

CONGRATULATIONS 2021 CELA GRADUATES!



A note to our 8th grade graduates --

We are so proud of you! We've watched you learn and grow and have been amazed at the amount of maturity, resourcefulness and kindness you have exhibited on your journey to becoming strong leaders. Your Christian mindsets are evident in the way you live your lives and in how you have treated your entire CELA family (classmates, teachers, staff and the younger students who look up to you). We wish you all the best as you move on to the next phase in your life - high school! Remember what you have learned while at CELA and carry all of those experiences and confidence with you always!

-- from the faculty and staff at CELA



Discover the CELA Advantage!

-  Excellence in Academics
-  Outstanding Leadership Skills
-  Fully-Ingained Christian Values System

CELA graduates have a reputation for being extremely well-prepared for high school, for being natural leaders in the classroom and in extra-curriculars, for exhibiting self-confidence and for being academically stronger than many of their peers. These characteristics are an integral part of who they are and will follow them in all walks of life.

Below are excerpts from the graduation speeches that were presented on Thursday, June 10th by seven of the graduates. You can read the full speeches on our website at CELAedu.org!

What CELA Means to Me by Megan Schraufnagel

What does CELA mean to me? When I first thought about this question I tried to form my thoughts into three paragraphs, three factors, three reasons why CELA is so great. But you can't describe CELA in only three paragraphs. CELA is a place where students feel welcomed, where they feel they can be themselves and feel accepted. CELA turns kids into bright, independent, Christian leaders and helps them develop a stronger relationship with God and that's more important than anything.

Before I came to CELA I went to a public school where we never learned about God or any Christian values so my relationship with God wasn't strong. Towards the end of second grade we heard that a new school was opening... CELA. After touring it we knew this was the school for us. Soon I was entering the front doors at CELA and seeing all these new faces that would be some of my best friends. Since then my relationship with God grows every day through CELA's CVLD program. Every single day we start off the morning with reading bible stories, praying and learning more about God. Whenever I was having a bad day we would be learning a lesson that somehow tied right into what I needed to hear and it would reset my mind for the day and help me refocus on what's really important. Because of CVLD I now have a much stronger relationship with God than I used to.

One of my favorite things about CELA is having a chapel buddy. When you get into middle school you're assigned to a younger student to take to chapel and chapel families with you. Having a chapel buddy throughout middle school has helped me to develop into a stronger Christian leader and has made me appreciate all the aspects of CELA that make it so great.

It's a place where you feel welcomed and loved. A place where you'll meet some of your best friends. And a place where you learn to challenge yourself and excel as a student and Christian leader.

What CELA Means to Me by Bode Minor

I started CELA in third grade and was a little nervous about starting a new school. It didn't take me long to realize that coming to CELA would be one of the best choices my family and I would ever make.

There are so many things that set CELA apart from other places that I don't know where to start. First off, the Christian aspect. CELA really teaches students how to be a Christian instead of just what Christianity is. Every day, we start the morning with CVLD which stands for Christian Values and Leadership Development. In this time, we study a certain Christian value and we study how to use that value to become a better Christian. We have the privilege of having a chapel every week which goes into the value that we are learning about that week and expands on it. There are also opportunities every other week for students to lead chapel. It is an amazing opportunity that really helps me and other students grow in their faith.

Another thing that really sets CELA apart is the people. CELA isn't just a school, it's a family. The student body is amazing. The teachers are some of the best around.

The next thing that sets CELA apart is its leadership program. It showed me how to learn from other leaders and that leading isn't just bossing people around and telling them what to do. It is building a relationship with the people you are leading and setting a good Christian example of what to do. The chapel buddy program is a great way to practice these skills. An older student is paired up with a younger student and the older student will pick up their younger buddy and take them to chapel on Wednesdays and chapel families on Fridays. This teaches someone how to take care of a younger child and how to lead by example. Because we are 8th graders, they look to us as examples. Through all of the different leadership classes and opportunities at CELA, it has really taught me how to be a strong Christian leader.

One last thing that sets CELA apart is its academics. CELA has a fairly high standard for academics and because of the small class sizes, is able to teach each student at their own pace and tailor the curriculum for each person so they are always challenged. Through all of the resources that CELA has given me, it has truly helped me grow academically.

I am proud to be a graduate of this place and am thankful for what it has done for me.

What CELA Means to Me by Maddie Mazur

To anyone who doesn't truly know CELA, it probably seems to be just a big fancy building and a traditional private Christian school. The name is simple: Christian Education Leadership Academy. But the past six years at CELA has shown me that those aren't just four simple words: they are a way of life. Now that my time at CELA is complete, I am prepared for the journey ahead.

Coming to CELA changed everything. As my journey unfolded, I found a relationship with God. Now I have a beautiful bountiful relationship with God. As a result of this new relationship, I feel prepared to handle anything during my high school journey.

