



LEAF senior, Caleb Thornbald first visited LEAF Charter School at the very end of the school year. “Everyone was working on their final project. I liked the friendship, creativity, and sense of family. I pretty much figured out this is where I wanted to be for high school.”

Caleb’s favorite teacher at LEAF is humanities teacher, Chris Becker. “He is amazing. He provides an incredibly informative learning experience. He is incredibly intelligent, kind, and very supportive but he is not afraid to call you out on your behavior. I have learned a lot from his class.”

Caleb has enjoyed a lot of the classes at LEAF. “I have loved humanities because of how informative and fun it is.”

“PE is incredibly engaging and fun to participate in. LEAF has unique classes like yoga.”

He enjoys “running class with PE teacher, Kurt Hackler because of his engagement and sense of humor.”

“Art class has given me an outlet for my artist leanings during school.”

If Caleb could have his dream job, he would be a filmmaker or author. “I have always had a knack for visuals and color. I am someone who loves to tell stories and I am good at it. I truly enjoy movies and books. They are the best outlet, entertainment, and best way to invoke feelings that are not as easy to access with non narrative arts.”

Some of Caleb’s favorite memories of LEAF include” lunch time and hanging out with friends. It is an amazing thing at LEAF because we have hour-long lunches. Field Trips to places that are unique and fun to visit. The classes and activities that are part of the school curriculum because they are engaging and allow for each student’s interests, capabilities, and educational process.”

After graduation Caleb plans to “take a gap year and breathe a breath of fresh air after covid.” He wants to “take some time to focus on mental and physical health plus get skills to live as an independent adult.”

After 4 years at LEAF, Caleb leaves the following advice to incoming LEAF students. “Be open minded and friendly. Everyone here is weird. Don’t be shy. Just be yourself. LEAF is a very

accepting and caring environment. Sometimes it might seem chaotic but that is part of what makes LEAF so fun because it allows for expression and creativity.”

Some of the things Caleb appreciates about LEAF include, “The dress code, as long as you are not half naked you can dress anyway you want, no one will judge you. Self expression and different learning styles are accepted, encouraged, and welcome here. We are a diverse community. We are very supportive of each other and we are tight knit. Teachers do their best to keep tension low and spirits high. They do their best to provide what each student needs as a unique individual.”

5 Fun Facts about Caleb:

- 1). Little known fact, I have autism.
- 2). I have hyper dexterity and I can give people a backwards handshake.
- 3). I draw a lot.
- 4). I know way too much about movies for my own good.
- 5). I speak almost exclusively in sarcasm.

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