

May 13, 2016

Dear Parents,

As we close in on the end of another school year, we write this letter as proud parents reflecting on our soon to be alum, Jordan. Since we enrolled Jordan at CES for Pre-K, we have watched her grow into a wonderful, smart, strong, and caring young lady. This in no small part was the result of the incredible and unique learning experience that CES provides to our children year in and year out.

There are many special opportunities here at CES, as you are aware, for our children to learn and grow emotionally and spiritually. We watched Jordan and her classmates at the first days in chapel look up to their new chapel partners; we saw the love and friendship returned by the 'big kids'. This year we watched as Jordan and her classmates became the 'big kids', and returned the same love, care, and support for the younger kids. CES has nurtured their growth into young people that have the ability to connect and nurture others. As parents, we are amazed.

The trips to SERC, Cunningham Falls, Echo Hills and Hershey Park are just a few of the many opportunities our children have had to learn and interact with each other, the world outside of the class rooms, and create special memories of their time together at CES. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade this year was pushed out of their comfort zone a bit with their participation in the program at the Folger Shakespeare Theater, but did a fabulous job and received numerous awards for their effort.

Mr. Maust has built a tremendous physical education program where participation is encouraged, and our young athletes work together across different skill and age levels to learn and grow. The opportunity for everyone to participate in sports competition is another opportunity to learn. The added challenges of fencing, boxing, gymnastics, and going to Gold's Gym are all special opportunities, truly unique to the CES education. Nurture, nature and sports, combined of course with the rigorous classroom education, work together to prepare all of our children for the next steps in their education and position them to succeed, and exceed.

Like other independent schools, tuition at CES doesn't cover the cost of educating each student. Annual gifts help sustain and balance the school's operating budget, enhance the academic curriculum, and provide for classroom technology improvements and teacher professional development.

If you have not given to the fund this year, please give prayerful consideration to doing so now online via <http://cesrockville.org/donate>. If you have already given please consider an additional donation. Let's make sure we continue the tradition of support for CES, which creates and provides the unique blessing of the CES education for our children.

Thank you for your support as we work together to close out the year strong.

Mark and Cindy Derrick