Before CELA, I didn't feel challenged academically. At CELA, all teachers care so much for each individual student's education. My elementary teachers inspired a love for learning that continues today. In middle school, there were countless times when my teachers went above and beyond to help me and make sure my questions were answered.

I think that every student can say that CELA is a place for preparation. CELA has given me electives and resources to help me prepare for the future by giving me confidence and strategies for facing challenges. The most important thing CELA has done for me was shape who I am as a person and Christian. Without CELA I don't know where I would be today. I definitely would not be the confident, independent Christian I am today. Through CELA I am now prepared for the future instead of worried about it. CELA changes people.

What CELA Means to Me by Maggie Melnick

To me, CELA is more than a school; it's family, it's a place full of leaders, and it's about developing self-confidence to talk to others, dream big, and know that you can achieve those dreams.

I came to CELA in 5th grade as a shy girl who barely talked to people I didn't know. I really didn't know what to expect, I was super scared, and I didn't know how to have confidence talking in front of other people.

CELA extracurriculars were a source of self-confidence development. I was active in musicals from 5th to 7th grade and have so many wonderfully memories and stories about fun with friends behind the scenes. Chapel families are another great way to grow as a leader and gain confidence.

I would like to say a special thank you to my teachers. Thank you for helping me to crawl out of my shell and become the person I am today. Thank you for your time and preparing me for success in high school. I am ready to take on the challenges that face me in high school, and embrace God's plans for me in the future. CELA has helped me find my true self, build my self-confidence, develop my leadership skills, and strive to be the best person I can be.

What CELA Means to Me by Matthew Schiemann

When I think of CELA I think of the teachers and all the staff that make this an amazing school. These teachers put their whole heart and effort into educating us.

When considering the 3 foundational pillars that the Nahey's built this school on; Academics, Leadership and Christian Values, I believe that the teachers do an amazing job of instilling these values in us. They not only teach us the given material, but they go farther than that, they are the ones, along with our parents, that have shaped us into the Christian leaders we are today.

Even though they are not always at the front and center, we are surely blessed by all of the administrators and faculty. They are the ones that don't directly teach us, but they are the ones that keep everything running smoothly.

Before CELA I would have considered myself a strong Christian but I never fully understood the daily learning and practice it takes to continue to walk and grow in Christian faith. My experiences at CELA are something I wouldn't trade for anything. The reason I have grown is because the teachers here have not been afraid to make me try new things, to challenge me. I was hesitant at first, but through all, I was able to make new friends and learn lessons that I will carry with me my entire life.

It is simple kindness, love and candor of everyone in this building that makes CELA what it is. Combined, CELA is what has laid the foundational bricks into our lives that we will grow upon, the bricks that have started shaping us into who and what we will be.

What CELA Means to Me by Kaitlin Menz

CELA has both prepared me to be successful in high school and throughout life and taught me the importance of leadership that will bring out the best in me. I would always pass CELA and see the beautiful school and think about how I wanted to go there to grow, learn, succeed. Coming here this year I feel has helped me to accomplish that goal. High school can be intimidating, scary, overwhelming yet exciting because it is a different atmosphere with different people and you're one step closer to going off to college. With the help of the teachers here, I have been introduced to content and tools that will help me to make that needed smooth transition into high school.

I have made important friendships, learned important life lessons, and practiced important leadership skills that will make a big impact on me. CELA has made me realize the importance to being on top of learning and a good advocate for both myself and others. I have grown in my confidence in learning and speaking up which has helped me to be more open and okay with making a mistake.

The engagement and commitment of the teachers and willingness to help has helped my weak spots grow stronger, my confidence to build, and my stamina to rise. I feel like I came in not knowing much and I have learned a wealth of valuable knowledge this year that will help so much to get me through the high school years. It was CELA's job to help us become successful and they have done just that by paving a pathway of opportunities.

What CELA Means to Me by Harrison Koss

When I joined CELA, almost six years ago, half of me was disappointed to leave the school I had been at for half a decade and the friends I had in it. I didn't want to leave what I had been comfortable with for so many years. When my parents mentioned this new school, my young mind had thought that a transition would only weaken my friendships and slow my education. My family, however, thought that this would be a good experience for me and encouraged me to go. And, eventually, I did.

After having been taught at CELA, it came to my realization that this school had done exactly the opposite than I had expected. CELA gave a much greater education to me than would have been offered otherwise. Honestly, when I chose to go to CELA, it was mainly because of the big building and because my parents liked it. I had nowhere close to an idea of what else CELA would end up offering me that had never before been presented to me in an appealing way. The experience CELA has offered me here has been so great that I now love school. One of the greatest achievements a school can ever have is being designed in a way that makes education appealing to their students. I think it is safe to say that the majority of students at CELA enjoy education. This is partially because of the quality of education that CELA offers. The teachers here are truly amazing. That, I feel, is one of the main reasons why CELA is able to academically advance their students farther than many of those at other schools.

CELA has been an amazing experience for education for me as well as preparing me greatly for high school. I am very thankful I attended this school.

