

What CELA Means to Me

The mission and philosophy at CELA is for students to learn, lead, and excel. I am so thankful for the teachers that give us the privilege to accomplish these things. Every day, there is a new challenge, a new opportunity, a new strategy to do things. Without our teachers to guide us, we wouldn't be the well prepared students that we now are. CELA's three pillars are Christian values, academic excellence, and leadership. From my two years at CELA, I now have a solid foundation of all three of these pillars. I feel that I am well prepared to go on to high school from the values that I have learned here at CELA

The experience of coming into a brand new school and meeting brand new people had to be the best part of it all. I have met so many amazing people, and they have influenced me in many ways that I will cherish for a long time. The eighth grade class has a very good chemistry, which I was thankful for, because it made making friends that much easier, and also so much more enjoyable. The teachers have influenced me not only to be a better student, but a better person. Every teacher has had an impact on my education, as well as my peers. They have taught us to take more risks, learn to speak up, be better leaders, and to sufficiently advocate for ourselves. Each teacher thinks of us as one of their own. They take their time to individually work with us and support us. The best teachers don't give you the answers. They just point the way and let us make our own choices, and our own mistakes. They allow us to open our minds and hearts to learning. When I reflect back to the first day of 7th grade, I could barely raise my hand to answer a question, and now I feel more than comfortable to present and share my

ideas and answers to a big group of people. Leadership is a process that takes failing in order to succeed. As a student, I have had struggles and situations that have helped me to become stronger and grow into a better version of myself.

The future is right around the corner for us eighth graders. I feel well prepared to go on to high school, and am very excited for that new start! School isn't just about learning math, science, social studies, or English. It's about learning our life skills, such as Christian leadership values that we have been taught. Although we may think we want to leave, as soon as we are gone we will miss our time here at CELA.