



Chelsie Loves

Class of 2021

Senior Profile

“The greatest impact LEAF has had on me is on my confidence. If I had gone to another school I would have just stuck to being the shy, quiet kid - but not at LEAF. I think it is easier to learn to be confident in a small space.” She says, “I started attending LEAF with my best friend and at first we ate lunch by ourselves. We were completely separate from the other students then another student yelled up to us one day “Why so antisocial? And from that day forward we were all together.” The class bonded and we became a community. “ I decided “in that moment I don’t want to be alone through these 4 years.” I never looked back.

Going to a small school has its advantages. “ LEAF is such a small school everyone knows everyone and you can’t really avoid people. Teachers set high expectations and because of those high expectations LEAF students act more maturely. It wouldn’t be the same outcome at a different school. Teachers and students have a respectful relationship. Teachers at other schools don’t care as much as they do at LEAF. At LEAF if something is not right, teachers will step in and say let’s fix that right away. Teachers care more at LEAF.”

As Chelsie heads into the last semester of her senior year she has fond memories of the last day of school her freshman year when the whole class went to Lake Warren to go swimming.

Another experience Chelsie has fond memories of is the New Hampshire Educational Theatre Guild Competition. LEAF performed selections from Edgar Allan Poe’s work in the one-act play *Midnight Dreary*. Chelsie was cast in the role of Bertram and took her role very seriously and felt very confident and prepared as she performed her part. She even won an acting award. The opportunity to meet other theatre students from throughout New Hampshire also added to the experience. “The whole festival was really fun. We would watch a group perform and then we would split up into little groups with 2 or 3 students from each school. We talked about the process of how the school chose the play, the experience of performing the play, and we would ask each other questions about the process. Then we would head back and watch another play and the cycle would begin again.”

The teachers at LEAF that have made the biggest difference for Chelsie are Humanities teacher, Chris Becker and STEM teacher, Joe Quimby. Chelsie says, both teachers are laid back and are easy to connect with. Chelsie has found Chris’ psychology class to be interesting and has talked one on one with Chris about some of her interests. Chelsie says Joe keeps encouraging her, telling her “I know you can do it!”

Of all the classes Chelsie has had over her career at LEAF the classes she has most enjoyed are the art classes she has taken: “Art is always enjoyable and feels less like work and more like just doing.”

If she could do anything after graduation she would travel. Chelsie would love to go to France, Canada, and Spain. Chelsie has been accepted at Colby-Sawyer College which was her first choice, but she is not sure if she is going to take a gap year or go straight to college.