Mr. Gaylord’s 4B seventh grade class visited the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in VA at VIMS on May 17th, 2013 for a field experience! Students first went to Felgates Creek, off of the Colonial Parkway, to release the oysters they have been growing all school year. The students release the young oysters called spat onto the Oyster Bar. Students not only added more habitat into the river, but they also helped to clean the bay! Oysters are filter feeders, which help to filter and clean the water. After releasing their oysters students spent time sampling the shallow bottom habitat using seine and dip nets. Tabb students tested the water salinity, turbidity, and temperature to see what the water conditions were for the organisms living there.

**Shallow Water Species List**

- Croaker
- Sea squirt
- Mummichog
- Spot
- Blue gill
- Ridged head nudibranch
- Grass shrimp
- Summer flounder
- Pipefish
- Blue crab
- Blue fish
- Anchovy
- Clam
- Striped killifish
- Periwinkle snail
- Cownose ray
- Mud crab
- Fiddler crab

**Water Conditions**:  
- **Salinity**: 10ppt  
- **Turbidity**: 18cm  
- **Temperature**: 24°C
Once back at VIMS, students spent time studying and identifying organism that lived in an Oyster Reef. Using a microscope and a dichotomous key, students were tasked with identifying four different organisms, learning a fact about that organism, and drawing a sketch in their scientific journal.

### Oyster Reef Species List

- Sea squirt
- Slipper shell
- Polychaete worm
- Mud crab
- Barnacle
- Amphipod
- Sea lettuce
- Eastern oyster
- Skillet fish
- Oyster flatworm
- Grass shrimp
- Naked goby
- Green striped anemone
- Lacy crust bryozoan
Tabb students finished the successful day by having lunch in the VIMS aquarium.

Thanks for a great day
Tabb Middle School
7th graders!