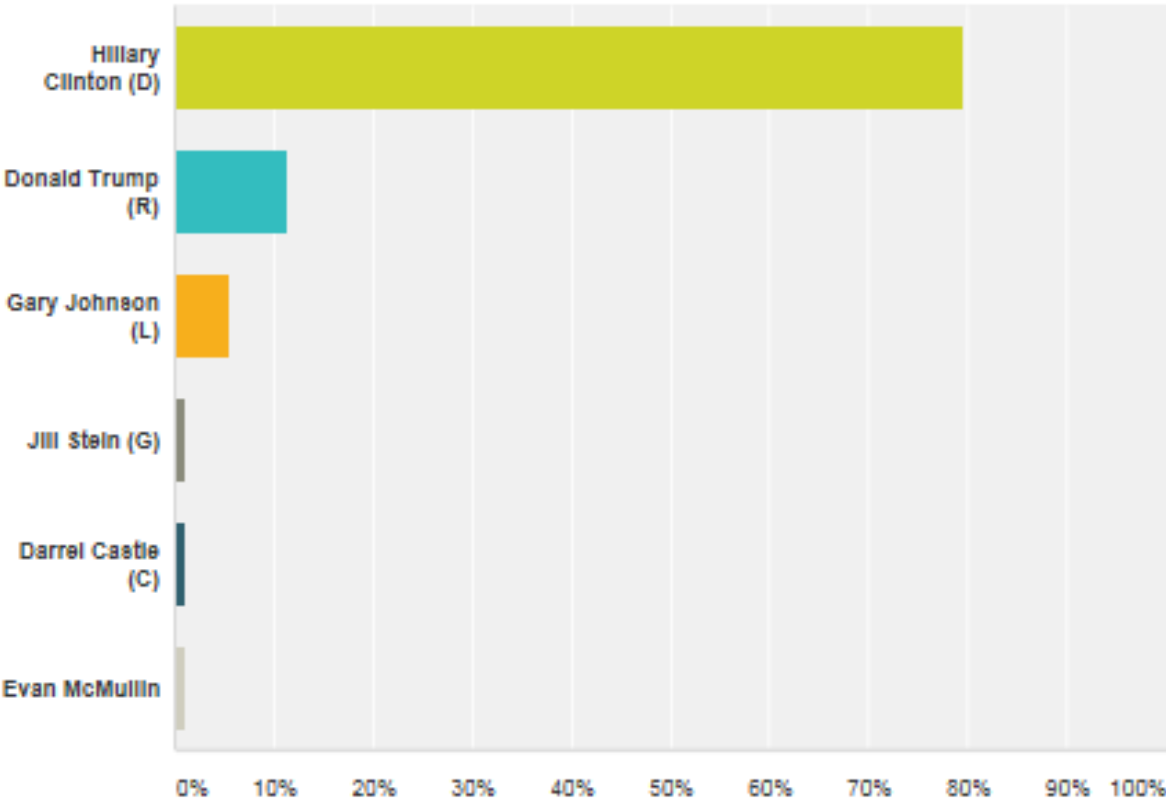


Photo courtesy of the Houston Chronicle 2012.

Poll Results

Which presidential candidate will you be voting for?

Answered: 88 Skipped: 12



Answer Choices	Responses	
Hillary Clinton (D)	79.55%	70
Donald Trump (R)	11.36%	10
Gary Johnson (L)	5.68%	5
Jill Stein (G)	1.14%	1
Darrel Castle (C)	1.14%	1
Evan McMullin	1.14%	1
Total	88	

Comments (10)

Once upon a time, I never liked yams! My mom would always make the yams until I got older and told me I could start helping my mom and sister in the kitchen with Thanksgiving. I started helping make yams even though I hated them so much! Then one day my mom told me I have to make the nasty yams. As an obedient child, I did what I was asked and baked the yams. Then I was forced to eat my own cooking! I put a little dollop on my plate, and slowly took a bite. To my surprise, the yams were so amazing!

Yams (20 servings)

1. 5 cans of yams
2. Marshmallows (as many as you want)
3. 1/2 cup of brown sugar
4. (optional bananas and/or pecans)



Yams, photo courtesy of allrecpies.com

Directions:

Put the yams in the large baking pan then you smash with a spoon.

Sprinkle brown sugar across the surface of the yams

If you want to put the bananas or pecans over the yams.

Cover the yams with marshmallows (as many as desired.)

Bake at 350 degree until marshmallows are golden brown.

Take out the oven let the yams cool down.

Enjoy!

SkillsUSA Engineering Club is a club that showcases student's skills in trade and industry of engineers. Ms. Floyd runs the club during Wednesday's on specific days in her classroom (#141). They teach students important life skills like how to act when you're in an interview and how to create a resume.

In the club meetings, they talk about the rules and regulations to be in the club. They require you to be there at about 3:30 after school. They get you ready for post college life and careers. When they get in, they always say the pledge. The roles are the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and the parliamentary/reporter. The reporter is Nephi Hernandez, the treasurer is Joana Esparza, the secretary is Brittney Hernandez, the vice president is Brianna Cannon, and the president is Anthony Cantu. For more information about the club or if you want to apply, please talk to Ms. Floyd in room 141.

The next even the Engineering Club will be sponsoring is the toy drive, that starts in the end of November (11/28) and will end on December 16. They are partnering team up with automotive team for this event. They will accept **brand new toys (must be in the box and have not been opened)**.



Photo courtesy of bienvenidos.com



Photo courtesy of skillusa.org

Wrestling

We will be hosting the Houston Round Robin on December 10th from 7am to Finish. Will be setting up on December 9th starting at 3:30pm to finish. Would love to have NHS members , or any other volunteers, to assist!

Thanks,

Coach Wheeler

UIL

Can you write an Expository essay? Are you good with Spelling and Vocabulary?

Join UIL Ready Writing and/or Spelling and Vocabulary. See Ms. Perkins in Rm 500 for more details.

NHS

The NHS recently sent out letters to 23 juniors inviting them to become members of this organization. These juniors are students who meet the major requirement of maintaining a 3.5 or higher average since 9th grade. Letters will be sent out soon inviting 10th graders to join.

NHS President for 2016 is Brenda Rubio. Co-President this year is Layla Mayor-ga.

Happy Holidays from the Aegis!



Contributors

- Charles Markcray
- Alyssa Vargas
- Elva Valdes
- Cesilia Saavedra

Special Thanks

- Mr. Summers
- MR. Turpie
- Ms. Benson
- Teachers and Coaches who contribute answers and information.
- Parents of our staff, we couldn't do it without your support.