



LEAF Senior Nola McElhinney-Hinkle will be attending Johnson and Wales University in Rhode Island this fall majoring in Equine Assisted Therapy. Nola hopes to work on some kind of ranch after college providing equine trauma therapy potentially for veterans or incarcerated people.

It is not surprising that one of Nola's favorite teachers was equine studies teacher Hillary O'Brien. In the equine studies class with Hillary, "I gained confidence in horse care and horse knowledge." Hillary also taught humanities and Nola appreciated that Hillary "really enjoyed what she was teaching in humanities. I loved the books she picked and she was super helpful."

Nola also appreciates humanities teacher Chris Becker who "shared stories and jokes."

A favorite memory of Nola's is when "there was an activity or project the students were not looking forward to but by the end the students in different groups would be laughing and forget why we didn't want to do it in the first place. It has been really nice to be in a learning environment that was so open to meeting you where you were at. It is easy to feel heard by teachers. It is very flexible and easy to go to a teacher and come up with a path to make sure you succeed."

