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SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025 • THE FREEMAN • 3A

CONGRATULATIONS!

TO CELA'S 2025 GRADUATES

GRADUATION DATE:
JUNE 5, 2025

3K-8th GRADE PRIVATE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Located in Pewaukee

A NOTE FROM THE FOUNDERS OF CELA TO OUR 8TH GRADE GRADUATES:

Congratulations to each and every one of you for reaching this educational milestone! Academically, you are well-prepared for high school and beyond, and the leadership skills you have developed will help you to stand out amongst your peers. You will go far in life! We pray you always remember and practice the Christian values you have learned during your time at CELA.



Below are excerpts from the graduation speeches that were presented during the ceremony on graduation day. You can read the full speeches at CELAEdu.org!

WHAT CELA MEANS TO ME

by Kendall Ford

As my time here at CELA comes to an end, I have so many wonderful experiences to reflect on. Chapel buddies, musical performances, our Washington DC trip, chapel family relays, and so much more. I first walked into CELA as a little 4-year-old girl and have grown up here in many different ways. I have not only grown in my academics, but also my faith and leadership. CELA is not just an ordinary school. It is so much more than that. CELA is a place where academics and leadership come together. All the chapel services and CVLD lessons have made such an impact on my life that I want to share with all of you.

I want to thank all the teachers I have had over the years, for shaping me into who I am today. They have encouraged me in so many ways; to always try my hardest and to not give up on my dreams. These teachers have taught me so much in not only my academics, but also how I can grow in my faith and become a better Christian leader. I want to first talk about Leadership I and Leadership II. These two classes have been so important in my life, and I know they will be a tremendous help in my future. Through these classes, I have learned so much about what a Christian leader is, and how I can become one.

Another leadership opportunity we had here at CELA was through our Washington DC trip. While visiting the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, I was chosen as one of the four delegates to place the wreath at the Tomb. What an honor, to be able to contribute in a small way to those who died serving our country. Finally, all the musical productions we have put on here at CELA have made such an impact on me. I have been so grateful for everything I have been taught about leadership and how I can be a leader to others.

The next thing I want to talk about is my faith. CVLD has taught me so much about who Jesus is. With Jesus, we don't have to be afraid of anything, knowing that He is always right by our side. Chapel has strengthened my faith so much. During Chapel, we talk about the value we are studying that week, study bible stories involving that value, pray, and worship our loving Savior. All I can say is that without Chapel and CVLD, I would not be the Christian I am today. Over my time here at CELA, I have not only grown in my faith, but also who I am as a person. CELA has encouraged me to share my faith with others. I am now motivated to share God's Word with others so they can experience eternal life through faith in Jesus. Through prayer, I have learned to be more thankful for the education I have and for the incredible teachers God has blessed me with.

I am so thankful for everything CELA has taught me over the 10 years I have been here. CELA has taught me so much about my faith and what it means to be a leader. I want to thank Mr. and Mrs. Nahay, for making this incredible Christian school a place where students are eager to learn and grow. Through academics, leadership, faith, and many memories I have made since 4k, CELA is such a blessing from God. ☐

[CELAEDU.ORG](https://CELAedu.org) 262-691-4321



CELA's 8th grade class after presenting a chapel service to the school.

Scan the QR code to learn more about how and why CELA's students excel.



WHERE CHILDREN AND POTENTIAL COME TOGETHER™

WHAT CELA MEANS TO ME

by Makenna Dunnett

CELA has taught me so many things that I will carry with me throughout high school, and after. Specifically, I have learned how to be a good student, leader, and Christian. CELA has taught me this through academic opportunities, study of Christian values, focus on leadership, and other amazing experiences.

First, the opportunity to be in high school level classes allow me to have an academic head start going into high school. Being in advanced math now will allow me to take higher math classes throughout high school. Being in Spanish I will give me the opportunity to take higher level Spanish classes throughout high school. This will allow me to possibly get college credit. In ACT prep, we learned all about what the ACT test is, and what it feels like to take the test. This class will be very helpful for when I take the ACT test in the future. It will also help me with test-taking in general, as we focused on how to manage our time during tests. Finally, I had the opportunity of taking Civics. Since I am taking Civics now, I will most likely not need to worry about taking the Civics exam in high school.

Second, I have grown significantly as a Christian during my time at CELA. At CELA, one of our core classes is CVLD. CVLD focuses on teaching us about Christian values and how to use them every day. Each week, we focus on a specific value, and a Bible story that represents that value. I have an overall better understanding of the Bible. Last year, I took a Bible crash course elective. This helped me understand different ways to go through and read the Bible. Throughout my time at CELA, I have grown as a Christian. I would see the kindness and patience that my friends treated others with, and I decided that I wanted to do that too. This has led me to put more effort into demonstrating Christian values and even inspired me to get baptized.

