Mr. Smith’s 2B seventh grade class visited the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in VA at VIMS on May 2nd, 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

- Green bead tunicate
- Polychaete worm
- Skilletfish
- Barnacle
- Amphipod
- Oyster
- Mud snail
- Sea squirt
- Oyster flatworm
- Striped blenny
- Grass shrimp
- Slipper shell
- Sea lettuce
- Lacy crust bryozoan
- Mud crab

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!

**Shallow Water Species List**

- Summer flounder
- Skilletfish
- Sea squirt
- Bubble snail
- Croaker
- Sea lettuce
- Amphipod
- Bryozoan
- Tapered red weed
- Sand shrimp
- Anchovy
- Striped nudibranch
- American eel
- Isopod
- Naked goby
- Comb jelly
- Pipefish
- Hermit crab

*Salinity: 25ppt  
Turbidity: 50cm (still visible)*
Thanks for a great day
Tabb Middle School
7th graders!