

Luke Palmer is a 2014 graduate of Freedom Area High School where he was a member of the Big “Red” Marching Band and was saxophone section leader for two years. He was also a member of the concert and jazz bands, Drama Club and was President of the Spanish Club. Luke was a member of the Homecoming Court and crowned Homecoming King.

Luke graduated Cum Laude from Waynesburg University in 2017 with dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in History and Social Science with a minor in Political Science for his undergraduate studies. He was a member of the Honors Society at Waynesburg and was a three-year member of the Student Senate and served on the Executive Board as secretary. He continued his passion for playing saxophone as a member of the pep band. Luke was a member of the national history honor society, Phi Alpha Theta and was a founding member of the History Club and served two years as president of the Undergraduate Law Society.

For his law degree, Luke attended Case Western Reserve University and graduated in May 2021 with his Juris Doctorate. He was awarded the Hugo Grotius Internal Law Scholarship and also earned a Cox Center Fellowship to conduct research alongside the Dean of the Law School and was recognized for his research in a footnote in the book, *The Syrian Conflicts Impact on International Law*. Luke was also awarded the Echard Marquette, P.C. trial advocacy scholarship. He was an assistant editor on the *War Crimes Prosecution Watch Journal* and a two-year senior editor on the *Canada-United States Law Journal*. Luke was a four-time Deans Honor List honoree and graduated with the Littler Mendelson Award for Excellence in the study of Labor and Employment Law.

In May 2022, Luke began working at Neighborhood Legal Services, a legal aid law firm, in Bridgewater, PA as a staff attorney. At Neighborhood Legal Services, he’s employed under a Victims of Crime Act grant, under which he helps individuals who have been victims of crime, usually physical abuse, intimidation, or threats, to obtain Protection from Abuse orders and custody orders to empower victims and hold perpetrators accountable.

Luke says, “The environment at Freedom, both in the classroom and extracurriculars, was always very warm and welcoming.” The Band and Drama Club will always hold a special place in his heart for the friends he made and helping to foster a lifelong passion for saxophone and enjoyment of music. KK’s motto “if it were easy it wouldn’t be good” has become a daily mantra for Luke. As for classroom experience, his favorite classes were his English and History classes, specifically Creative Writing with Ms. Giammaria, English with Mr. Fitzpatrick and History and APUSH with Mr. Langelli. These classes helped Luke discover and hone his skills and passion for reading, writing, and analyzing which are skills he uses every day. He also appreciated Mr. Majors for making math accessible and applicable to someone with a bad case of humanities brain like him.

“Parents should enroll their children at Freedom for the quality of the arts and humanities programs. While Freedom gets a lot of (well-deserved) attention for the quality of its STEM programs, the quality of the humanities programs often gets overlooked,” says Luke. In his opinion, you could set the curve and be an absolute world-beater at math, physics, chemistry,

or a trade, but if you don't have the underlying skills to be able to research, read, analyze, and understand the writings of others, and then express and write your own findings clearly and concisely, none of that knowledge is worth anything. The arts and humanities are also just a great way to express yourself for your own edification, to help understand and empathize with others, and to generally make the individual a better citizen. Luke says, "I think the reason Freedom turns out the number of successful graduates in the STEM fields that we do is because Freedom students have the ability to think comprehensively as well-rounded students. I use skills I learned at Freedom to serve victims every day, and every client I help is a testament to the quality of the education I received at Freedom Area High School."