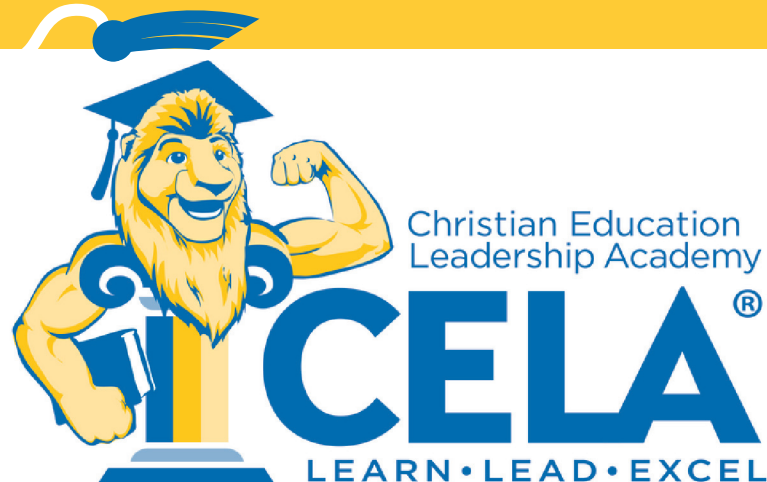


# CONGRATULATIONS, 2022 CELA GRADUATES!



The faculty and staff at CELA are so proud of how far our 2022 8th grade graduates have come during their time at CELA!

The amount of growth they have shown in their academics, character and leadership skills is truly amazing. As we send off another class to high school, we hope and pray that they continue to strengthen their walk in faith and enhance their significant leadership skills with continual leadership experiences.

These are excerpts from the graduation speeches that were presented on Thursday, June 9th by three of our graduates. You can learn more about CELA and read the full speeches at [CELAedu.org](http://CELAedu.org).

## What CELA Means to Me

By Laiken Daub

Since the start of my experience at CELA, I felt like I have grown as a student, as a person, and as a Christian. When I first came to CELA in third grade, I felt overwhelmed and not prepared to start at a new school. The teachers and students here instantly made me feel welcomed and inspired belief in myself along with the desire to pursue excellence. I am now confident not only with my academics, but in myself as well. CELA's three pillars are Christian values, academic excellence, and leadership. I feel that I now have a solid foundation and understanding of the pillars which has prepared me for high school and beyond.

Looking back at my time at CELA, I notice how much my faith in Jesus has changed. I have begun to understand and grasp what Christianity is truly about and started to grow an incredible relationship with Jesus. The CVLD classes taught Christian values as well as how to insert them into my life to become a better person and help others become better people. Because of CVLD class, I now feel ready to share the love of Jesus and bring what I've learned into all aspects of my life.

The academics at CELA are truly extraordinary. All the teachers were always willing to do anything to help me understand and grasp the concepts we were learning. They find ways to connect with every student.

I believe that CELA has boosted my confidence as a leader in many ways. CELA provided me with many opportunities to get out of my comfort zone and act as a leader. Through regular core classes and electives like public speaking and leadership, I have learned leadership skills to become the best person I can be. CELA also encourages students to try new things. The chance to play sports, to participate in musicals, and to join clubs was so enriching for me as a leader. I now find myself feeling more ready and confident to share my own opinions on subjects and lead inside and outside of the classroom.

I know that I have grown so much as a student, as a person, and as a Christian and all I can do is be thankful to all the people who led me along the way.



## What CELA Means to Me

By Dominic Skudlarczyk

Before I came to CELA, I was not a strong leader. I was scared to public speak and was not doing well academically. When I toured CELA everyone welcomed me with open arms, and it felt like family. In fact, I noticed all the kids hugging the teachers at the door during morning drop off. During my tour I noticed all the fun and complex things they were learning, and I wanted to learn that too. As you know, CELA prides itself on three pillars: academic excellence, strong leadership development and comprehensive Christian values. These three pillars have been the basis of my education in middle school and shaped me into the person I am today.

CELA's teachers have the highest expectations of any teachers I have ever had. They are also the most caring teachers. They care about you as a person and about your academics. They are always willing to help. I know I will be well prepared for High School because all the teachers at CELA have pushed me to be my best. I recently took a placement test and placed into the accelerated core classes!

At CELA we have Christian Values and Leadership Development class (CVLD). One week we have a student led chapel and the next week we have a teacher led chapel. We discuss and present a new Christian value every two weeks. At chapel you sit with your chapel families and chapel buddy. Having a chapel buddy is one of my favorite parts of CVLD. We have a chance to be leaders to younger kids in the school by leading them in prayer on announcements and doing service projects with them. Over the last three years my faith in God has become stronger, I have learned more about the Bible and heard new Bible stories. My most impactful CVLD was my very first CVLD lesson, when we were learning about growing in faith. We made a little necklace that had a tiny little mustard seed in it. The mustard seed was to represent faith as small as a mustard seed will grow and can move mountains. This has stuck with me the last three years which has helped me grow in my faith and I hope to move mountains when I leave CELA.

We are a leadership academy, so this means that we are given opportunities to be leaders in school. I am here today to tell you, that I am confident in my public speaking, and I will volunteer to help fill in for prayer or announcements when my friends are not able to. If you would have told my 6th grade self, that my 8th grade self was doing this, I would not believe it. I must thank the amazing teachers for giving me the tools to use to become the leader I am today.

I look back on the last three years and wish I had started here when CELA opened, but so thankful for the opportunity to be here for the last three years. I am sad to leave, but excited to show the world that I am ready to move mountains with faith, leadership and my academic excellence.



## What CELA Means to Me

By Anneliese Burg

Seven years ago, a little blonde-haired second grader walked into the biggest building she ever seen. She was not comfortable talking in front of people, asking for help, or even being with other students and calling them friends. She doubted. She wondered if she would ever get better. Well let me tell you something.

That little girl was me.

Obviously, I did not stay shy and afraid like I was when I first walked through these doors. With time, I discovered a real passion for academics. As I am sure all my teachers know, reading and writing have been two subjects extremely close to my heart. Best of all, that is not all I have been able to strengthen myself in. Under the mentoring and aid of the staff here, I have been able to learn so many new things. I have had amazing experiences and made so many fantastic memories, even while learning.

The three pillars here at CELA are Academic Excellence, Christian Values, and Leadership. And I can say from personal experience, this school spares no effort to give students examples of all three. From the designated classes to the daily practice and encouragement from teachers, leadership is grown in every student here. To the continual and intentional studies of good virtues, Christian Values are built into every brick that makes up these walls. And from the teachers who have encouraged me my entire time here at CELA and the work that is done to ensure that content is understood, Academic Excellence can be seen in the report cards of every student.

One other thing that I feel is extremely important is the Chapel buddy system. The bond that older and younger students share is truly unlike anything else. I have grown in my faith here and worked to form a bond with my heavenly Father that has truly changed my outlook on the world that He has made for us.

I am very proud to say that I went to an academy such as this. I thank God for every day that I learned here, and all the memories I have made. I cannot wait to see what the next stage in my life will be. All I know is that now, I am ready to take it on.



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## Annual 8th Grade Trip to Washington D.C.



To learn more about CELA, join us on June 16th for a Summer Kickoff Picnic.  
Scan QR code for more information.

CELA ADMITS STUDENTS OF ANY RACE, COLOR, AND NATIONAL OR ETHNIC ORIGIN.

