



Castle Valley Academy

JOURNAL

Graduation 2024



Spotlight
on Seniors

THANK YOU's
and more

Graduation
SPECIAL

Q & A
with Registrar
Felicia Mayer

Thank You's

A Message from the Principal

Greetings Students, Parents, Staff, and CVA Friends,

This year has done what every year does...flown by! It is hard to believe that we are almost finished with this year. As we rapidly approach the end of the 2023-2024 school year, I am in awe of how God has guided and directed us in a deeper and closer walk with Him. We have come a long way since the beginning of the school year!

You students have grown into young men and women with a greater understanding of God and of salvation. You have radiated Jesus to others by reflecting Him in song, sermon, and sharing. Your love for Jesus is demonstrated in how you love and care for others. The mission trip to Belize is a perfect illustration of your tender compassion. You helped feed the hungry, paint a church, organize and conduct a stellar VBS program. You handed out literature, preached, and sang...a lot...and generally made people around you know that they were special and that you loved them. You have a gift of sharing God's love to everyone you meet. God has blessed you beyond degree!

This year, you developed a solid Biblical foundation, grew in academic knowledge, advanced in musical training, sprouted in agricultural pursuits, excelled in career preparation, and became proficient in life skills' experiences. You have

developed critical thinking and inquiry skills in order to discern fact from fiction, truth from lies, and to negotiate the myriad of false "truth" in our compromised world. You have thought about thinking...not settling to be "mere reflectors of other men's thoughts." You have been Biblical scholars, musicians and mathematicians, social scientists and biologists, innovators and entrepreneurs. This year has not been spent in vain. It has made you the disciples God has designed you to be. These opportunities have provided you with the talents necessary to carry you on to advanced study in any line of work you plan to do. You can be anything you want to be...so, be there for God and man.

I commend all of our students, from Freshmen to Graduates, for your hard work, joy of learning, and pursuit of excellence this year. I commend our teachers for guiding, supporting, and challenging our students (and themselves) to think and learn and grow. I commend all of the CVA staff for your untiring service and benevolent, Christlike, support. This year has flown by and yet the memories of the blessings rest close to my heart. You all are close to my heart and prayers!

Maranatha!
Ms. Norma



Dear Melody,

Thank you for letting me eat all of your gelato on the day I went to your house without you knowing. Anyway, we have been through a lot this year.

Remember when we played volleyball with two balls and just dropped to the floor? Our legs became like jello because we couldn't stop laughing. That day, I felt so free.

Oh, and remember when we worked in the cafe together making special cookies for the campout? Melody, I have cherished all the times when we would be real with each other and just have long talks. Being with you has made me realize a lot about myself and who God wants me to be.
Love,
Jamin

Dear Mr. Stewart Little,

Zethyn and I want to say thank you for being an epic assistant boys dean, and for being a great mechanic. Thank you for giving us haircuts and letting us stay up late to talk. Thank you for always being a fun person to be around, and for being like family. You should go on the backpacking trip with us. We love that you are Colombian and from "Du Hood". Castle Valley Academy wouldn't be the same without you. Here's a little poem we wrote for you:

There once was a man named Stu
Who was the boys' dean
through and through
He fixed cars with great care
And always was there
To ensure the boys' success
shined through

As the assistant boys' dean
He kept the boys on the right scene
With a strict but fair hand
He helped them understand
The importance of responsibility keen

From engines to brakes and more
Mr. Stu knew what the boys had in store
He taught them with care
And was always there
To help them learn and explore

Thank you, Mr. Stu,
for all you do
For being the boys' dean
through and through
And for fixing cars with a skill
That always will
Keep the boys on the right path anew.

So thank you, Mr. Stu,
for everything
For being the assistant boys' dean
with a zing
And for fixing cars with such ease.
You truly aim to please
And help us reach for the stars and to
Jesus cling.

So thank you, Mr. Stu,
for all you've done
As the assistant boys' dean
number one
And for fixing cars with such grace
You always bring a smile to our face
And make our journey truly fun.

Lovingly,
Logan and Z

On the Cover

Students and staff enjoying the great outdoors near campus.

