

Together, we can ensure every child has the roots to grow and the confidence to bloom.



We didn't just open a school. We opened a door to possibility.
– Jill Brown, Co-Founder

Let's Help Every Learner, Together

📍 2201 West Nifong Blvd | Columbia, MO 65203

✉️ caleimpact@gmail.com 🌐 comocale.com



Rooted to Bloom:
Personalized Paths, Proven Growth
A Case for CALE Impact Foundation

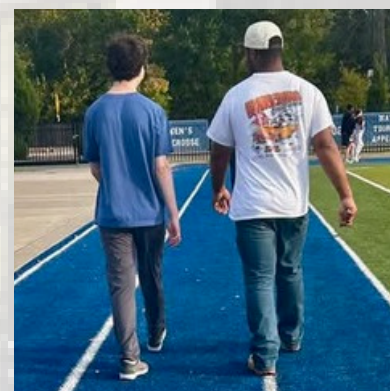
Rooted in Care, Growing in Potential

Every child deserves to be fully known—and believed in. At the Columbia Academy for Learning and Enrichment (CALE), we build strong roots—safety, belonging, and exceptional teaching—so students can bloom. The mission is simple: provide a nurturing, whole-child education that sparks a love of learning, strengthen connection to self and community, and help every child reach their potential.

CALE personalizes learning and pairs high expectations with high support. Our values—kindness, achievement, creativity, teamwork, and respect—guide every decision and every classroom moment. When children feel seen and challenged, growth follows.

Families who experience CALE’s approach describe a sense of relief: “They finally see my child.” The personalized, mastery-based environment restores confidence and connection for children who have been anxious or disengaged elsewhere. But access to such an environment should never depend on income or circumstance. That’s where the CALE Impact Foundation (CIF) comes in—its sole purpose is to ensure that financial barriers never stand between a child and the education that fits them best.

Every gift to CIF is a seed that grows into access, stability, and lifelong potential.



The Roots of Our Why

At CALE, we start with a conviction: every child deserves to be fully known, deeply supported, and held to high expectations in a community rooted in kindness, achievement, creativity, teamwork, and respect. These beliefs anchor our mission and shape what we do every day.

- **Every Child Can Excel** — We personalize learning with flexible supports and creative pathways that meet students where they are and move them forward, resulting in measurable growth and a durable love of learning.
- **Belonging Fuels Growth** — We build inclusive classrooms where students feel safe to take risks, learn from mistakes, and try again, because social-emotional development is foundational to academic success.
- **Teachers Change Trajectories** — We invest in exemplary, reflective educators—and in their well-being—because teacher stability and professionalism drive student stability, confidence, and achievement.
- **High Expectations with Whole-Child Care** — We pair rigorous academics with coaching in resilience, self-management, and relationships. With the right support, students consistently do more than they thought possible.
- **Access Opens Doors** — We prioritize scholarships so that cost is never a barrier to the right educational fit.
- **Today Shapes Tomorrow** — By opening doors now, we not only transform a child’s daily experience but also set in motion a lifetime of learning, confidence, and service that strengthens families and communities for generations.

These beliefs shape our daily work: providing a space where every child can thrive, build unique strengths, and grow into a confident, capable leader.

”

Education isn’t about fitting children into a system. It’s about shaping systems that fit the child.



A Bold Beginning, A Growing Promise

Every great movement starts with a moment of clarity. For veteran educators Jill Brown and Susan Deakins, that moment came when their own children—bright, capable, and curious—were not thriving in traditional schools. They longed for the freedom to use the most effective, evidence-based practices with consistency and care, always keeping the whole child in mind.

With more than 25 years each in educational leadership—and a belief that leaders should also teach—they founded a school where best practice isn’t a slogan; it’s modeled daily. Jill and Susan still teach, mentor, and guide, ensuring that the principles that shaped CALE’s founding remain visible in every classroom.

CALE began in 2021 in the downstairs of a former medical office—small, nimble, and focused. Just one semester later, demand made the decision for us: we moved to Woodcrest in January 2022 to welcome more learners and make room for families seeking a different kind of school.

Growth since then has been steady and purposeful. We launched with K–5, added JK and 6th grade the next year, then 7th and 8th in 2023–2024. In August 2024, we opened a high school in partnership with Columbia College, creating a seamless JK–12 pathway that keeps students rooted in care and rising in challenge.

That same spirit of excellence led to Cognia accreditation in spring 2025—an internationally respected signal of quality and continuous improvement in independent schools. Accreditation affirms what our families already know: CALE delivers strong governance, effective teaching and learning, and measurable student growth.

