Students from Grafton Middle School that participated in the Science Fair visited the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in VA at VIMS on May 6th, 2013 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. Students had to identify at least four different organisms and then draw a labeled sketch in their science journal.

**Oyster Reef Species List**

- Mud crab
- Polychaete Worm
- Amphipod
- Skilletfish eggs
- Oyster
- Barnacle
- Oyster flat worm
- Hard clam
- Lacy crust bryozoan
- Sea lettuce
- Sea squirt
- Common clam worm
- Spined-back scud

For more information about our education programs, go to www.vims.edu/cbnerr
Students also 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 squirt
- Hake
- Sand shrimp
- Summer flounder
- Comb jelly
- Blue crab
- Tapered red weed
- Sea lettuce
- Red beard sponge
- Sea robin
- Eel grass
- Barnacle
- Mud snail
- Anchovy
- Pipefish
- Grass shrimp
- Hermit crab
Thanks for a great day
Grafton Middle School!