Editors:

CVA 2024 Senior Class
Jada, Micah, Nathanael,
Ben & Melody

Staff:

Brenda Ellis, Luis Alonso &
Principal Norma Howard

Dear Ms. Tracie,

As this school year comes to an end, I'd just like to say thank you for being so caring and kind to me, for always checking up on me to see if I am doing well, and for treating me like a daughter.

I remember this one time we came back from break. When Jazmin and I saw you, we ran up to give you a hug. I thought that it was really funny how Jazmin and I fought over who would hug you first.

Thank you for being kind of overprotective and always making sure I would be safe (I can't really figure out how else to say that, lol). Well, sometimes you're overprotective, but then again, if I'm being honest... I kind of deserved it for not being careful and ultimately getting a concussion.

I'm really grateful to you for being so kind and patient with me in class when I don't understand something and for making sure that I understood it in the end. Thank you because you even came up with other methods to try to help me understand it.

I'm also grateful for all the times when I have cried out to you, and you were there to give me advice and lift me up. I really appreciate knowing that someone is always there for me. I think about how much more our Father in Heaven cares and takes care of us.

Thank you for taking care of me when I have felt physically ill, like that one time you were going to take me to Tia, so I ran, and you thought I was actually going to run. That is probably one of my favorite memories I have with you. Thinking that you would actually chase me to get the medical attention I need is, in a way, funny yet sweet.

Thank you also for putting your time and energy into making sure I didn't eat something that wasn't gluten-free. Only a mom would do such a thing, haha. Thank you so much for always making me not think so little of myself and telling me about my good qualities when I could not see anything good about myself. Thank you for everything that you have done!

Sincerely,
Dayanara

A Poem For

Mr. Ward

By Joel & Marcus

In the halls of our school,
a man so grand,
Mr. Ward, our Boys Dean,
takes a stand.
With a heart of gold
and a wisdom so rare,
He leads us all with love and care.

Tall and strong,
with a gentle smile,
He listens to our troubles,
mile after mile.
No problem too small, no worry too
big,
Mr. Ward is there, like a mentor.

He walks the campus
with pride and grace,
A leader in every sense of the race.
He guides us with patience,
with a firm hand,
His presence in our lives,
like a warm, comforting land.

As our School President,
he sets the tone,
For excellence, for success,
for a homegrown
Sense of community,
of pride, of unity,
Mr. Ward is the embodiment
of this opportunity.

In times of trouble, he is a rock,
A steady force
In the face of shock.
He calms our fears,
He soothes our pain,
Mr. Ward is the sunshine after the
rain.

So here's to Mr. Ward, our Boys
Dean,
Our School President, our guiding
beam.

Thank you for all that you do,
For being a leader, for being true.

Dear Anabel,

Thanks for being the best doctor, office boss, and Spanish teacher ever! In all the places I have been able to work with you and learn, you have taught me much. You have always been patient with me whether I am slow with learning, when using different apps on the computer, or learning how to say something in Spanish.

You are always kind and patient with everyone when you need to give them nasty medicine. You make even the unenjoyable things more enjoyable. With all of your treatments, you help us get better quickly and help keep us well. Even though a lot of the time it's the person's fault that they got sick because they were eating so much sugar you are still so patient and kind. It is also so cute when you lovingly scold someone.

I truly enjoyed working with you in the office preparing for the Belize mission trip. You helped me learn a lot about different programs and applications. Even though I only got to work with you once a week, I learned a lot.

Learning Spanish is lots of fun in your class. During the week, it is something I look forward to. I especially love going to your house and having tea or a snack. I thoroughly enjoyed learning the funny Bible song about Jonah the other day in Spanish class. It is nice how you have us read the Bible in Spanish and memorize different parts of scripture.

Thank you for being a great teacher and friend. I can see Jesus shining through you. Continue to let him shine through you more and more. Love you so much!

Love,
Breanna

Q & A

with Registrar Felicia Mayer



By Ethan K.

Felicia Mayer and her family have been residing at Castle Valley Academy for nearly 9 years. They originally worked with Little Light Studios and lived in Paradise, California. Felicia was a member of a 500-person church community, surrounded by friends and family. Her children had an excellent children's Sabbath School division and they were renting the best home they had ever lived in. The atmosphere of love was present and Felicia believed that she would stay there until Jesus returned.

