

Delaney Slattery- Beautiful Savior Lutheran School- Cincinnati Christian Schools

My name is Delaney Slattery and I am an eighth grader at Beautiful Savior Lutheran School in Cincinnati, Ohio. I am planning to attend Cincinnati Christian Schools for high school. My favorite subjects are Art, Music, and Writing. I love to express myself in what I create. My academic strengths are Reading and Language Arts.

I wish to attend CCS because it has similar qualities to my current school. The size of the school and the size of the classes make me feel like the teachers will understand me more than if I were at a larger school. Because diving is my favorite sport, I was ecstatic when I found out that CCS had a diving team.

One of my favorite things about my current school is that I have the privilege to be paired with a chapel buddy who is in preschool. This year my chapel buddy's name is Grace. Every Wednesday, during chapel, I sit with Grace and help her learn how to participate in the service. One of our biggest obstacles right now is learning how to whisper! I enjoy seeing the preschoolers grow in maturity. At the end of the year, I love seeing my chapel buddies get their "graduation diploma" and seeing their enthusiasm towards their accomplishment.

At my school, sometimes the preschoolers and kindergarteners need a little help focusing on what they are supposed to be doing. For two years, I have helped by sitting on the stage with them during their Christmas service. I help tell them when to stand and sit. It is funny to watch when they don't pay attention to you and then they are the only one still standing or sitting on stage.

Every year, my church puts on a live nativity event, and I have volunteered to be a part of it for three years. The first year I tended to the live animals outside. For the past two years I babysat the children of the parents who were also volunteering. This year I also had a speaking part in the manger area. I explained to the visitors how Jesus brings peace that lasts.

My church also puts on Sports Camp and Vacation Bible School. At the sports camp, I assisted in running stations, passing out snacks, and leading the warm-ups. At VBS, I was one of the helpers for the five year-olds group. I helped pass out snacks and assisted them with their crafts and games. The best part of VBS was having most of the kids in my group constantly want to sit on my lap.

I also volunteered to be an elf at Kindervelt Eight's North Pole Express in December of 2013. There, I helped passengers find their seat on the train. I also showed the pictures to the guests as the story, The Polar Express, was read. Another

girl and I led the carols. This event was really fun because all of the kids thought I really was an elf!

Polished Girlz is a new organization to me that paints the nails of girls with special needs. Since I love painting nails, it is even more fun for me. I am a part of both the Dayton Polished Girlz team and the Cincinnati Polished Girlz team because I live between the two. So far, I have polished at the Dayton Down Syndrome Monthly Meeting, the Make a Wish Walk, and the Dragonfly Foundation's Fall Festival. It makes me smile every time, knowing that a little glitter brightened their day.

I also volunteer with the Aubrey Rose Foundation. In 2013, I helped backstage with the American Girl Fashion Show. To promote the AGFS auditions, I modeled American Girl outfits on Fox 19 for six years. So far this year I helped with the AGFS auditions. I have participated with two different Ronald McDonald House events. Crafting is one of my most loved hobbies. Helping to make some decorations for the 2013 Dance for the Heart of It, was a fun and rewarding experience. I volunteered this year at the Dayton Children's Hospital Christmas Party. As an elf, I had the opportunity to talk to the families and I noticed how thankful they are for what they have. I realized that you can find something to be thankful for in every situation, even though it may seem overwhelming; you just have to look for it.

Matthew 19: 14 says, "Jesus said, 'let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'" I enjoy volunteering with children the best. I have considered a career in early childhood education. I volunteer because I enjoy seeing and meeting some of the kindest people. With these experiences, I have learned that sometimes, the people with the biggest challenges are the people with the biggest hearts and smiles.