

Born & Raised

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Dear Reader,

My name is A'iyah Moffitt welcome to Born & Raised.

I have a strong passion for writing and reading so you'll hear about that a lot in my magazine. **This is not perfect!** Nothing is but it is art. It is full of a lot about me. Be mindful that

I am a nerd, that I struggle to talk about myself, that I most of all is not the best. I am though, no matter what
A'iyah A'iyah Moffitt. Welcome to my me magazine.

"It's what makes me, me."

Growing up I wanted to be many things. Teacher, fashion designer, model, I'm still growing up but I have been focused on one particular career, writing. Some may find writing boring, some may find it entertaining. To me writing is a beautiful strength I have though. It keeps me motivated. Creating stories from just a small letter or unknown object. Writing has not always been something I love. No one really knows what is exactly their passion until they completely explore themselves. I don't believe I could ever express myself enough when it comes to writing. My life is held with someone else while writing. I feel at ease with everything when I'm writing. I started writing in 5th grade to release a lot of stress I would have. From then I never stopped. Writing has made me a stronger person. Writing is my passion.

Email from 6th/5th english teacher Sarah Greco

Dear Asyah,

It isn't always clear if students know what they mean to teachers before they up and move on to bigger things. Understandably, we are a small blip in your world journey, as it should be. But nonetheless, I want you to know that having you as part of my daily life at SLA-MS was so much more than a blip. From those shy 5th/6th grade years to the moments in 7th/8th when you began to find your voice, your passions, and decide you didn't need to fit in. Rather you became you... Asyah.

In the classroom, you sometimes struggled, wanted to slack off, or "didn't feel like it." But did those days stop you? No. You pushed on, sometimes just to finish, other times to outdo yourself. Identifying topics that meant something to you... the BLM movement, gender equality fights, and sticking up for others when it wasn't the easy or cool thing to do. Yes, we noticed and couldn't be prouder. You are ready to take on high schools and new beginnings. Ready for struggles and setbacks when they happen. We're here cheering you on. You got this, go get 'em... and all the other clicks that let you know we care and are cheering you on.

The world needs you now. I guess we gotta share!

Love ya,

Sarah (aka ~ Ms. Greco / Ms. G)

Email from 7th/8th science teacher Leo Familia

When I first met A'syiah she had a great personality and a strong demeanor to her as well. She was so mature I thought she was one of the school aids in the building at the time.

As a student A'syiah was a very hard-working, really respectful as well. She never talked back nor gave me a hard time in class. A'syiah is a natural born leader, when I struggled to manage the class she would tell her neighbors to be quiet so that I could get my message across the classroom. In the beginning of the year A'syiah was really studious however as time went on her studious ways started to diminish only because of her character and the lovely human being that she is. She was more concerned with helping her friends that were dealing with depression and anxiety than helping herself, she was also helping them stay out of trouble. This of course would come with consequences, her grades started to go down. Did A'syiah fold when her grades went down?

The answer is **NO!** (Please keep in mind she has a brother in the 7th grade who is now my student in the 8th grade). As A'syiah was going thru her trials and tribulations her character never broke as the lovely person she is. In the end I'm grateful I got to be her teacher, her ability to maintain and stay motivated was her greatest gift because in middle school where students have the biggest identity issues she was able to remain **solid and great!**

Learn From the Best

Eighth grade was the hardest year I had yet. Not because of the work being challenging. Eighth grade I learned who I truly was. I learned why I was this way, and how my identity affected myself. Most of all though, I met the people who changed my life forever. "Winning is great, sure, but if you are really going to do something in life, the secret is learning how to lose." - Wilma Rudolph

I started off eighth grade quiet. I was someone who didn't need nor want friends. I was fine on my own.

I met a handful of people though. My mistake was letting them change me. I'll start off with the "7 group". I didn't know them at all, just a group I would see always sitting together during lunch. I observed them. They all seemed so close. A real friendship. I was wrong though, wishing that I had stayed away, I was pulled in. It started off easy, fun, caring. I slowly felt myself becoming comfortable, then came the arguments, the ignoring, the break-ups. It wasn't long until I became needy, emotional, none of them were around though. I was alone and needed someone. I learned that not everyone stays. People leave and with them they take you.