One day, the lady who owned the house told Felicia that she would be selling it and that Felicia only had a few months to vacate the

home. Her husband, Thom Mayer, felt the calling to work at DayStar Adventist Academy, now known as Castle Valley Academy. Many signs were pointing them in this direction, but Felicia resisted due to her desire to stay in California.

After a series of events, she surrendered her will to God and did the unthinkable. Her family packed all their belongings and moved to Utah in less than a week. DayStar provided them with a small one-bathroom house which they still reside in today. Felicia is extremely grateful for God's guidance and leadership, which brought her to Castle Valley Academy.

She has occupied many positions throughout her time here including Cafeteria Director, Logistics Manager, Farm Worker and Supervisor. Currently, she serves as the Registrar and the Executive Administrative Assistant to the President.

Although her story contains many details that could fill an entire book, she summarizes her journey by saying, "Being here is not by chance but by Providence...God has a strange sense of humor."

10 Fun Facts about Felicia Mayer:

- She graduated high school at 16 years old and went on to get her Associate of Arts by 18.
- She lived in Europe for 3 months when she was 18.
- She has been snowboarding since she was 13.
- She has had the same pair of sunglasses for 25 years which she wore when she met her husband.
- She loves hot springs.
- She held a baby panda when she was in China.
- She loves all colors except pink.
- She has a goal to visit every National Park in America.
- She loves photography and processed her photos in her personal dark room.
- She loves spending time at the ocean.



Spotlight on Seniors



Melody

How do you like it here at CVA from scale of 1-10? 10

What are your favorite hobbies? Reading, crafts, volleyball, hanging out with friends

How's your relationship with God? Growing every day but still need for change. God is my best friend

What's your favorite thing to do here at CVA? Hangout with my friends

Whats your fave CTE? Auto Shop/Bakery

What do you like to read? What is your favorite book? Historical fiction, Project Sunlight, What God Hath Joined

How have you benefited from attending CVA? Growing through the hardships and growing with God

Do you have any pets? 1 dog, 2 cats

How many siblings do you have? 1 awesome brother.

What your favorite type of cuisine? Italian/Thai

What's a hobby you have always wanted to try? Playing the flute and skateboarding

What country would you like to visit? Fiji

Mustard or ketchup? Ketchup

When your faced with challenges what do you do to overcome them? Pray, pray, keep praying

What's some advice you would have given yourself three years ago? Stop being fake. Be the real you.

What are you most grateful for? The way God has worked in my life.

What does success look like for you? Glorifying God and serving others.

What gives you peace of mind? Spending time with God and my friends.

Apple or Android? Apple

What are some thing on your bucket list? Learn how to skateboard, Skydiving, Road Trip with all my close friends.

Describe yourself in one word: mooooooody

What was your favorite thing to do when you were younger? Play with stuffed animals with Ethan

What gives your life meaning? Jesus

Are you an introvert or extrovert? Extrovert

What the worst Holiday in your opinion? Halloween

What your greatest fear? The ocean

Favorite color? Green Emerald/sage

What are your plans after you graduate? Well I'm going to the Weimar HEALTH program for 1 semester, then I'm spending the next semester doing mission work, and then Aug 25' I'm planning going to nursing school at Southern Adventist University.

Nathanael

What state are you from? Montana.

What led you to come to CVA? Canada's borders kinda suck. And their politicians, and their government, and their laws, and well- a lot of stuff.

What do you like about being here? There's a lot of good people here.

What do you dislike about being here? It can be kinda stressful, and it's really annoying when people don't communicate.

What are some of your hobbies? Carpentry, metal-working, hiking, camping, swimming, rafting, climbing, sketching, math (yes, you heard me right, math), crocheting, ice skating, snowboarding/skiing, dirt biking, just to name a few.

How would you describe your relationship with God? He's like a dad, but better.

What's your favorite thing to do outdoors? Watching the sun set and rise.

What's your favorite class and why?

My business and sales class. I get to help people while making money. How great is that?

