



Castle Valley Academy

# JOURNAL

Issue 1 November 2023

WHO WE ARE  
the Students of CVA

+ Giving  
Opportunities

What's Happening  
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# WHO WE ARE

## the students of CVA



[Castle Valley Academy](#) (formerly Daystar Academy) focuses on a balanced academic experience based on the Word of God. Our students excel with robust academics, advanced music programs, agriculture, and vocational training as well as a myriad of outdoor recreational opportunities in the pristine rural area of Moab, Utah. Get to know some of our amazing students! Check us out on YouTube [HERE!](#)

### Dayanara

My name is Dayanara, I'm from California, I'm a sophomore and this is my first year here at Castle Valley Academy. I've made a lot of friends here like Jada (senior) Jazmin (junior) Mercedes (junior) Joel (sophomore) Ben (senior) Michael (freshmen) and many more amazing friends.

Some of my favorite memories here are having fun with Jada and Mercedes, raking leaves with Ethan all C.T.E and then jumping in the pile of leaves, singing in the beginning of Bible class, learning but having fun in consumer math, and the interesting things we learn in Chemistry.

Some things I like to do are skateboarding, drawing, hanging out with my friends, reading books, and playing the piano or the trumpet. I really like Miso soup, enchiladas and juice boxes.

My walk with God has grown a lot. Personally, at first I didn't really have one or really want one because God just kind of seemed a bit far and out of my reach. I would never have a relationship with Him. Being here made me rethink and actually want to have that personal relationship with Him, thought it's still really hard. My new friends have helped me a lot in that and the staff at CVA. I can't say I have one just yet but I'm getting there slowly.

I'm very grateful I came to Castle Valley Academy. My favorite subject has to be Consumer Math though I'm not very good at it. I find it fun. When I graduate, I'd like to go to Uchee Pines or Core to learn Medical things, after that I'd like to go to Andrews University and study either Architecture, landscaping, or interior design.

### On the Cover

Castle Valley Academy is nestled in a beautiful valley surrounded by public land and majestic mountain buttes near Moab, Utah.

#### Editors:

Jada, Ben, Nathanael, Melody & Micah

#### Assistants:

Sean & Ethan

**Staff:** Brenda Ellis, Luis Alonso  
& Principal Norma Howard

### Joel

Hello, I'm Joel and I'm from Victorville, CA. I came to Castle Valley Academy because a friend of mine came here a while ago. I like CVA because I know that other schools are not like CVA. CVA has many awesome people and a beautiful location.

My dream is to become a pilot and fly all over the world. My father originally wanted to become a pilot but could not, so I want to become one so I can take him on some flights.



## Isadora

My Name is Isadora, although people call me Izzy, and I am a Junior at Castle Valley Academy. Some of my greatest passions are supporting our troops, debating American politics, and educating individuals on the importance of religious liberty in our country.

I am also super passionate about mental health awareness since I grew up in a family with mental health challenges.

Originally, I'm from Texas, but I currently reside in Tennessee when I'm not out in Utah studying and enjoying rock climbing, camping, white-water rafting, or any other outdoor activity that comes with an adrenaline rush.

If you haven't already picked up on this, I'm SUPER patriotic, and I love encouraging people. I believe that the only way you can really succeed in life is by reaching down and lifting others up.

To sum up, I love Castle Valley Academy because of the great people here, as well as the unique opportunities this school has to offer, such as first aid/CPR training and certification, choir, orchestra and bells, and a really cool outdoor education program.

I want to extend a warm sentiment of gratitude to the individuals reading this. Thank you for taking the time to support Castle Valley Academy! You have made a huge difference for good in so many young peoples' lives, and it is very much appreciated.





## John

Hi my name is John. I am 14 years old and I like to do a lot of things such as climbing, calisthenic workouts, soccer, football, and many other sports.

I live in Kentucky with my parents, where there is a lot of farmland and trees. I came to CVA mainly because I wanted to, but I do like being with my parents at home and miss them. I have done rock climbing here and I would like to do mountain biking here in Utah. I hope to learn more here at Castle Valley Academy, and I also hope to have a better relationship with Jesus Christ.



## Ben

My name is Ben and I am a senior at Castle Valley Academy, I was born in Wichita, KS, and have lived there for most of my life.

I have always been inclined toward mental tasks since I was little. I learned to read when I was three years old, and when I started school I quickly grew bored. My mom decided to homeschool my brother and I when I was eight.

I started piano lessons when I was six, and violin when I was 8. Music quickly grew into one of my greatest passions. I hope to be an orchestral conductor some day. Music is one of the primary reasons I am here at CVA.



## Micah

I am Micah Son of Luke, a member of the graduating class of Twenty Twenty-Four, and a fourth-year Cadet of the United States Airforce Auxiliary.

I am an Entrepreneur, Photographer, Videographer, Search and Rescue/Tactical Enthusiast, and a Guy who just likes helping people.

I like working with both my hands and head, solving problems, and restoring items that need fixing. I love having Intellectual conversations about Life, Christ, Business ideas, and problems that we face today.

