

## Capturing raw emotions of kayaking with classmates as friends



Senior Smiley Williamson grins as he grows self-conscious that his "fat ass couldn't get into the lifejacket." Williamson overcame his critical opinions of kayaking during a class trip with his participatory journalism class. The new style of journalistic reporting has taught him that even if he's afraid of something, he knows he can do it now.



"I didn't feel like I was in Maryland," senior Maddie Granger said. "it was just so pretty and serene." Granger is an active and outdoorsy person naturally, but explained that this experience was unique because of the funny group she went with for her participatory journalism class. She enjoyed going so early in the morning because of the daze that was left over the water that made it seem very peaceful.



After taking pictures of her classmates on kayaks, junior Corey Lapres realized just how hard it was to get good close up shots of people. The small participatory journalism class she takes allows for a lot of fun times because of the "tight-knit" group of students. Lapres said that she was able to make friends from this class because she was able to learn about everyone's personalities.



"My journalistic mind tells me when something is traumatic and I need to take a picture," junior Will Ovington said. His classmates Brooke Reese and Rachel tried to navigate around the lagoon when they got stuck in some moss. Ovington took the opportunity to capture them laughing at their inability to successfully move around the tight area. "Everybody was just at ease and having a good time," Ovington said. "We've all become more of a family than a class."



Junior Shannon Loughrige caught the "pure joy" of Smiley Williamson as he got out of the kayak that he "didn't have to be in the water anymore." The wide range of emotions Loughrige witnessed during the trip made her realize that everyone experiences things a little differently. She thought that even though it was cold and rainy the class was still able to have a good time, despite the nervousness and tension of some.



Erin Brown and Alexie Malloy partnered up to kayak together as friends going into the class. The picture that Malloy captured of her friend completely identifies the "hopeful before we got onto the water." The two got a little frustrated while out on the kayak because of the new experience, even though they got to get out of the classroom for the day. "(Erin) said she was upset she couldn't throw a temper tantrum and leave," Malloy said.



Junior Tim Young took his Go Pro out on the water for the kayaking trip. Young explained that because the camera was set to take pictures every two seconds he was able to get good shots, but most importantly he was able to enjoy the "here and now." "It kept me in the moment," Young said. He said that the class has pushed him to do better because he appreciates what his classmates are doing and how they challenge him.



"My optimism slowly sank as we got further out and experienced more obstacles," senior Chantel Walker said about her kayaking experience. "I learned to keep my mouth shut." Walker partnered with Williamson and slowly grew tense trying to keep up with his movements and the "steerer" of the boat. Before she knew it, she ended up going headfirst into a thorn bush. Walker said that was the moment when her confidence took a turn into frustration.