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Burke and Wando students talk diversity

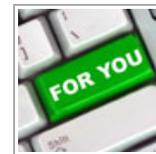
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By Stefanie Bainum
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BULLS ISLAND, S.C. (WCIV) – What do you get when you put 30 high school students on an island?

On Wednesday, Wando and Burke High School students braved the great outdoors on Bull's Island to learn about the environment, and each other.

It all started with breakfast, a sing-a-long bus ride, then on to a ferry ride to Bull's Island.

"We've come to study the diversity of the environment and also see the diversities in our culture between Wando and Burke High School," said Clayton Mills, a senior at Wando High School.

Fifteen students from each school were paired up together as they explored the natural landscape, meeting and making new friends along the way.

"People don't get to connect with each other, and this way it's not like you're forced to do it. But, you do it in a fun environment and still have fun at the same time," said K'Shanna Fludd, a junior at Burke High School.

After a tour of the island, the students ate lunch together and listened to a sweetgrass basket maker and a historian speak about Gullah/Geechee culture.

"I think they (other students) are learning we are just like them. We have the same problems, the same likes and dislikes," said Nike Pappas, a senior from Wando High School.

It was an adventure with a goal of teaching life's important lessons.

"In meeting new people, what you see is not really what you get. You can't judge a book by its cover. You've got to talk to people, get to know them, and that way we can possibly make this world less racist, less sexist and get to know each other for who we are," Fludd said.

The field trip was organized by the "Over the Horizon" team, which is a group of eight community members of the Lowcountry South Carolina Diversity Leaders Initiative class. It's a project of the Richard W. Riley Institute at Furman University.



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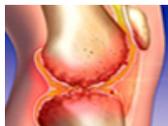
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