



LEAF Senior Ben Robison started his freshman year by attending “Fall Mountain for orientation but then I came to LEAF and I thought this would be much better. I liked the atmosphere at LEAF. It didn’t look like a school. It was very casual and very relaxed which was nice. There weren’t a lot of people so it wasn’t overwhelming.”

Teachers who have made a difference for Ben include former math teacher, Sean Marden. Ben says “Sean is a really smart person who likes to have intelligent conversations. He could express all the knowledge that he had in a way that was easy for students to understand. He also brought one of his astronomy friends in for skills week and we spent the week using a telescope and studying the sky.”

Ben also thinks former STEM teacher, Joe Quimby “made everything fun. You could tell he really cared about how his students were feeling. He cared about you as a student but also as a person and made sure you felt validated.”

Humanities teacher, Chris Becker is also a teacher who has made a difference for Ben. “Chris is super helpful and always willing to help you out if you are struggling. He is super approachable. Freshman year we had to choose a topic we wanted to learn more about. I chose income inequality and I did a speech at exhibit night. Chris gave me tips and coached me so I could do well at the presentation. I also like how Chris connects history and current events.”

Ben has enjoyed taking music teacher, Sammy Burhoe’s class. “I took a lot of music classes. I liked working with Sammy because he was a great teacher and explained things I knew a little about but wanted to know more about. Sammy cares about you deeper than just in a class. He reaches out and asks how things are going in general outside of class. Sammy is able to know where a student is at musically and teach them where they are at whether they are a beginner or more accomplished.”

“I like performing in front of other people, connecting with an audience. You have to be there in person to feel the magic.” Ben has participated in many performances over the years at LEAF including playing with his band the UltraViolet Triplets, competing in the Battle of the Bands, and performing at exhibit nights. One song he wrote with the UltraViolet Triplets was “something we did with Sean Marden in Model U.N. We wrote a song as a protest against the nazis and we performed it at a exhibit night. We rehearsed that song a lot!”

Ben’s dream job is to be a forensic psychologist. “My favorite show is the X Files and I like the things they do in that show like criminal profiling.”

During his time at LEAF he participated on the Fall Mountain football team where he was captain of the team his senior year. "My biggest achievement was being a Division 4 All State Punter." Another accomplishment was exceeding expectations his senior year. No one had "very high expectations for our team but we shocked people especially Newport because Newport had not lost a game in two years and they had beaten us earlier in the season but we won the second time we played them. We handed them their first loss in 2 years."



Ben has been very busy not only at LEAF and on the football team but he has also taken business, psychology, and early childhood college classes at River Valley Community College. He will complete 3 early childhood education courses and will receive an early childhood education certificate. Once he receives his early childhood education certificate he will become an associate teacher in the day care where he has been working after school.

After graduation, Ben will be attending Keene State College studying Elementary Education. "I have been working at a day care for a few years now with children birth to 5years old but I have discovered that I really like it when the older kids come after school. I want to work with 3rd and 4th graders."



Some of Ben's favorite memories of his time at LEAF include going to prom his junior and senior years. "It was fun to dress up and go out to dinner with friends. The band was really great and it was nice to be around live music. We haven't been able to do that for a while. The second prom I got to play with the band which was really great."

In general he will remember having "fun with my friends. I like to have fun and laugh. I like having friends that are funny. We do crazy stuff to make each other laugh. I met my best friends here and that is what I will remember most when I look back. The times I shared with them."

What advice does Ben have for incoming LEAF students?

"Make as many friends as possible. Talk to everyone, it's the best way to learn about the world. Even if you don't agree with them, don't shut them down. High school is a tough time for everyone. It is easier if there are people you can talk it out with. Find people who are funny."

LEAF "is teaching you how to be a member of society. They stress being a good person more than being a straight A student. We learn about the real world. We learn in a very unbiased way. We are given information in an unbiased way and we are asked what do we think not what to think."

5 Fun Facts about Ben:

- 1). I am a songwriter.
- 2). I play guitar, drums, bass, and piano.
- 3). My favorite movie is Back to the Future.
- 4). I do not like roller coasters.
- 5). I would like to travel to Italy or England. I am not much of a traveler but if I did travel that is where I would go.