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Ms. Drager

What CELA Means to Me Essay

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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, D.C 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.

First off, I want to thank Mr. Hays, Mrs. Recht, Ms. Drager, Ms. Sattler, Mrs. Blahnik, Mrs. Thole, and 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. I am so thankful that I have been given the

opportunity to grow as a leader so that I can be an example to others. In addition to Leadership classes, Civics and ACT have taught me so much about how I can be successful and strive to meet my goals. These classes have taught me so much about our great nation and what an organized government system our great God has created for us. In ACT, I was taught how to do excel so I can eventually find a college in the coming years that suits me. I am so thankful for everything I have learned so that I can be confident going into high school, knowing that God is always by my side.

Here at CELA, there have been so many ways we have learned how to leadership to the people around us inside and outside of school. One way was through announcements. Morning and afternoon announcements have given me the opportunity to really set an example for my younger chapel buddies. During announcements, we recite bible verses, leadership quotes, say the pledge of allegiance, and pray. I feel so thankful to be able to set an example for my younger chapel buddies in this way. Speaking of chapel buddies, every Wednesday and Friday, we pick up our buddies and bring them to their designated spot. I always love looking forward to talking and spending time with them. I can remember when I was younger, my big chapel buddy picking me up, and now I get to be that leader for my chapel buddies. Another leadership opportunity we had here at CELA was through our Washington, D.C Trip. When we recently visited Washington, D.C, we were given the opportunity to represent our school by learning about our country. It amazed me, knowing how powerful our God is to create such great buildings and architecture. In addition, 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. Recess has also been

another opportunity we had to show leadership. During soccer at recess, it has been so much fun showing the younger ones what they can accomplish if they put their mind to it. By leading a Christian example for them, I pray that they will do the same when they get to our age. Finally, all the musical productions we have put on here at CELA have made such an impact on me. Over my time here at CELA, I have been blessed with the opportunity to be involved in 10 different musicals. For the past three years, I have been given roles with singing and acting parts involved. From Mary Poppins when I played Jane Banks, to Aladdin as one of Jasmine's friends, to this past musical Moana where I played the mom, 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. What a friend we have in Jesus. 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. I want to especially thank Mrs. Daniels and Mrs. Grindatti, for organizing CVLD activities which taught me so much about my faith in Christ and how I can grow as a believer. Over my time here at CELA, I have not only grown in my faith, but also who I am as a person. After being baptized and coming to faith in Christ Jesus, CELA has encouraged me to share my faith with others who may not know Jesus. I am now motivated to share God's Word with others (even strangers!) so they can experience eternal life through faith in Jesus. In addition, praying before each class has made a significant impact on my Christian life. Through

prayer, I have learned to be more thankful for the education I have and for the incredible teachers God has blessed me with.

The last thing I want to share with you are some of my favorite memories from my time here at CELA. Some of my favorites from the Washington D.C Trip were the late-night bus rides, learning about our nation's government and how it works, the Bible Museum, and all the memorials remembering those who made such an impact on our country. Secondly, Chapel. Over my time here, I have participated leading in 20 chapels with my class. Some of my favorite aspects were acting out skits, leading the rest of the school in worship songs, and reading Bible stories and verses. Another favorite memory of mine are the Last Days of School. After having nine Last Days of School and now one tomorrow, I have truly enjoyed spending some last moments of these fun days of bonding time with my classmates before summer by signing yearbooks, playing water games, talking about our summer bucket lists, and chapel family relays. These have truly been some of the best moments of my life.

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. Nahey, 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 sense 4k, CELA is such a blessing from God.