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ELA

Mrs. Little

### What CELA Means to Me

*“Words are, in my not so humble opinion, our most inexhaustible source of magic.”*

*-Albus Dumbledore*

Seven years ago, a little blonde-haired second grader walked into the biggest building she had ever seen. She did not know if she was ready to join a class of over twenty other students, she did not know if she felt comfortable studying in a school that made her feel small. She was not comfortable talking in front of people, asking for help, or even being with other students and calling them friends. She doubted. She worried. She wondered if she would ever get better. Well let me tell you something.

That little girl was me.

I came from a small school where six people in one grade felt huge. By the time I finished first grade, my old school – my beloved home for as long as I could remember – closed down. My family was forced to look elsewhere for a good school. We toured many schools, and none of them lived up to my parents’ expectations, until we found CELA. Despite the fact that it had just opened, and its classrooms seemed gray and almost even lifeless without the decorations and enthusiasm of the teachers who would later inhabit them, seven-year-old me felt right at home. Throughout the next couple of summer months, and regardless the other schools we toured afterwards, I was adamant in my own decision: I had found myself a school.

Obviously, I did not stay shy and afraid like I was when I first walked through these doors. With time, I discovered a real passion for academics. As I am sure all my teachers know, reading and writing

have been two subjects extremely close to my heart. Best of all, that is not all I have been able to strengthen myself in. Under the mentoring and aid of the staff here, I have been able to learn so many new things – if you ask my parents, I am sure they will tell you about how I can rattle off the factors that allowed the Allied Powers to win World War II, or how neurons transmit information in the brain. I have had amazing experiences and made so many fantastic memories, even while learning.

The three pillars here at CELA are Academic Excellence, Christian Values, and Leadership. And I can say from personal experience, this school spares no effort to give students examples of all three. From the designated classes to the daily practice and encouragement from teachers, leadership is grown in every student here. To the continual and intentional studies of good virtues, Christian Values are built into every brick that makes up these walls. And from the teachers who have encouraged me my entire time here at CELA and the work that is done to ensure that content is understood, Academic Excellence can be seen in the report cards of every student. I can proudly say that nothing I have done here has been easy.

One thing that I feel is extremely important is the Chapel buddy system. When I was younger, I had an older Chapel buddy for one year, and then only had younger buddies. This year, I have had the opportunity of being the older Chapel buddy to Kate Cogan in 5K, and my experiences have only been positive. The bond that older and younger students share is truly unlike anything else. I have grown in my faith here and worked to form a bond with my heavenly Father that has truly changed my outlook on the world that He has made for us.

Something that has really been fantastic for me was my experience with Mrs. Little in ELA, or English Language Arts. After she read some of my writing in her Creative Writing elective last year, Mrs. Little came to me this year and asked me to write her a book. The result was a ninety-one-page novel that I completed in less than half a year and have had the opportunity for two of my teachers and some of my friends to read. It was challenging and required me to persevere through many roadblocks.

However, it was just like every other project I have worked on here - be it homework, reading books, or writing essays, it was challenging and helped me grow. I would also like to thank Mrs. Recht, Mr. Hays and Mr. Clowers for helping to push me to new lengths in my studies I never knew I could reach. I thank my parents for supporting me in everything I've done here and being willing to send me to CELA. I know that this school has put me on a great path to walk on in my dreams of being an author. I am very proud to say that I went to an academy such as this. I thank God for every day that I learned here, and all the memories I have made. I thank all my teachers, my family, and my supportive friends for making such a great experience possible. Thank you for coming with me on this journey, everyone, and making every day here fun. You mean more to me than words can describe, and I cannot wait to see what the next stage in my life will be. All I know is that now, I am ready to take it on. So to that little blond-haired second grade girl,

We did it.