

CONGRATULATIONS 2023 CELA GRADUATES!



A note to our 8th grade graduates:

Congratulations on this milestone in your journey of life! We have watched you learn and grow and have been amazed at the incredible strides you have made academically, personally and spiritually. The compassion and kindness you show others and the leadership skills you exhibit are something you should be proud of. We wish you all the best as you move on to the next stepping stone in your life - high school! We pray you will remember what you learned while at CELA and carry the experiences and confidence with you always!

-- from the faculty and staff at CELA

Presented here are excerpts from the graduation speeches that were presented on Thursday, June 8th. You can read their full speeches on our website at CELAedu.org!

CELA's 8th Grade Class Trip to Washington DC - May 2023



What CELA Means to Me

by Kayla Ford

I started here at CELA in the first grade, the very first year CELA would be open. I walked into the building, having no idea where to go and terrified to ask for help. I still remember the day even before the first day of school when I toured and saw this great building for the first time. I remember having a feeling about my future here, and easily saying how much I wanted to go to this school despite leaving all my old friends and familiarity at my previous school. That was eight years ago. After my experience here, I am prepared for my future, confident in who I am, and most importantly, have a relationship with God. The years I have spent here at CELA is like the foundation of my life, each day spent here shaping me into who I am today. I have learned and grown so much from the little girl who first started here eight years ago. I truly am thankful for my time here at CELA and I can confidently say that I would not be where I am today without it.

Here at CELA I have had some of the best education possible. CELA takes academic excellence to a whole new level. From advanced math to the ACT prep course, CELA has taken eighth grade academics beyond what any other school could ever offer me, giving everyone who chooses to go here a clear advantage and preparation for the rest of their lives. I feel prepared not just for high school, but for whatever life throws at me long after my time here. CELA's opportunities present a unique chance to learn

and grow along with some of the best academics possible. However, even if every school had academics like CELA, our school would still stand out. There is one main reason for this. If I didn't have CELA, I would not have the kind of faith I have today. I would not have a relationship with God. I would not want to live my life for him. But now, that's the purpose of my life. You see, what CELA has taught me is the most valuable thing anyone could ever learn or implement in their lives. I could put it simply and say what Jesus has done for me, but really, it is so much more. Our CVLD time every morning (Christian Values and Leadership Development) has slowly over the years given me valuable insight about being a Christian and how personal my faith and relationship with God really is. CVLD is a time to grow in faith together with your fellow peers, and every lesson or value we learn about here isn't just something we do every day, but something new to ponder and take with you for the rest of your life. Something I have really enjoyed about our CVLD time is how every few weeks or so we learn or focus on a new Christian value. It is a wonderful way to break down being a Christian to the basics, which will slowly build up as your faith grows.

In the end, we could talk about academics or sports all day. And that has truly enhanced my school experience plus given me an education experience like no other, which I am truly thankful for. However, at the end of the day, God is what matters most, which is something that most schools do not implement. CELA has not forgotten what God has taught us - to go on and teach. This is why CELA means so much to me. I am sad to go, however, I am ready to move on to the next chapter of my life, all according to God's plan.

What CELA Means to Me

by George Hohenwalter

8 years ago, a seemingly insignificant tour of a "random" school changed my life. I walked in that day and met the founder of the school, Mr. Nahey. What he showed me was incredible. The size and elegance of the school blew me away. Thankfully, God directed my parents to send me to that school that I would soon learn to call home. CELA seemed like another world compared to my last school. The beautiful facility was unlike any other school that I had ever seen before. Its vast hallways and large classrooms left me in awe. When I went to CELA on my first day, I was very nervous despite wanting to go there. I was anxious about meeting the new people in my class.

Thankfully, the friendly atmosphere quickly quelled this fear. I would soon make several friends that would impact my whole childhood in my first week at CELA. Throughout my 8 years here, there are three main factors that made CELA mean so much to me: friends, teachers, and Christian values. The friends that I have made here at CELA are incredible. They have helped me look forward to going to school even when I did not feel like it. They support me when I am feeling down and keep pushing me to be the best I can be. My friends that I have made here have helped shape me into the person that I am today. The next factor that has made CELA mean so much to me are the teachers who helped me every day. The teachers that I have had here at CELA worked very hard to teach me and make me a better person. They were always so patient with me. Along with my friends and teachers, Christian values have made CELA a huge part in my life. At my previous school, Christian values were barely taught, and faith was not a big part of my life. When I came to CELA, my faith grew immensely. Having CVLD in the morning, chapel on Wednesdays, and chapel families on Fridays have helped me grow as a person and made me closer to God. I am extremely thankful that I have been taught these Christian values here. Without these values, my life would be completely different. I will always remember my time here at CELA fondly. My friends, teachers, and Christian values have made CELA mean so much to me. I am incredibly grateful for this school and the time that I have spent here.

What CELA Means to Me

by Katherine Wassenaar

My first day at CELA, 8 years ago, was an unforgettable experience that changed my life. I was a confused and scared first grader that had just said goodbye to my parents and walked into an unknown building. At that time, I had no idea that this school would be where I would meet life-lasting friends and would influence who I am today. Throughout these past 8 years, I have grown as a person, and I have strengthened my relationship with God.

Academic Excellence, Leadership skills, and Christian Values are the three pillars that are portrayed here at CELA. All my teachers throughout the years have held high expectations and have pushed me to become the best student I can be.

I have grown immensely as a leader while I have been here. I remember when I first saw my older chapel buddy eight years ago. I gradually grew a strong and deep relationship with her that I still remember. When I first became an older chapel buddy, I was scared that I would not be able to be able to reach the standards my previous chapel buddies had. I am blessed to have grown strong relationships with both my chapel buddies this past year and I have learned how to be patient and understanding. I will miss them both so much when I go to high school next year. CELA has taught me the importance of setting a good example for others. In the leadership classes I was able to take, I learned that a leader is someone who always tries their hardest, uses the gifts that God gives them to serve others, and is someone who never gives up. I will remember all these things along with so much more and use them to God's glory as I go into high school.

I have immeasurably deepened my relationship with God during my time here at CELA. Throughout the past 8 years, I have gone through countless Christian Values that have all helped me become a better person and have encouraged me to always support others. CVLD every morning has helped me start off each day by reading verses and stories from the Bible and expressing my beliefs with my friends around me. Chapel and chapel families every week has not only strengthened my faith but has helped me form relationships with other people in my chapel family. It has been a blessing to be able to talk with them about my faith and God. Each year, I have always looked forward to the chapels that my grade was able to lead the school in. I loved performing skits and worshipping God with my classmates and being able to show the rest of the school how important my relationship with God is to me.

CELA has remarkably influenced who I am today. I have grown stronger in academics and have been challenged by my teachers to help me become the best student possible. I have become a better leader and have learned how to be patient, caring, and how to use the gifts God has given me to glorify him and others. I have grown immensely in my faith over the past 8 years. I have learned to talk about my faith with other Christians and I have learned many Christian values that will help guide me throughout high school and into the future. CELA means academic excellence, a relationship with God, and community unlike any I have seen before.

CELA's 8th Grade Class Leads a Student-Led Chapel Service for the Whole School



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SCAN ME



CELA admits students of any race, color, or national or ethnic origin.