Momentum At-a-Glance

- 2021**
Founded by educators Jill Brown & Susan Deakins
- January 2022**
Moved to Woodcrest after one semester of rapid growth
- May 2022**
Show-Me Science of Reading Conference debuts (550+ attendees; 20 states & Canada)
- 2023–24**
Middle school expands (7th & 8th)
- August 2024**
High school opens with Columbia College partnership
- February 2025**
Cognia accreditation
- September 2025**
Named a National Microschooling Center
- Mar/Sep 2025**
CALE Impact Foundation established and recognized as a 501(c)(3)
- Fall 2026**
Science of Math Conference launches



Families Are at the Center of Our Story

Early on, Russ and Corinne were searching for a school that truly saw their daughter—her pace, her personality, her potential. They saw a sign for CALE, called, met with Jill and Susan, and knew they’d found home. Today, Corinne teaches here. Stories like theirs shape our culture: families become partners; partners become champions.

At CALE, we believe great practices grow stronger when they’re shared. In 2022, we launched the Show-Me Science of Reading Conference, welcoming more than 550 educators from 20 states and Canada.

Building on that success, in fall 2026 the Show-Me Science of Reading Conference will expand to include the Science of Math—extending practical, proven strategies to classrooms far beyond our own and helping teachers everywhere support the children they serve.

To ensure access keeps pace with excellence, the CALE Impact Foundation (CIF) formed in March 2025 and received 501(c)(3) recognition that September. The Foundation fuels scholarships so that mission—not means—decides who can attend CALE.

CALE’s story is proof that our model works—and that the momentum is real. What began as one classroom of possibility has become a movement for evidence-based, child-centered education that continues to grow in reach, recognition, and promise.

At our first meeting with Jill and Susan, we felt an immediate sense of relief. They truly heard our concerns and cared about what success looked like for our child—promising to honor our goals and walk with us. From that day, we knew we’d found the right place.

– CALE Parent



Where Roots Struggle to Take Hold

Too many children move through school without being fully seen. In large, fast-moving settings, the pace is set for the group, not the child. When a learner can't find a steady fit—socially, emotionally, or academically—school can feel more like strain than growth. Families sense it at home, too: morning battles, worry, and the quiet fear that their child is slipping through the cracks.

At the heart of the challenge is misalignment and instability. Students cycle through classrooms, teachers, and shifting expectations before skills have a chance to take root. Some are ready to accelerate; others thrive with more time and calmer space. Many are neurodiverse or simply learn best with predictable routines and smaller groups. These needs are not insurmountable, but in a one-size-fits-all model, they're often overlooked.

Even when families discover a school that feels right, practical barriers can stand in the way. Tuition can stretch household budgets. Key services and therapies may be difficult to coordinate. Transportation can complicate daily routines. And the specialized supports that help children flourish—tutoring, enrichment, or therapies—are too often fragmented. These are not flaws in the children themselves; they are solvable gaps in access and support.

If left unaddressed, the impact grows: learning lags, anxiety rises, and families carry heavier burdens. A child who doubts “I can” is harder to re-engage, and a parent who feels out of options may lose hope. Our community, too, misses out on the talents of children who might have blossomed with a better fit.

This is not about good vs. bad schools; it is about alignment, stability, and access. Research and lived experience show what works: mastery-based placement, small and calm learning environments, steady adult relationships, and flexible pacing held to high expectations. When those elements come together, children find their footing, confidence returns, and growth takes root.

The CALE Impact Foundation exists so no child is left on the outside of a school that could change their life. Rooted in the belief that every learner deserves the chance to bloom, we provide scholarships that ease the financial strain too often standing between a family and the right educational fit. With donor support, families can say yes to an environment where their child is fully seen, fully supported, and able to grow with confidence. Together, we can make access, stability, and belonging a reality—not a privilege—ensuring every student has the foundation they need to flourish.

By the Numbers

20%

of U.S. youth ages 12–17 report significant anxiety symptoms—affecting how they experience school, relationships, and learning.
(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

<15

ideal classroom size for students with anxiety or special needs. Typical Missouri and U.S. classrooms average 18–24 students.
(National Center for Education)

7.5M

U.S. students receive special education services nationally for learning, emotional, or developmental needs.
(National Education Policy Center)

CALE turns educational challenges into opportunity through small, personalized classrooms where no child is overlooked.



