Mr. Gaylord’s 3B seventh grade class visited the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in VA at VIMS on May 16th, 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

- Skilletfish
- Polychaete worm
- Tapered Red Weed
- Hard clam
- Sea squirt
- Hooked mussel
- Mud crab
- Slipper shell
- Barnacle
- Mud snail
- Naked goby
- Bryozoan
- Sea lettuce
- Amphipod
- Slipper shell
Students also explored the shallow water habitats of the York River. Before getting in the water the Tabb students tested the water salinity, turbidity, and temperature 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!

**Shallow Water Species List**

- Sea robin
- Sea lettuce
- Tapered red weed
- Eel grass
- Bryozoan
- Grass shrimp
- Sand shrimp
- Clam
- Mud snail
- Hermit crab
- Pipe fish
- Naked goby
- Mummichog
- Croaker
- Summer flounder
- Tongue fish
- Glass eel
- Amphipod
- Sea squirt
- Blue crab
- Mud crab

**Salinity:** 20ppt  
**Turbidity:** 35cm (still visible)  
**Temperature:** 22°C
Thanks for a great day
Tabb Middle School
7th graders!