



## **Carver Leinau**

### **Class of 2021**

### **Senior Profile**

Initially, Carver thought LEAF “was a pretty cool place.” “I liked all the machines in the building and that we were allowed to spend time outdoors in the woods.” Carver was also impressed with director Dakota Benedetto. “She is cool! I am amazed how she set out to do a project, to make a school, and totally got it down. She is super smart!”

Another staff person who has had a big impact on Carver is teacher Sam Burhoe. Sam teaches a variety of classes at LEAF: Project Lab, LEAF Out Loud, Art, and Music. Carver made a connection with Sam while studying piano. Carver says, “Sam is very skilled and well versed in different styles. I really like jazz. We talked a lot about jazz music and jazz musicians.”

LEAF also was very supportive of Carver's interest in music equipment. “I made a proposal to Dakota to purchase a lot of equipment and software I felt I needed to get better. I felt my suggestions would also benefit other students. Dakota listened to me, took my advice, and placed an order for the equipment I needed.”

Carver has very specific plans for his life after graduation. Carver plans to join the Coast Guard and get a college degree. Once enlisted in the Coast Guard, he hopes to be stationed in Bahrain, a very competitive placement, so he will be priority 1 for training to be a Maritime Enforcement Specialist. Once he reaches this goal, he plans to go into special forces to achieve his dream job of being a part of the Maritime Security Response Team, a quick response antiterrorism unit.

To future LEAF students, Carver offers the following advice. “LEAF is an amazing school with a lot of flexibility and a lot of opportunities. It is easy to take advantage of the opportunities but because there are so many opportunities, it is important to stay on top of your work.”

LEAF stands out as a special school because of its size; everyone in the community is closer. “The projects we do are more interesting. Students have to be more involved because it is not a test taking system. You can't just skim the surface of a subject. You have to do the projects because the school is project based.”