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CELA OUTLINE
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What CELA Means To Me

In August of 2015, the Christian Education Leadership Academy opened its doors for the first time. I remember how excited I was to come to this beautiful new facility, and meet my new classmates and new teacher. I remember walking into the chapel on that sunny Monday morning, so excited for this new chapter in my life. Little did I know, that the next 9 years would create a strong foundation for high school, and the rest of my life. CELA has prepared me in so many different, but unique ways.

Academically, I have excelled. I have done so much more than I ever thought I could do in my time here. I have also become a very strong leader. I am so enthusiastic with all the opportunities I have had to not just become a leader, but then show that leadership to others. And finally, and most importantly, I have grown in my faith in God. CELA has provided me a basis to become a stronger Christian, and to learn more about my faith. These pillars are what CELA is founded on, and these things are what CELA means to me - a place of accelerated learning, a chance to become a leader, and a way to better know God, and his love for me.

At CELA, I have always been pushed to do my best, because of this, I feel so prepared for all of my classes next year in high school. As an 8th grader, I have already been fortunate to take ACT Prep 1 and 2, Civics, Spanish 1, and Algebra 1. Most of these classes are all courses taken by kids a year or two older than me. Now, I already have a head start on my soon-to-be classmates, and I am ready for any challenge thrown at me. These classes, were tough, and there were many high expectations to be met. My homeroom teacher, Social Studies teacher, and several different electives teacher, Mr. Hays, has challenged me all year. He has pushed me to write stronger essays than I have ever written, think outside the box on many things, and learn absolutely everything I can in every class he has taught. I can tell that the teachers at CELA really care and really want to see me succeed. My Math teacher, Mrs. Recht worked with me outside of school for a little while to help me pass my placement test so I could take Geometry next year in high school. Everyone here is also so supportive. Senora Blahnik, my Spanish teacher, was always open to talk to me about anything and everything. I wouldn't have been able to learn anything, without my amazing teachers. While class sizes are smaller than most other schools, I have found it to be a huge benefit, because of all of the 1 on 1 time I get. I am able to ask any questions when I don't understand something, that I might not have been able to get in otherwise. Academics at

CELA have meant so much to me, because I have been able to meet my goals of learning, and have been able to excel at a high level.

But, academics isn't the only area I have been able to grow, I have grown in my faith. Every morning during CVLD time, or Christian Values and Leadership Development, I have learned more and more about God, and the love he has for me. Every two weeks, we focus on a Christian value. For example, some that we focused on this year have been love, honesty, courage, giving, and kindness. For the first week, we study a Bible story that relates to that topic. The next week, we look at real-time examples. New values every week allow me to expand my knowledge of the Bible, and how God calls us to live as Christians. This topic was reinforced every Wednesday when we had chapel, and then yet again on Fridays during chapel families. This wasn't the only time that I got to learn more about my faith, there were many other opportunities, like The Bible Crash Course elective, or the C.S. Lewis elective. These were some of my favorite classes, and I was so glad to be able to have taken them. Finally, I have been able to grow in my faith through the Christian community. I know that at many schools, you aren't able to talk about God, and I am so blessed to go to a school where I can discuss this with others.

The last of the three pillars, is leadership. My leadership skills have grown substantially, especially through my time in middle school. I have learned so many things about not just acting like a leader, but showing others what they need to do to become a leader too. At CELA, I have found many opportunities to at first become a leader, and then show that leadership. There are several electives that you can take, like Public Speaking, or Leadership 1 and 2. Through these, I have learned how to fulfill the expectations of becoming comfortable speaking out loud, and praying out loud. The most important leadership role that I was expected to take was with my chapel buddies, and the other younger students. They would look up to me, and follow what I did. Even when I was really little, I remember doing what my older chapel buddies did, and following in their footsteps.

Throughout my time at CELA, I have become a strong leader, learned so many new things, and have grown in my faith. This school means so much to me, because I know how much everyone here cares, and really wants me to succeed. What I have done here, I will take with me throughout high school, and the rest of my life. I am so excited with all of the new opportunities that I have after coming to CELA, and I will never forget all of the memories I have made, things I have learned, or people I have met.