



Senior Artie Williams first visited LEAF Charter School the first year LEAF was open. “The thing I remember most is a hike out in the woods. I hated it. So my first impression overall was one of extreme discomfort but the overall vibe of the school seemed more comfortable than other schools.”

Humanities teacher Alysa Younger is one of Artie’s favorite teachers. “I have a women’s literature class with Alysa and it is very fun. It is a small group of people. Every student (in the class) is non-binary except one and that one is trans. It is an interesting social phenomenon. The overall experience is more casual and because of that I did a presentation that I

wouldn’t have done in other classes because it would have been more anxiety producing. I think it is really neat that I was able to do that there. My presentation was on the author of Frankenstein, Mary Shelley. I learned she was only 18 when she started writing Frankenstein which is pretty impressive. She had a lot of drama in her life. She had a romance with a married man. The romance was before Frankenstein. Mary Shelley got pregnant with his child. The man’s wife commits suicide and he marries Mary Shelley. Mary Shelley had a lot of her children die young. Many think the themes in Frankenstein are about that. Her husband was cooler than maybe other husbands of the time and very supportive of her.”

Artie has had “lots of interesting conversations with Alysa. I can approach her with stuff that I wouldn’t approach other teachers. I always feel like she is very understanding and wants me to succeed.”

Artie also appreciates Project Lab, LEAF Out Loud, and music teacher, Sammy Burhoe. “I have the same birthday as Sammy. Sammy is very bright and enjoyable personality. I did queer poetry with Sammy during Skills Week and I wrote a poem that I really like.”

Artie appreciates the two coding teachers they had their first year at LEAF even though they can’t remember their names. “ They did a coding class and that was big because it got me into coding. I had done some baby coding before the class but I really enjoyed the coding class and that class helped me get into it. I have a lot of fun coding.”

Artie’s dream job would be to not work and just take time to relax and do more art.

Artie likes drawing. "It is the thing I have done the longest. I like to write but it is difficult. I make tape art." Artie has been making tape art for many years. They remember when they first started making tape art " I had a roll of tape and was trying to cut off pieces that were exactly square, eventually I figured out the technique. I was always experimenting and making more difficult stuff. My masterpiece so far is a hexagonal. It is difficult because tape art is fundamentally a square but in order to get other than a 90 degree angle you have to take a tape measure and get the angle exactly right. It is very difficult but very beautiful in the end. It is always interesting seeing what new things I can figure out how to do with tape. You need a lot of patience and a lot of tape."



Next fall, Artie will be attending Lakes Region Community College in Laconia. They plan on studying accounting. "I want to learn a marketable skill and it is very marketable right now."

Artie thinks LEAF is unique because it is "less formal and smaller both of those make a big difference. It is more flexible which is really good for me because traditional schooling was not for me. Being flexible in any context is usually good."

5 Fun Facts about Artie:

- 1). I was born in Portland, Oregon.
- 2). I have had a total of 8 first names.
- 3). I love tape art. My life goal is to make a huge statue of a dragon out of tape art.
- 4). I think bones are really cool and I want my bones to be art after I die.
- 5). I like birds and would like to command an army of crows.

