Mr. Smith’s 1B seventh grade class visited the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in VA at VIMS on April 18th, 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**

- Barnacle
- Sea squirt
- Polychaete worm
- Mud cab
- Grass shrimp
- Sea lettuce
- Amphipod
- Slipper shell
- Skilletfish
- Oyster
- Mussel
- Lacy crust bryozoan
- Salt marsh flea

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 even had the time to sing HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Mr. Smith!

**Shallow Water**

**Species List**

- Sea grass
- Sea lettuce
- Tapered red weed
- Red beard sponge
- Blue crab
- Bryozoan
- Ribbed mussel
- Barnacle
- Oyster
- Hard clam
- Sea squirt
- Polychaete worm
- Hermit crab
- Mud snail
- Grass shrimp
- Sand shrimp
- Summer flounder
- Tonguefish
- Sliverside
- Sea robin
- Pipe fish
- Ctnephor
- Lion’s mane jellyfish

**Salinity:** 18 ppt

**Turbidity:** 30cm still visible
Thanks for a great day
Tabb Middle School
7th graders!