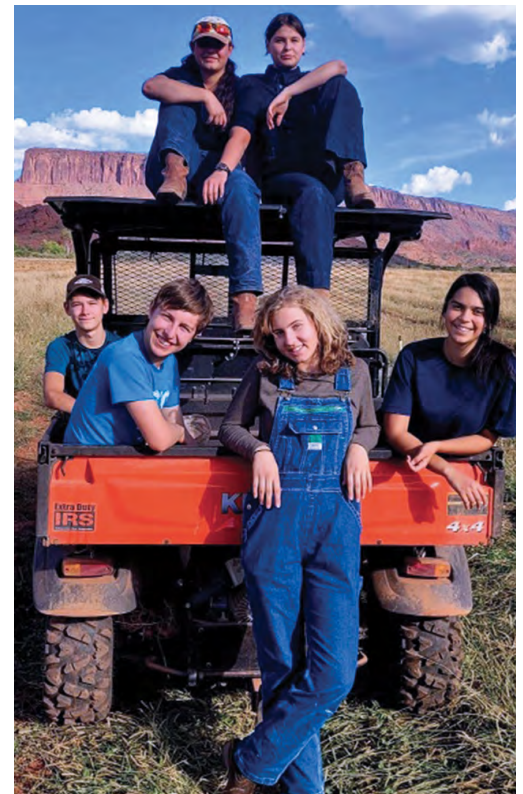
Thank You for investing your most valuable resource of time into taking a moment to read this auto-cogitation!

## Anna

My name is Anna, and I'm in 10th grade. I am originally from the beautiful south-eastern green hills of Tennessee.

I enjoy doing outdoor activities: horseback riding, hiking, swimming, and off-roading with four-wheelers and dirt bikes.

I'm from the south so I am not a big fan of winter sports such as skiing and snowboarding. My parents are staff here at CVA. My mom teaches Algebra 1, Consumer Math, World History, and Health. She also is one of the Assistant Girls' Deans. My dad teaches Geometry, Algebra 2, and Christian Finance, and helps anywhere he is needed.



# WHAT WE'VE DONE

## Last Quarter...

Students studied ancient Israel's experience in the wilderness. The fall choir trip toured 5 churches in Colorado and New Mexico. Students harvested the fall potato crop and their own personal gardens at Castle Valley Farms. They learned horsemanship with the new horses that have joined our school. Students went on a camping trip in the La Sal Wilderness where they learned outdoor survival skills. We had a beautiful Week of Prayer where students also learned Medical Missionary Outreach and the 8 Laws of Health!

## Life...

By Ethan (Sophomore)

Life at Castle Valley has been really busy and fun. This past weekend, we went on a school camping trip to the La Sal Mountains near our school. We camped in a meadow there. Blake, Ben, and I set up our own little camp some distance away from the main camp called "Cozy Compound". There was a fireplace, tent for storage, some hammocks, and even a sink. Pretty luxurious if you ask me. We hiked, swam in a lake, played volleyball, ate good food, and sang around the campfire together. Blake and I performed the skit "God's Chisel" on Sabbath evening. Playing the role of God really spoke to my heart. It showed me how much God loves and cares about me. The camping trip was an awesome time! I hope we can do it again sometime soon.

## What's New

By Isadora (Sophomore)

Y'all are probably wondering what we've all been up to out here in far-off Utah. That's why we have this thing called a newsletter. It was the most genius idea we could come up with so you can be informed...

(continued)... of current and not so current school happenings.

Speaking of school happenings, I want to let y'all know what I've been up to lately. My morning starts with worship in the chapel, where all of us students participate in student-led worship talks, singing, and praying in small groups. Beginning my day off with God has been a life-changer for me, and I really appreciate the spiritual emphasis that Castle Valley Academy includes during our week, whether it's chapel in the morning, prayer meeting on Wednesday night, or Friday night Vespers. I have Agriculture class every day, except for Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday. Agriculture class is cool because it gives me the chance to get dirty, get exercise, learn about why agriculture is important, and watch biology and chemistry in real life.

I also work in the cafeteria the rest of the morning, which, by the way, is NOT my favorite. I have to say, though, the food at CVA is amazing, unlike most other academy cafeteria menus.

The rest of my day is filled with academics, including music and life skills, like consumer math. I just want to say thank you for making my education possible! It means a lot to me and every other student here.

## Mechanic Arrives at CVA

By Micah (Senior)

Castle Valley has recently been blessed with the arrival of a professional mechanic, Stewart. This development is truly remarkable. It not only provides students with valuable opportunities to learn about mechanics but also ensures the swift and efficient repair of vehicles.

The CVA workshop has undergone a remarkable transformation, resembling an impeccably organized operating room, thanks to Stewart's exceptional organizational skills.

Having a dedicated mechanic on our team has had a profound impact. The workload of our other staff members has been lessened and enabling them to perform their tasks more effectively within their respective job areas. The blessings we've received here at Castle Valley Academy are truly abundant, and I hope this brief glimpse into our school life has been a blessing to you!



# Have you heard about our Sponsorship Opportunities ?

Students  
need your  
help.

Contact CVA Today! 435-259-7719



## WHAT WE'RE PLANNING

### Belize Mission Trip Spring 2024

Students and Staff members are excited to have the opportunity to travel to Belize from February 1-12, 2024 for a Mission Trip. We will be working with *MOVE Missionary Outreach Volunteer Evangelism Center* (<https://www.movetraining.org/>). Students will conduct evangelistic meetings, Vacation Bible School, music ministry, visitation and feed the needy.

If you would like to support this venture financially, please contact [fred@cva.school](mailto:fred@cva.school) or **Call 435-259-7719**

