Senior reflects on her CSS experience

As a photo essay project, senior and High School Student Government President Justyn Diaz photographed members of the class of 2016. The subjects were asked to provide a written description of their time at CSS, specifically noting growth attributable to the school. The several photos and statements are on display on a fourth floor bulletin board. Reprinted here is the reflection of Stormi Smith, pictured at right.

My time at CSS has been filled with many highs and lows. In my 7 years here, I have discovered a lot about the woman I am becoming. My school has given me the confidence, structure and rigor I needed in order to find what fits my personality. These 7 years have taught me how to ask questions that others are afraid to ask. They have given me the chance to develop my voice, a voice that I use to speak up for myself and others. My time at CSS has helped me develop my love for neuroscience and philosophy. It has given me the opportunity to be a black woman in science without being laughed at. When I came to CSS, I found for the first time a place I could be smart and not be thought of as a nerd. Getting good grades was encouraged and not shamed. I was finally allowed to grow into my true self - a courageous, outspoken, African American woman in Science.

VOTE BY APRIL 3 TO FUND CSS UPGRADES

City Council District 7, represented by CSS parent Mark Levine, has a “Participatory Budgeting” program. The Councilman sets aside about $1 million of city money, and allows people to propose uses for it. The best proposals are put up to public vote, and the top vote-getters receive the money. Several proposals that help CSS are on this year’s ballot: #11- Artificial Turf Installation; #18- Science Lab Upgrades; #20- Auditorium Audio Upgrades; #21- Electrical Upgrades to CSS. WE NEED YOUR VOTE to help us win this funding.

To vote, you must live in Council District 7 (basically the West Side from 96-165 Streets) and be 14+. For proposal descriptions and to find the closest polling place, please consult this section of the Councilmember’s website: http://www.marklevine.nyc/participatorybudgeting. To find out whether or not you live in District 7, please visit this section of the website: http://council.nyc.gov/d7/html/members/map.shtml

VOTING ENDS ON APRIL 3rd!