

What CELA Means to Me

CELA is what it says, a Christian Education Leadership Academy. CELA lives up to those words and teaches them every day. CELA teaches you what to hold on to and what not to. What is right and what is wrong and what is good and what is bad.

I have learned a lot at CELA. I have changed a lot at CELA. I have become ME at CELA. Personally, I know I have become more confident at CELA. That comes from that leadership part of this school. An example of this is Chapel Families and Chapel Buddies. I LOVE Chapel Families and Chapel Buddies a lot because you can bond and hang out with younger students that you might not normally talk to or get to know. Being able to mentor them, talk to them, and get to know them is awesome. I know that in Chapel Families I can just have a good time and be myself and I really enjoy doing that.

Another thing I have learned at CELA is academics. The teachers at CELA are amazing and I love all of them. They are so wise with academics and with life. They are so much fun and I will really miss them next year as I use their lessons. I have improved a ton with academics because of the teachers and because of this school. I personally love to learn, so coming to CELA in sixth grade was an amazing choice for me because I learn new things in every single class every single day.

I know that CELA has changed me and I know that it has been a good change, especially with my faith. I have grown to be a smart, Christian, leader who knows that God loves me and God loves everyone. Every single morning, we learn more about God and who He is and all the wonderful things He has done for us. I take this as an opportunity to share my faith, grow in my faith, and live my faith. When we learn about Christian values in class I try to remember them and what they mean and how God and other people show and distribute those values. Everyone can continually grow in his or her faith and I try to improve in mine every day.

When I first came to CELA in sixth grade, I considered myself only as a sports girl. I didn't think I was that smart, I didn't think I could dance, and I did NOT think I could sing. Then I did something I never thought I would do—I tried out for the musical, Peter Pan Jr. I wasn't too sure about my choice, but I followed through with it. I didn't have a lead role, but I had a line or two and sang two or three songs along with everyone else. But I changed. In sixth grade, if someone had told me that in eighth grade I would be an outgoing Pick-A-Little lady who sang solos, danced, and had more than two lines, I guarantee you that I would not have believed them. That is how I changed. If I hadn't gone to CELA and had smaller classes and an amazing community of people around me, I might not have even thought about trying out for a musical, or chapel choir, or so many other opportunities I have had here. The environment at CELA is so loving and caring and supportive. I have tried so many new things. Even for the Washington DC trip the eighth graders just went on, I didn't think I was going. My family had already decided no. But the students, the teachers, and the staff all kept pushing and trying to find a way for me to go. I fundraised and worked hard and everyone else helped too. Because of the type of school CELA is, supportive, encouraging, and caring, I was able to go on one of the best experiences of my life. I am really happy I did sign up for the musical, the chapel choir, and the Washington DC trip because my relationships with

people have grown and I have broadened my horizons. These are amazing experiences I will never forget. They have shaped who I am and made me, me.

God has blessed me so much by giving me the chance to go to this wonderful school. I know that I have become a Christina leader and I know that I will be well prepared for high school and life. Thank you to the amazing teachers, wonderful staff, and awesome classmates I have been able to share these moments with.