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ELA

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What CELA Means to Me

8 years ago, a seemingly insignificant tour of a “random” school changed my life. I walked in that day and met the founder of the school, Mr. Nahey. What he showed me was incredible. The size and elegance of the school blew me away. What Mr. Nahey told me had me begging my parents to go to that school. At the time, I did not know that name of the school. Thankfully, God directed my parents to send me to that school that I would soon learn to call home. CELA, as I was told it was called, seemed like another world compared to my last school. The beautiful facility was unlike any other school that I had ever seen before. Its vast hallways and large classrooms left me in awe. When I went to CELA on my first day, I was very nervous despite wanting to go there. I was anxious about meeting the new people in my class. Thankfully, the friendly atmosphere quickly quelled this fear. I would soon make several friends that would impact my whole childhood in my first week at CELA. Throughout my 8 years here, there are three main factors that made CELA mean so much to me: friends, teachers, and Christian values. The friends that I have made here at CELA are incredible. They have helped me look forward to going to school even when I did not feel like it. They support me when I am feeling down and keep pushing me to be the best I can be. The great Kobe Bryant once said, “The most important thing, the thing that unites all of us, is that we can inspire and challenge one another to be better.” All my classmates, not just my close friends, have exemplified this

quote and have made each other better. My friends that I have made here have helped shape me into the person that I am today. The next factor that has made CELA mean so much to me are the teachers who helped me every day. The teachers that I have had here at CELA worked very hard to teach me and make me a better person. They were always so patient with me. Throughout my time here at CELA, one teacher stood out, my social studies teacher, Mr. Hays. Now I might be a little biased because history is my favorite subject, but Mr. Hays found a way to make every subject interesting. He seemed to always have an intriguing story to connect what we were learning to something that could happen to us in our lives. Along with my friends and teachers, Christian values have made CELA a huge part in my life. At my previous school, Christian values were barely taught, and faith was not a big part of my life. When I came to CELA, my faith grew immensely. Having CVLD in the morning, chapel on Wednesdays, and chapel families on Fridays have helped me grow as a person and made me closer to God. I am extremely thankful that I have been taught these Christian values here. Without these values, my life would be completely different. I will always remember my time here at CELA fondly. My friends, teachers, and Christian values have made CELA mean so much to me. I am incredibly grateful for this school and the time that I have spent here.