

Kayla Ford

What CELA Means to Me

I started here at CELA in the first grade, the very first year CELA would be open. I walked into the building, having no idea where to go and terrified to ask for help. I still remember the day even before the first day of school when I toured and saw this great building for the first time. I remember having a feeling about my future here, and easily saying how much I wanted to go to this school despite leaving all my old friends and familiarity at my previous school. That was eight years ago. After my experience here, I am prepared for my future, confident in who I am, and most importantly, have a relationship with God. The years I have spent here at CELA is like the foundation of my life, each day spent here shaping me into who I am today. I have learned and grown so much from the little girl who first started here eight years ago. I truly am thankful for my time here at CELA and I can confidently say that I would not be where I am today without it.

Here at CELA I have had some of the best education possible. CELA takes academic excellence to a whole new level. From advanced math to the ACT prep course, CELA has taken eighth grade academics beyond what any other school could ever offer me, giving everyone who chooses to go here a clear advantage and preparation for the rest of their lives. I feel prepared not just for high school, but for whatever life throws at me long after my time here. CELA's opportunities present a unique chance to learn and grow along with some of the best academics possible. However, even if every school had academics like CELA, our school would still stand out. There is one main reason for this. If I didn't have CELA, I would not have the kind of faith I have today. I would not have a relationship with God. I would not want to live my life for him. But now, that's the purpose of my life. You see, what CELA has taught me is the most valuable

thing anyone could ever learn or implement in their lives. I could put it simply and say what Jesus has done for me, but really, it is so much more. Our CVLD time every morning (Christian Values and Leadership Development) has slowly over the years given me valuable insight about being a Christian and how personal my faith and relationship with God really is. CVLD is a time to grow in faith together with your fellow peers, and every lesson or value we learn about here isn't just something we do every day, but something new to ponder and take with you for the rest of your life. Something I have really enjoyed about our CVLD time is how every few weeks or so we learn or focus on a new Christian value. It is a wonderful way to break down being a Christian to the basics, which will slowly build up as your faith grows. Having Mr. Hays as my homeroom teacher and Mr. Clowers as my chapel family teacher have really touched my life and strengthen my faith on so many different aspects and levels. CELA has taught me what Romans 8:38-39 says best: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." That is the very foundation of my faith and a forever joy in my life that can sustain me no matter what happens in life and my future. And I am so thankful that CELA has played a part in such a tremendous aspect of my life.

In the end, we could talk about academics or sports all day. And that has truly enhanced my school experience plus given me an education experience like no other, which I am truly thankful for. However, at the end of the day, God is what matters most, which is something that most schools do not implement into it. But CELA has not forgotten what God has taught us to go on and teach. This is why CELA means so much to me. I am sad to go, however, I am ready to move on to the next chapter of my life, all according to God's plan.

