Mr. Gaylord’s 2A seventh grade class visited the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in VA at VIMS on May 3rd, 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

- Common clam worm
- Mud snail
- Barnacle
- Mud crab
- Limy tube worm
- Skilletfish
- Green-bead tunicate
- Eastern oyster
- Sea squirt
- Polychaete worm
- Amphipod
- Tapered red weed
- Sea lettuce
- Grass shrimp
- Big-clawed snapping shrimp
- Slipper shell
- Parchment tube worm
- Oyster flat worm
- Lacy crust bryozoan
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**

- Sea lettuce
- Tapered red weed
- Bryozoan
- Sand shrimp
- Grass shrimp
- Sea squirt
- Mud snail
- Hermit crab
- Blue crab
- Comb jelly
- Lion’s mane jellyfish
- Anchovy
- Summer flounder
- Hog choker
- Croaker
- Killifish
- Mummichog
- Pipefish
- Tonguefish
- American eel
- Naked goby
- Ribbed mussel
- Barnacle

**Salinity: 20ppt**
Thanks for a great day
Tabb Middle School
7th graders!