Who We Serve: A Garden of Different Learners

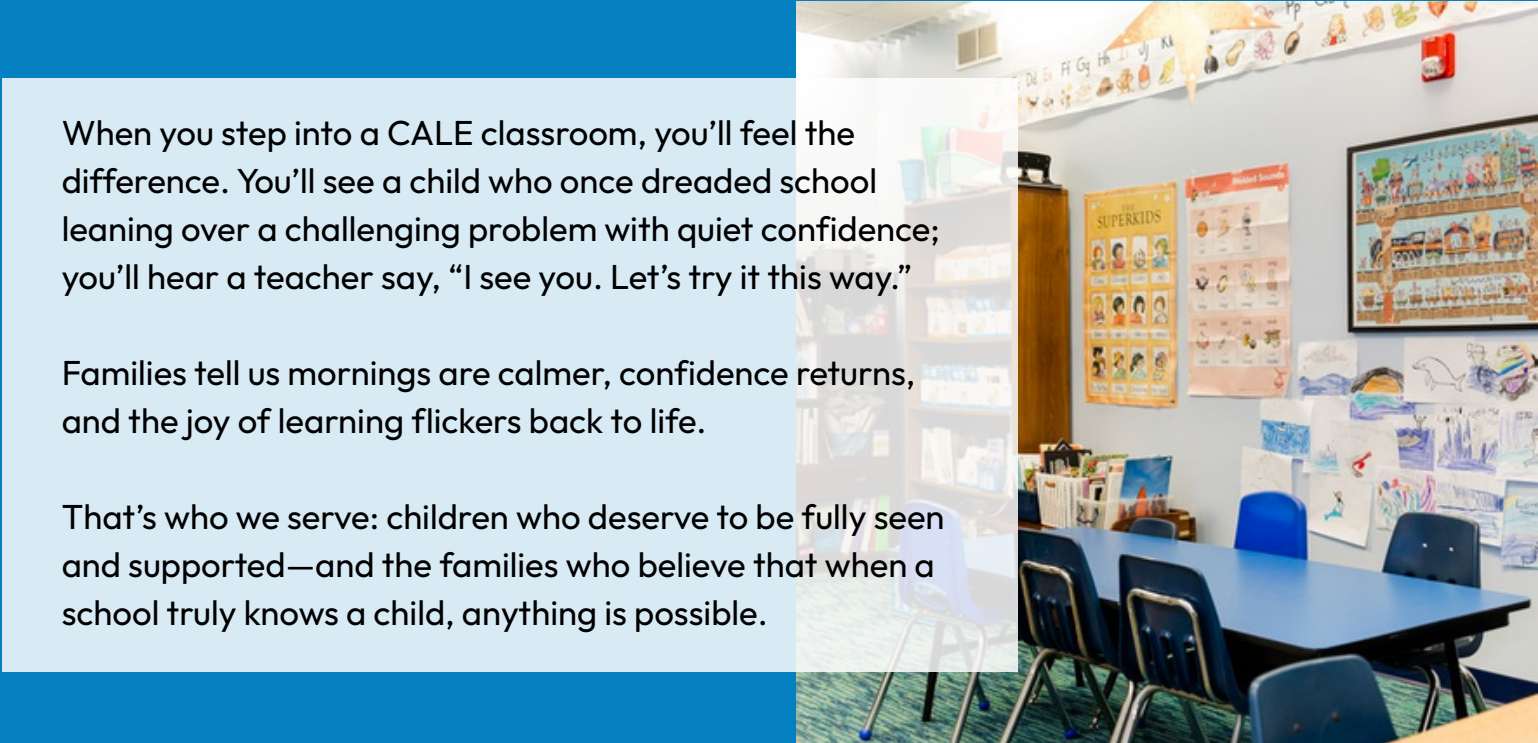
At CALE, we welcome children and teens across Central Missouri who flourish in small, personalized learning communities. We place students by mastery rather than age alone, because the right fit isn't a desk in a row—it's a path that matches how a child learns, grows, and belongs.

Families who choose CALE are looking for something more connected and more flexible than a typical school experience. Our days feel a bit like the best of home-education philosophy inside a professional, accredited setting: calm rooms, steady routines, and teachers who adjust grouping, pace, and modality so each learner is appropriately challenged and supported. Many of our students arrive after feeling unseen or overwhelmed elsewhere; here, they're known by name and story, encouraged to self-monitor, and invited into a close-knit community where "kids first" isn't a slogan—it's how decisions are made.

Our learners are wonderfully diverse. Some are accelerated and need to move quickly; some are neurodiverse and thrive with thoughtful structure and predictable care; others simply learn best in a quieter environment with fewer transitions. We can support students with additional needs when the school setting is appropriate and the student can self-monitor; when a child requires intensive clinical services beyond what a school can provide, we walk alongside families to help them find the right next step—always with dignity and kindness.

What do these students and families need most? A place where pacing is personal, adults are steady and attuned, and belonging is non-negotiable. They need flexibility—space for different rhythms and learning styles—paired with high expectations and caring accountability.

