



Senior Madeline Wilson came to LEAF Charter School the first time for freshman orientation. “The people here were friendly and welcoming. It made me think it was a relaxed environment. I thought LEAF was very interesting. I was used to a more traditional school and the open floor plan at LEAF threw me off. I wondered how it would work. It operated a lot smoother than I thought. I thought I would be distracted but I really wasn’t.”

Some of the teachers who have made a difference for Madeline include Humanities teacher Chris Becker who “made me feel like we are having a conversation instead of being talked at. We don’t use textbooks. We read articles, first hand accounts, interviews, and actual raw materials from the time, not just reading someone’s writing about the event. Chris lets us make our own decisions about events.” One unit Madeline enjoyed was on Greek Mythology. “Our assignment was to take one of

the poems or myths and transform it into an artistic piece. I turned my story into a picture as if someone who had been there took a picture.”

“Growing up, math was a huge struggle for me. It isn’t that I didn’t understand it. I just wasn’t doing it the way I was taught.” Former STEM teacher, Sean Marden “allowed me to solve the problems in a way that worked for me. Sean didn’t care how I got the answer as long as I got the right answer. He understood how my brain worked.”

Dance teacher Bree Watson “helped me be more comfortable. I danced before I came to LEAF. I did ballet and it was very strict. Bree created a significantly more relaxed environment. I could be comfortable and enjoy it in a way I hadn’t when I was taking ballet. Bree gave me a lot of confidence about performing.”

Madeline has fond memories of playing capture the flag in the woods. “Sean played with us.” He is incredibly tall and always wore a suit and tie to school. The other team would send Sean over as a diversion and he would be swamped by students. So it is funny to think of this tall “man with a suit, tie, and dress shoes running through the New Hampshire woods being chased by a group of freshmen.”

Madeline also organized the Winter Formal. “I wanted to have a dance so I asked Dakota. She said yes but if you want to organize it and put it together. So I did. I only had a month and a half to pull it all together. It was super stressful but a lot of fun. We sold raffle tickets and the money raised went towards the senior class trip to Boston.”

Madeline's dream job would be a forensics anthropologist. "I have always had a lot of fascination with the human body. I got really into researching the human skeleton then that led to anthropology. Anthropology is super duper fascinating to me. I don't want to know where they lived or what they ate. I want to know how old they were when they broke their bones. How they died tells more about their life than the clothes they wear."

Next year Madeline plans on taking a gap year. Then she wants to start a welding internship and eventually use the money from welding to pay for college.

Madeline has the following advice for incoming LEAF students, " focus on your academics. Be respectful of the building. We have a huge privilege, be respectful of it. The building promotes the overall vibe of the environment. You don't really feel like you are at school."

"Teachers at LEAF actually want you to learn. They don't just want you to memorize. Take what they are saying and make it applicable to things in the world."

5 Fun Facts about Madeline

- 1). I have lived in almost every state on the east coast.
- 2). My favorite ice cream is from Cold Stone Ice Cream. I like a rainbow sprinkle dip waffle bowl with oreo cream ice cream. The flavor of the ice cream is like the center of an oreo cookie. There aren't any oreos in the ice cream. Then I get brownie and vanilla cake chunks in it with a crushed up heath bar on top. No whipped cream or cherries.
- 3). I work at a pizzeria right now.
- 4). Oregon, Nevada, California, and Arizona are the only states that I have not been to.
- 5). My dad taught me Spanish growing up and my mom taught me French.