Who do you look up to the most/who is your hero? There's not really any one person in particular.

Describe yourself in one word.

No.

What are your plans after you graduate? TBD

If you could go back in time, what is some advice you would give to yourself four years ago? In March and November of 2022, remind myself every day to not be stupid. Stop and think bro.

What is your favorite book of the Bible and why? Psalms.

Do you have a favorite verse? If so, which? Proverbs 17:17

What is one thing you have seen in someone else's dealings with you that you wish to replicate in your own life? The time when someone

taught me what a true friend is, and also about forgiveness.

What's one of the oddest (or most unique) things about you? I carry my life in my pockets.

Tell us one fun fact about yourself!

I'm probably younger than you are.

What are some of your life goals? Join Search and Rescue, and get married.

What's one of the funniest things that's ever happened to you? I almost cut my thumb off when I was 13.

What would be your favorite thing to blow up? Magnesium.





Ben

What are your plans after high school? Go to Southern Adventist University and get a BA in Political Science. Then go to law school (somewhere).

What is your favorite subject in school? Why? History, because I like dates and stories. I am very interested in historical facts and accounts.

What is your favorite Bible verse? Why? Romans 8:1-4. It has the most detail in the shortest summary that explains the gospel and the plan of salvation.

How many instruments do you play? 3: Piano, violin, and viola.

What is your favorite song? Tchaikovsky's 5th Symphony.

What is your favorite type of food? Italian and Thai.

What is your best memory from your time here at CVA? Some candidates are the Granite Bay Concert with Fountainview, the Agape Feast and Communion, ski trip and Festival of Rejoicing.

What are you most excited for the rest of this year? Graduation.

What is your favorite book? Besides the Bible, Paradise Lost by John Milton and A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens.

Do you play sports? If so, which ones? I play volleyball and basketball for fun.

Jada

What do you do in your free time? In my free time I like to practice violin or piano, mostly piano.

Favorite Bible story and why? The story of Saul to Paul is my favorite Bible story because it shows Jesus' power in being able to change someone so bad in such an instant.

How has this school year treated you? This school has treated me pretty well. I have experienced what true kindness is this year from the staff.

What are some of your favorite memories of this school year? Doing potatoes with Mr. Ben. Having spiritual conversations with my friends.

What will you miss the most? What I will miss the most when I graduate is the people here.

Has this school helped you in any way? This school has helped me in my character development, mostly in my way of thinking and how to always see the good in all situations.

What do you plan on doing after graduation? I plan on working toward being a medical missionary after graduation.

What occupation do you want? The occupation that I want in life is what God wants me to be (I still don't know what).

Are you scared for what the future

holds? No, I'm more excited for the future than scared.

What is something that is constantly on your mind? Something that is constantly on my mind is the future.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be? If I were to change one thing about myself I would change how I respond to frustrating situations.

What is the most important lesson you learned over the past years? The most important lesson I've learned over this past year is realizing that trials, are blessing.

What's some advice you would give to your friends as you leave? My advice to my friends would be to look to Jesus and don't ever look to yourself because it will always get you down.

Has your relationship with God changed this year? Yes

What is something that happened this year that has helped you grow spiritually? The Influence from my friends for good that I've never had before.

What area of faith are you feeling most challenged in currently? Fully surrendering to God.

What in your life is most encouraging to your faith right now? The thing that is most encouraging in my faith right now is the change that has taken



place in my brother the past year.

What brought you to God? His love.

Favorite Bible Verse? "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." 2 Corinthians 4:17



Micah

What is your favorite color? Green

What are some challenges you have had to overcome here? The Fishbowl

What are you planning to do after you finish this year? That is something I am talking to my Father about.

What are some of the most memorable memories here? Doing dumb stuff with the guys. Climbing Periot, riding my dirt bike.

How old are you? 18

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Work with my hands on different ranching projects with my dad. Making films, think, problem solving, and dreaming big.

What is your favorite thing to do here? Explore

How many years have you been here? 2

How many siblings do you have? 1

How's your relationship with God? Very strong

What is an area that you've got better at? Submitting thoughts, affections, feelings and hopes to his will.

