



LEAF Senior, Kole Wasklewicz found out about LEAF Charter School from his mom who heard about LEAF from a Fall Mountain High School teacher who had a lot of respect for founding director Dakota Benedetto.

Kole came to visit LEAF and had a tour. He thought LEAF was “very different from public school. It was a machine shop so it didn’t have traditional classrooms. I don’t like classrooms in public schools.” He then attended orientation and found it to be “a friendlier environment. I met some of the students who were already going here. Several of them ended up being my best friends.”

“History has always been one of my favorite subjects. It’s not math. Learning about the past is cool to me. Visualizing what could have been happening at this exact spot 500 years ago is crazy to think about. I think the Revolutionary war is a very interesting story because as the underdogs we beat a much stronger force which statistically should not have happened and we gained our freedom from England.” When asked about the musical Hamilton surprisingly, Kole is not a fan.

Humanities teacher Chris Becker is a favorite of Kole because “he is an understanding person. He is someone you can joke around with.”

One of Kole’s favorite projects in Humanities was to choose a prominent Native American person to learn about. “ I enjoyed learning about Chief Joseph.” Chief Joseph was a Native American Chief who tried to maintain peace with settlers but eventually the Nez Perce War broke out. Chief Joseph is known as a military genius because he was able to retreat a 1,170 miles holding off the United States Cavalry with just a couple of hundred warriors. “ I made a slideshow about him and it was shown at exhibit night.”

Another teacher Kole has appreciated is Special Education Coordinator, Scott Schaedler. “Scott is the most respectful human being I have ever met in my life. The way he handles situations is great. No matter how irritating people can be, he is always professional and respectful. I have had great interactions with him, just talking and chatting with him. I don’t know anyone who has ever said anything bad about him.”

"I don't like math at all but I liked learning math with Sean (Marden, former STEM teacher). "He taught more problem solving instead of memorizing a formula. He was a phenomenal economics teacher. I felt like I learned a lot in a very short amount of time."

Sean also taught Model UN. "The way Sean structured it made it enjoyable. We looked at current events happening then we would choose a country and act out how that country would most likely respond to that world issue. Sean could play the role of a country and act it out perfectly. We were talking about world issues constantly."

Kole has participated in two Extended Learning Opportunities(ELOs), one as an intern at his father's plumbing company and one doing a PE weightlifting independent study at the YMCA. "Going to the gym has shown me that devotion and effort can give you results that will surprise even you. When going to the gym, I realized that I was becoming more disciplined, I had to keep up my daily workouts, or I would be disappointed with myself, so I didn't skip a single day that wasn't absolutely necessary. That discipline has carried over into other things in my life, like school and work. Gym discipline has helped me with teaching myself how to do things, and keeping a schedule."

Kole's dream job is to be "a fighter jet pilot, going mach 2 which is 1534.5 miles an hour, and defending my country."

Favorite memories of LEAF include,"having lunch with the boys, playing frisbee, throwing the football, playing baseball, and just hanging out. I enjoyed boiling sap last year during skills week."

After graduation, Kole is going to go to Welding School but he is not sure which one yet.

Kole has the following advice for incoming students, "actually pay attention in class, do your homework, and don't feel bad about asking for help. Don't think you are alone. Respect your teacher."

"I am not necessarily a people person but here I was able to make good friends who became like family.

5 Fun Facts about Kole:

1). I like going really fast. I went on the roller coaster Bizzaro at Six Flags which goes about 80 miles an hour. I would do it again!



2). I like cars. Some cars I really like are Corvettes, Ferraris, Mustangs, and BMWs. If I could have any car I wanted, I would get a 2013 C6 black Corvette.



3). I love motorcycles even more than cars. I like the thought of being the vehicle. The freedom of movement, just two wheels and an engine, no seatbelt. If I could, I would try out the Kawasaki Ninja H2. It is the fastest motorcycle in the world.



4). My favorite ice cream flavor is salted caramel because I am a man of culture.



5). I went to Ireland with my brother and my aunt for a week. My aunt wanted to take us there for our birthdays. It was a real eye opening experience to go to a different country. We went to Roundstone, Giants Causeway, the Cliffs of Moher, Dublin. Clifden. We rented a house in Roundstone. Every single person in the town of Roundstone goes down to the bay every evening to watch the sunset over Dog's Bay.