For many families, that kind of fit is finally within reach at CALE—but only with help.



When you step into a CALE classroom, you'll feel the difference. You'll see a child who once dreaded school leaning over a challenging problem with quiet confidence; you'll hear a teacher say, "I see you. Let's try it this way."

Families tell us mornings are calmer, confidence returns, and the joy of learning flickers back to life.

That's who we serve: children who deserve to be fully seen and supported—and the families who believe that when a school truly knows a child, anything is possible.

The CALE Impact Foundation makes access possible by providing scholarships that bridge the gap between what families can afford and what their children need.

These philanthropic dollars ensure that cost never stands in the way of a child's opportunity to learn, grow, and belong in a school designed for their success. These are the children and families your support makes possible.

Deep Roots Before the Bloom: The CALE Model

CALE’s model rests on three pillars—personalized learning, professional excellence, and purposeful belonging.

The result is measurable and meaningful growth—academic, emotional, and social.



Personalized Learning – Students are placed by mastery, not age, ensuring each one learns at the right level of challenge. Teachers regularly assess progress and adjust pacing. A single classroom might include students spanning multiple reading or math levels, supported through flexible grouping and one-on-one instruction.



Professional Excellence – CALE educators are adaptive experts. They integrate research with responsive classroom practice. Teachers participate in continuous professional development and reflection, modeling the very growth mindset they instill in students.



Purposeful Belonging – CALE nurtures a culture where kindness and respect are non-negotiable. Students practice empathy, collaboration, and self-advocacy daily. Families often describe the school as 'the first place my child has ever felt safe to learn.'



The Bloom Beyond: From One Child to Many Leaders

When one child finds the right educational fit, the impact ripples far beyond the classroom. Confidence grows, family relationships strengthen, and community resilience deepens.

Students who learn through CALE’s mastery-based, relational approach carry these lessons into adulthood. They become leaders who value collaboration, empathy, and accountability—skills our communities need most.

Every scholarship creates a multiplier effect. As students thrive, they model perseverance for siblings, empathy for peers, and leadership in their circles. This is how one scholarship today shapes a generation of compassionate contributors tomorrow.





Tending the Garden: How You Help Children Bloom

Every donor plays a role in nurturing CALE's garden of learners. Through the CALE Impact Foundation, your generosity opens doors for children who simply need access to the right environment to thrive. Whether you make a one-time gift, give monthly, or commit to a full-year scholarship, you make belonging—and learning—possible.

When families find CALE, they often breathe a sigh of relief—finally, a school that fits. But fit only matters if it's within reach. Your gift turns hope into access, ensuring that students who flourish at CALE can stay year after year, experiencing the compounded benefits of consistency, care, and growth.

Your Gift at Work: Scholarship Opportunities

Annual tuition at CALE is approximately \$13,000 for JK-12 students and \$14,00 for high school students. Every dollar helps bridge the gap between what families can afford and what their child needs to thrive.

Your partnership through the CALE Impact Foundation ensures that financial barriers never stand between a child and the education that fits them best. With your help, students don't just get through school—they flourish, growing in confidence, belonging, and joy in learning.

What Your Generosity Makes Possible

- **\$50/month (\$600/year)** – Helps keep access open. Your gift contributes to short-term tuition support, ensuring no student loses their place due to a temporary setback.
- **\$108/month (\$1,296/year)** – Extends opportunity. Covers roughly one month of tuition, giving a student uninterrupted learning in a setting that fits their needs.
- **\$271/month (\$3,250/year)** – Builds stability. Funds one quarter of a scholarship year so a child can continue growing with confidence and consistency.
- **\$542/month (\$6,500/year)** – Sustains momentum. Provides a half-year scholarship for a student whose family might otherwise have to pause their CALE journey.
- **\$1,300/month (\$13,000/year)** – Transforms a life. Fully funds a one-year scholarship, ensuring a student's place in a school designed for their success.



”

What you provide these students can't be measured with regular metrics, because the students become bigger than their grade level.

- CALE Parent



Rooted Together: A Community That Helps Every Child Bloom

CALE and the CALE Impact Foundation share one purpose: to help every child take root, grow strong, and bloom into their full potential. Your partnership ensures that no family faces the impossible choice between financial stability and educational fit.

When you give, you join a growing circle of supporters who believe that every child deserves to feel seen, supported, and capable of extraordinary things.

The CALE Impact Foundation removes barriers through scholarships and resources that open doors to CALE. With your gift, children find the fit, stability, and personalized growth they deserve.



**“For me, I think about how CALE is shaping my son into being a functional member of our community whereas he might get lost otherwise.”
– CALE Parent**

