

Katelyn Lawlor began school at LEAF Charter School at the start of her sophomore year. The thing that Katie remembers the most from that time is founding director Dakota Benedetto running around with a 6 foot stick making sure everyone was social distancing. Truly unprecedented times!

There are many aspects of LEAF that Katie has enjoyed. She likes that the school is outdoorsy. "We have classes outside and lunches are outside. I like that it is a dog friendly school. I was able to bring my dog Bo to school on certain days. The school has fewer people, which I like."

One teacher who has made a difference for Katelyn is humanities and nature walk teacher, Kevin Bose, "I would not have finished without him. He is the whole reason I am graduating. He supported me in getting what I needed to get done. He supported me because he understood where I was coming from. Kevin is like the cool uncle of LEAF."

After graduation, Katelyn is hoping to do some traveling and potentially move to Tennessee. She would love to travel with her friend, Lauren to West Virginia to visit with her family. She is also interested in working at a clothing store in Nashville.

Katie is a talented photographer and loves country music. Katie has shared that "country music has had a huge impact on my life. There is a song for almost every emotion. If I'm feeling a type of way I cannot describe or don't think anyone else feels, I somehow manage to find a song for it. Country music is not just some genre that speaks about pink glittery rainbows and luxury lifestyle. The country music genre is all about working hard for what one has and making the best of bad situations. Some complain that it's depressing or about nothing but tractors, cowboys, and beer. Well if you ask me, that's not at all what it is. Sure there are many songs with those terms in it but there is a meaning behind every song, you just have to see through it. Country music may not have an effect on all but it's gotten me through some pretty tough times."

Katie, whatever path you choose and wherever your travel takes you, the LEAF community is cheering you on! Congratulations!