How has God worked in your life? It's too long to write here but He is rebuilding my character and fulfilling his will in my life, very painful.

What are you most thankful for? My Father, and my parents!

How would you describe yourself? Semi-introverted because I like to get away when there is too much noise, but I love people. I would describe myself as Chillish, Aspirational in things above, and a Helper.

What do you do when faced with challenges? Here, I internalize everything because if you show it people think you aren't perfect. But normally I break the problem down, pray then seek counsel.

What do you want to do as a job after graduation? Conquer the world. Ranching, Tac/Rescue ops, Working in mentorship.

What does success look like for you? That's something I will find out eventually, I have aspirations. Make a true impact on others for positive co-working with the Holy Spirit.

Today is Your Day

By Isadora S.

Today is your day
to wake up with a smile,
Today is your day
to achieve your goals.
No matter how small
or big your dreams might be,
Today is your day
to go the extra mile.

Some may block the paths
of your dreams,
But be not discouraged!
No matter the challenge,
Push on, regardless
how hard it seems.

People will talk smack
behind your back,
But don't let that define you.
You're a child of the King
The Bible says it, and it's true!

Sure, you'll face disappointments;
Yes, you'll have to fight;
But at the end of the day,
When you're following God,
You'll know that
you're always right.

So they say you're
not good enough,
Or they tell you to leave.
Don't waste your time
on their words,
Instead, walk past them
and say:

Today is my day
to achieve my dreams,
Today is my day
to make others smile.
I don't care what you say
about me,
Because your words
never defined me,
They only shaped me to become
the winner who achieves.

F.R.I.E.N.D.S.

By Rebecca N.

Friendships can come
and friendships can go.

Friends are like stars
they sometimes don't show.

Friends are mist
on the forest tree.
Adding its beauty
so wild and free.

Friends are like wild flowers
among roses
And planets
among stars.

Friends are the ones
who see through your scars.
Friends are the sun, the moon
and the stars.

On the snow covered mountain
or frothy sea.

I promise you'll know
right where I'll be.

Friends are the ones who
sing the song
your heart only knows.

Friends are the ones who
never judge you
no matter where life goes.

Springtime

By Mercedes R.

Springtime is here!
Everything is bright
Bye bye winter,
What a delight!

Springtime is here!
Animals come out cheerfully
And children frolic by,
The sun is shining brightly
And Jesus smiles on high

Springtime is here!
A wonderful season,
Where flowers bloom
And birds sing,
All creation lifts its voice
In praise to our wonderful King

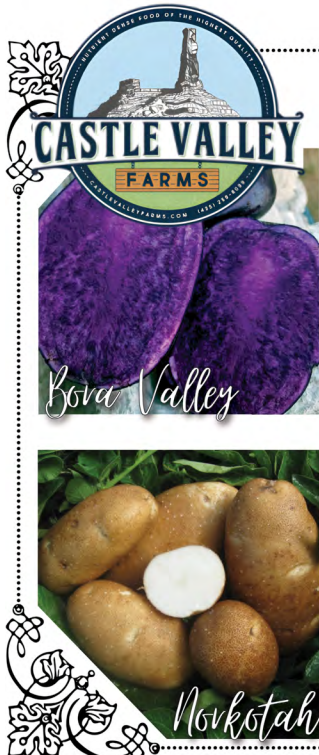
Springtime is here!
The sky is blue,
Smells are new,
And there are memories to make
With every step you take

Springtime is here!
Just another time to sing,
Sing, sing again,
To creation's omnipotent King!

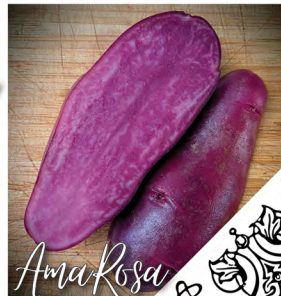
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SENIOR CLASS TRIP

EUROPE Reformation Sites & Outreach

Our Senior Class and staff chaperones are raising funds to enable them to travel to Europe for their Senior Class Trip in Spring 2024. Our seniors are excited to grow spiritually as experience broader cultural and historical awareness.

If you would like to support this venture financially, please contact fred@cva.school or Call 435-259-7719