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ELA

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What CELA Means to Me

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. To start, I had the opportunity to be in advanced math. Being in advanced math now will allow me to take higher math classes throughout high school. Advanced math has also helped me to find my strengths in math, whereas without it, I might have never known that even higher-level math comes easier to me. I also had the opportunity to be in Spanish I. Like being in advanced math, 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. I was also able to take ACT prep. 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. Before I came to CELA, I wasn't sure what some of those stories were, but now, 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. It also helped me gain a deeper understanding of many different Bible stories. Throughout my time at CELA, I have grown as a Christian because of other students in the school. For example, I used to be kind of intimidated when asked to do something as small as helping others. However, 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. For example, having younger students in school has taught me how to lead by example throughout the day, knowing that the younger kids might want to follow my example. 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. For example, I had never wanted to sing in front of people, but after being part of two musicals, I have realized that I really enjoy singing. I also learned that singing in front of others isn't too bad. Since we do Accelerated Reader, we need to read a minimum of 5 books per trimester. I have learned not to save all my reading for the last minute, and how to space out my

reading throughout the trimester. Also, in Mr. Hays' class, he gives us the study guide for tests in advance, so we can start studying when we want to. He tells us to split up our studying throughout the week, and it works. For example, 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. It is also very nice to only have eight girls in the class. This is because it is easier to be good friends with each of them. It is also nice to be able to hang out in one group without anyone left out. Next, I am very grateful for the opportunity to go on the DC trip. It was also a lot of fun to go on this trip with the whole class, as we were all able to hang out with each other throughout the trip. I also thought it was cool to learn how God is the foundation of our country and to learn more about American History. Finally, when I go to high school I will miss having recess. This is because it makes the day more exciting overall. Also, it is refreshing to go outside after morning classes, and to spend time with the class while playing games like soccer.

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.