Reflections on Participating in the SGA Elections

By Brandy Paulet: Junior, CAHTS
Journalism I

Every year, the Student Government Association (SGA) holds two elections: a mock-election for the governor of NJ - and a school-wide election to select the school's SGA officers. This year, as a candidate for the office of President for the Culinary Arts Hospitality and Tourism School (CAHTS) at Eastside, I experienced firsthand the intensity of the electoral process.

The SGA consists of a President, Vice President, and Secretary. In order to become part of the SGA, a candidate must simply get more votes than their opponents. These votes come from the candidates' peers within their school, and each candidate has the opportunity to campaign.

On Election Day, each candidate can set up a voting booth where students meet their SGA candidates and vote. Teachers then escort their classes to the booths where each candidate introduces themselves and hopefully secure votes.

Participation as a candidate helped me to develop better social skills, and to work more effectively under pressure. For example, my booth became chaotic at certain times and since so many people were talking at once, it forced me to deal appropriately with all the activity. I also found it interesting that students, security guards and teachers whom I did not know personally, were willing to campaign for me. Win or lose, it was an eye opening experience because it showed that there are many ways in which someone can reach their full potential.

*Teacher's note: At the time of this writing, the CAHTS student election results were not available.

The School 16 PTO organized a fundraiser and recruiting activities for the school's report card night with food and beverages for provided by PTO parents and parent coordinators. Throughout the night, parents received flyers and were encouraged to join the PTO.

Effective Academic Programs ● Creating & Maintaining Healthy School Cultures
Family & Community Engagement ● Efficient & Responsive Operations