Next, CELA has taught me how to be a more consistent leader. Having younger students in school has taught me how to lead by example throughout the day. Having chapel buddies has taught me how to lead and interact with kids younger than myself. It has also taught me patience and selflessness. Also, at CELA, I have been given many opportunities such as doing chapel, musical performance, and musical tech. These have all taught me how to work well with others. They have also challenged me to step out of my comfort zone and do something I had never done before. I have learned not to save all my reading for the last minute, and how to space out my reading throughout the trimester. I have learned that I score higher on tests that I study for throughout the week, and not just the day before. This has taught me that it is only more difficult to save studying until the last minute. It has also taught me the importance of time-management.

Finally, I have some amazing memories from my time at CELA. First, I have really enjoyed the small classes. This has allowed me to get to know everyone better. It even allows the teachers to pay more attention to each student individually.

In the end, CELA has taught me to be a more confident student, a stronger Christian, and a stronger leader than I was before. Overall, I am going to miss CELA and will be a little nervous for high school, but I am confident that all the amazing experiences I have had at CELA will make the transition much easier. ☐

WHAT CELA MEANS TO ME

by Beckett Iwanski

Throughout my time at CELA I have been surrounded by great friends and amazing teachers. I have deepened my faith and have been able to thrive in my academics. CELA has helped me with my academics, my faith, to become a leader, and has given me great memories.

In every grade, I have learned a lot that I wouldn't have at other schools. For example, being in advanced math has pushed me further than I ever would have gone by myself. I have had to learn things that are more difficult than I ever thought I would have been able to. Also, the teachers make learning fun. We don't only learn a lot in our academics though; we also learn how to grow our faith.

Every morning, our first class of the day is CVLD. Here, we learn about different Christian values and discuss them among our class. The values are always interesting and give me a fresh reminder of what I need to do to make myself better. This helps us to understand what we need to fix in our lives and ways that we can fix it through Christ. Also, on Wednesdays when we get to go to the Chapel, we get to learn about a value from other students and how they apply in our lives. As the name CELA suggests, we also learn about leadership.

Leadership is one of the three pillars at CELA. One of the many ways that we have been able to show leadership is with our Chapel buddies. Every Wednesday and Friday we get to pick up the younger grades and take them to Chapel or Chapel Families. We get to bond with the younger grades while teaching them things. Another way that we have been able to show leadership is by representing our school on field trips. It was a great way to get experience in what being a Christian leader really means. Finally, I was able to show and gain experience in leadership through sports. I was able to show leadership to the younger students and other teams I was playing with.

CELA has provided hundreds of opportunities that I wouldn't have been able to find anywhere else. It has helped me boost my academics, strengthen my faith, and has helped me to become a leader. Without the friends and teachers that I have had at CELA, I wouldn't be the same person I am today. ☐

WHAT CELA MEANS TO ME

by Gavin Heitzelman

CELA has helped me in many different ways that later will help me in high school and the rest of my life. The three main topics CELA has helped me in are academics, leadership, and faith. I have also had a lot of memories that will stick with me forever. The main topic CELA has helped me most is academics.

The ACT classes help you prepare for high school by having you take two practice ACT tests. I have no doubt that I will do much better on my ACT test because of CELA's help. CELA's regular classes such as Math and Social Studies push me to do my absolute best.

Another thing CELA has helped me with is leadership. CELA has helped me grow my leadership skills exponentially. Throughout my time at CELA I have gone from a little chapel buddy to a big chapel buddy. I now have the opportunity to help and teach my little chapel buddy what my bigger chapel buddy taught me. At CELA I have also been able to collaborate with sports such as track, soccer, and basketball. I have also been in CELA's two leadership classes, Leadership I and Leadership II, these have taught me what it means to be a leader. One of the assignments was to interview someone who was a leader to you. I interviewed my pastor, and I learned a lot about him and a lot about what it means to be a leader.

Another thing CELA has helped me with is faith. CELA has a part of the day called CVLD, in CVLD we talk about God, read the bible, and discuss Bible stories. CVLD has helped my faith in many ways. CVLD helped me keep thinking about God whether I was having a good day or bad day. Throughout the consistency of CVLD every morning I have not only learned about God but devoted my life to him. Being around a Christian environment helps because there is always someone there for you in the darkest of times. Even in the younger grades I have learned more and more about God and his story. Through catchy songs and entertaining chapels CELA has taught me about Christian values and what it means to be a Christian. I now go to church Sundays, biweekly on Wednesdays, (if it is open) and every night I spend time with God through prayer and studying the Bible.

I am so glad my parents brought me to CELA. ☐

CELA's 8th grade trip to Washington DC at the Washington Monument.

