



National Archives and Records Administration

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AT ATLANTA
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National Archives at Atlanta

School House to White House: The Education of the Presidents Opens at the National Archives on May 6, 2013

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Morrow, (GA). . . On Monday, May 6 the National Archives at Atlanta will open a new exhibit, *School House to White House: The Education of the Presidents*. Our modern Presidents received educations and participated in school activities in ways as diverse as their backgrounds and their political philosophies.

Some of the Presidents attended neighborhood public schools, and some of them learned in rural classrooms; others studied under tutors and attended prestigious private schools. Many of the Presidents participated in extracurricular activities and organized sports while they attended school.

The challenges of studying various subjects, completing homework, forming new ideas, participating in extracurricular activities, and making friends are part of the common heritage of an American education shared by everyone—including our Presidents. This is the premise of the exhibit opening at the National Archives at Atlanta, titled *School House to White House*. It charts the educational experiences of our Presidents from Herbert Hoover to William J. Clinton, including such notable documents as:

- Herbert Hoover's diploma, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California, 1896
- Franklin D. Roosevelt's letter home to parents while at Groton, September 27, 1896
- Harry Truman's second grade report card, Columbian School, Independence, Missouri, 1894
- Dwight Eisenhower's Abilene High School diploma, Abilene, Kansas, 1909
- Health records of John F. Kennedy, written by his mother, Rose Kennedy, 1917–28

- Lyndon Baines Johnson's high school graduation invitation, 1924
- Richard Nixon's school paper, "Autobiography," written in eighth grade, 1925
- Gerald Ford's letter to his mother, Dorothy Ford, wishing her a happy Mother's Day, May 12, 1933
- Jimmy Carter's Georgia School of Technology report card, Atlanta, Georgia, 1943
- Ronald Reagan's French exam, Dixon High School, Dixon, Illinois, ca. 1925
- Letter from Barbara Pierce (Bush) to Poppy (George H.W. Bush), Charleston, South Carolina, 1942
- Bill Clinton at Miss Mary's Kindergarten, Hope, Arkansas, May 6, 1950

Through the records of the presidential libraries - archival material, museum objects, and photographs as well as audio and visual material - *School House to White House* gives the public a new perspective on the presidency. It allows visitors to make connections and comparisons between their own education and the variety of educational experiences of our leaders.

Developed jointly by the museum and archival staffs of the presidential libraries and the museum staff of the National Archives Experience in Washington, D.C., the exhibit explores these future Presidents' activities in grade school, high school, college, and after graduation. Other sections of the exhibit focus on the importance of home life in their education and describe participation in extracurricular activities and sports as well as each President's reflections later in life on his education.

School House to White House will be on display at the National Archives at Atlanta from May 6, 2013 through November 29, 2013. To schedule a tour call 770-968-2530 or email joel.walker@nara.gov

The National Archives at Atlanta is one of 13 facilities nationwide where the public has access to Federal archival records. It is home to more than 190,000 cubic feet of historical records dating from the 1710s to the recent past. Serving the Southeast, the archives holds records from the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The facility is located at 5780 Jonesboro Road, Morrow, GA 30260. It is open to the public Monday through Friday and on the third Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for research and viewing of the exhibit. For more information, call 770-968-2530 or visit us online at www.archives.gov/atlanta.