

Katie W.

What CELA Means to Me

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. One teacher who has really pushed me to do my best and try my hardest is Mr. Hays. Throughout my time in middle school, Mr. Hays always encouraged me and helped me when I was having a hard time. I now feel ready and prepared for high school, because Mr. Hays helped me build a foundation in my education and faith. I am now confident that I am ready to try my hardest in high school and persevere through all the obstacles that come my way.

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 was terrified of who this person was, holding my hand, and walking me to chapel. As my first year went on, 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 Emma and Evie, 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.