

# Advice for the new president

## Students, staff share what they would tell Joe Biden

*By Audra Manahan*

On Nov. 7, the Associated Press officially called the 2020 presidential election in favor of Joe Biden. On Jan. 6, Congress certified Biden's victory. This meant the end of Donald Trump's presidency and the start of a new era, as Biden and the first female vice president, Kamala Harris, take over the White House.

The Biden-Harris administration will inherit the responsibility of the Covid-19 pandemic, a national reconciliation with racial justice, climate change and the issues surrounding the storming of the Capitol on Jan. 6.

The decisions the new administration makes will affect Pike staff and students. They shared their hopes for the new administration as well as their opinions on various issues.

Junior Travis Pettigrew said he would ask the new administration to "just be honest." Throughout the Trump administration, fact-checking had become the new norm in an age of conspiracies and falsehoods. Pettigrew said he hopes for the new presidency to be open and factual.

Senior Julia Park said, "there's a lot of stuff Joe Biden needs to deal with. I think Covid is the number one priority."

Junior Hanani Nbdele asks Joe Biden to "ensure that the environment around us is not affected by petty fights and political endeavors, as our environment influences so much about us. If we lose purpose, surely humanity cannot survive."

Sophomore Matt DeaKyne said he would tell the president to "try to bring the country back together, and good luck."

Elizabeth Dunlevy added that she would ask them to be kind and loving leaders making sure not to let partisan politics get in the way of things. Cross country coach Lance Garvin agreed, and said he asks the new administration to "spend your term doing the right thing for the people."

Sophomore Catherine Correll made a plea for Biden and Harris to review their stances on abortion and "to do true research so that he actually knows what he's getting into."

Social studies teacher Ryan Kilian hopes for Biden and Harris to stick to the book and respect democracy.

“Wed. Jan. 6 answered that question. I vocally and unequivocally denounce the words of (Trump) and the resulting attack on our nation’s home of Congress. I will always remember words matter,” Mr. Kilian said.

Business teacher Spence Spencer asks for the Biden-Harris administration to “not forget the difference between equity and equality, and that there may be need of different things to be done in terms of accomplishing or aspiring an equitable playing field in this great country that we call America.”

Dr. Deborah Calhoun, who teaches biology, said she hopes President Biden will remember that “the people elected you, and please do everything you can to represent the people.”

Chemistry and physics teacher Terry Mitchell cautioned President Biden not to “dive to the depths of name-calling and the blame game.” Mr. Mitchell added that he hopes President Biden will “allow the legal process to do what it needs to do in the background in regards to the recent insurrection.”

“But keep yourself and your team focused on unity and healing in our nation’s time of need,” Mr. Mitchell added.