Mr. Smith’s 3A seventh grade class visited the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in VA at VIMS on April 17th, 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

- Sea squirt
- Polychaete worm
- Barnacle
- Skilletfish
- Amphipod
- Slipper shell
- Mud crab
- Oyster
- Sea lettuce
- Grass shrimp
- Hard clam
- Lacy crust bryozoan
- Mud snail

For more information about our education programs, go to www.vims.edu/cbnerr
Students also explored the shallow water habitats of the York River. Before getting in the water the Tabb students tested the water salinity and turbidity to see what the water conditions were for the organisms living there. 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. The Tabb middle school students had a beautiful day out in the water and were able to catch a large diversity of organisms!

**Shallow Water Species List**

- Blue crab
- Mud snail
- Pipefish
- Amphipod
- Slipper shell
- Sand shrimp
- Sea squirt
- Isopod
- Summer flounder
- Mud crab
- Hermit crab
- Skeleton shrimp
- Lion’s mane jellyfish
- Sea lettuce
- Bryozoan
- Red beard sponge
- Barnacle
- Ribbed mussel
- Tonguefish
- Sliverside
- Sea robin
- Hake
- Anchovy

**Salinity:** 20 ppt  
**Turbidity:** 50cm still visible
Thanks for a great day

Tabb Middle School

7th graders!