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What CELA Means to Means to Me Essay

Throughout the nine years I have been here at CELA, I have grown closer to God and made so many lasting memories. CELA is a meaningful place to me because of the leadership opportunities, amazing academics, and most importantly, Christian values.

The leadership opportunities and skills that I have learned at my time at CELA have made me more confident and helped me become a better Christian leader. Leadership, being one of CELA's three pillars, has been a big part of my CELA experience and has prepared me for high school. One thing that has required me to learn not only leadership, but also responsibility is Chapel Buddies. When we pick up our chapel buddies every Wednesday and Friday, we are responsible for them and must set a good example. I remember when I was in 5K to 3rd grade I always looked up to my older chapel buddy and thought they were the coolest people ever. My favorite part of the week was always going with my chapel buddy and playing games with them. I remember how sad I was when they graduated and how much I wanted to be like them. Another way that CELA has taught me leadership is through leading chapel, concerts, and musicals. From when I was in 5K, our class would go up on stage and participate in chapels and concerts. Speaking in chapels and joining the musical has helped me become more confident

and better at public speaking. The Leadership classes that we take as an elective have also helped me become a better leader and more prepared for high school. When I took Leadership I in 6th grade and Leadership II in 8th grade, it helped me to become a better Christian leader. The skills that Mr. Hays taught us in the leadership classes have been very helpful and made it easier to understand what makes a good Christian leader. All these leadership opportunities and skills that CELA has taught have helped me throughout middle school and I am sure will help me throughout high school too!

Another meaningful part of CELA is the amazing academics. Advanced academics have made me excel and become prepared for high school. For example, the opportunity to go to Washington DC as a class trip was an amazing learning experience and helped me understand the history of our country even more. Not only was Washington DC educational, but it was also one of the highlights of my whole CELA experience. Another way that the academics at CELA are so meaningful is through the ACT classes we took. By taking that class, I will be more familiar with the test in high school and know what to expect. Without that class, the first time I would take the ACT test would be in high school and I would be a lot less prepared. Smaller classes have also been really helpful at CELA. With only seven in our class, we get more attention from our teachers and are able to learn more efficiently. With fewer students, we are able to participate more and ask more questions. Having a small class has also helped us build closer relationships with our class mates and be able to get to know each other better. Being able to take Spanish 1 and Geometry, which are both high school classes, has also helped both my math and language skills excel, and well prepared me for high school. The fact that CELA is able to do advanced classes, has pushed me and will help me in high school.

CELA has taught me so many things, and I will remember so many amazing memories, but the most important is growing my faith and becoming closer with God. Throughout everything in CELA, Christ is always the main focus and part of our every day. Prayer at the beginning of classes and having Christian teachers is a blessing and reminds us of who we are doing everything for. At CELA, where I am surrounded by other Christians and people praying for me, it reminds me that I am not alone and I should always make God a part of my daily life. Since I was in 5K, teachers taught us how to talk to God and encouraged us to pray during class. This has grown me into a stronger Christian and helped me to make my faith my own. Starting the day off with CVLD everyday for nine years, has not only helped me know the scripture, but also grown me closer to God. I remember when I was in 5K, I always loved learning about the Bible stories and how amazing God was. I also remember loving Wednesdays because we got to go into the chapel and sing songs and watch other grades act out Bible stories and skits. This hasn't changed; going to chapel on Wednesdays is a highlight of the school week and watching younger grades on stage is a fun and meaningful way to learn about God and all He has done. I am so grateful that I have had so many years at a school where I can talk about my faith and where teachers encourage us to grow closer to God. CELA has left a mark in so many ways on me, but having God at the center of everything has definitely been the most meaningful.

With the leadership opportunities, amazing academics, and Christian values I have experienced at CELA I have also made so many lasting memories and friendships. One of my favorite parts of the school year when I was little was the last day of school and Chapel Family Relays. Doing these games and competing with my chapel family was always a highlight and so much fun! I will always remember getting piggyback rides and running from station to station

with my older chapel buddy and how that was always my favorite day of the year. Another experience that I will remember is being in musicals. From when I was little until now, the musicals here at CELA have always been so much fun. In elementary school I loved being a part of the singing and dancing, while also getting to watch the older kids do the acting. In middle school, as I watch the elementary schoolers, I remember the amazing memories I had from being in the musical. More recently, and a highlight of my 8th grade year was going to Washington DC. Having 7th and 8th grade students go on a trip together was so memorable and I had an amazing time. Seeing the monuments and famous buildings with my class was so much more memorable than if I had gone by myself. Overall, my experience at CELA has been unforgettable and has taught me so much. Although I am sad that this was my last year here, CELA will always hold a place in my heart, along with the amazing teachers and friends that I have made along the way.