

My name is KC and I'm a senior at South Portland High School in Maine. Recently I have moved states and this is my first and last year here and it's been a great experience and getting to know other cultures from around the world all from just one class alone. I've had many friends outside of the US, such as the Philippines, Guam, and Malaysia, and I've learned a lot about their cultures. Even being a part of this school has provided me a chance to learn more about cultures I am not familiar with. Learning about different cultures' philosophies has really helped me to see that different parts of the world have different ideas and cultural connections.

For this experience provided by my teacher, my class and I were able to interact with students from Hawai'i. We were able to connect and talk to the students and learned about their cultures' philosophies such as HO'OPONOPONO and MALAMA AINA. Getting to learn about these different aspects of the culture was fascinating and helped me feel more connected with myself and my community. Despite the time zone differences, working with the other students made the experience an interesting challenge, forcing us to figure out a way to get things across and show interesting aspects of the other people's lives.

Learning about other people's cultures is super important to have an open view to the world, knowing how to help yourself and others. There are many different cultures and philosophies which can help people feel more connected and whole as one team or unit. From what I had experienced, it was fun to learn and do activities that helped represent the different countries' philosophies. Even if I don't completely understand things, it's healthy to look outside of my own little bubble into other aspects of different spots out in the world.