Mrs. Buckley’s class visited the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in VA at VIMS on September 25th, 2012 for a field experience! Students arrived on campus, and were introduced to oyster reef communities through a lab exercise. Students used dichotomous keys and microscopes to aid in identifying different species.

Oyster Reef Species List

- Striped blenny
- Sea lettuce
- Polychaete worm
- Ivory barnacle
- Mud crab
- Amphipod
- Grass shrimp
- Nassa mud snail
- Eastern oyster

For more information about our education programs, go to www.vims.edu/cbnerr
After spending time in the lab, students explored the shallow water habitats of the York River. Students used seine and dip nets to collect a variety of species and studied them in an aquarium before letting them go at the end of the day.

**Shallow Water Species List**

- Sea lettuce
- Mud crab
- Naked goby
- Blue crab
- Grass shrimp
- Pipefish
- Striped blenny
- Mud snail
- Comb jelly
- Hermit crab
- Ivory barnacle
- Tapered red weed
- Eastern oyster
- Slipper shell
- Anchovy
- Atlantic silverside
- Northern kingfish
- Amphipod

Testing the salinity: the measure of the amount of salt in the water. The York River is an estuary with brackish water.

Learning how to properly use a Seine net
Salinity – 25 ppt
Turbidity – greater than 40cm

Thanks for a great day
Queen’s Lake Middle School
7th graders!

Sorting through the catch!