Mr. Gaylord’s 4A seventh grade class visited the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in VA at VIMS on May 20th, 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

- Oyster
- Grass shrimp
- Barnacle
- Slipper shell
- Naked goby
- Mud crab
- Polychatete Worm
- Cliona – Boring sponge
- Sea squirt
- Limy tube worm
- Hard clam
- Sea lettuce
- Lacy crust bryozoan
- Lunar dove shell
- Blue crab
- Skillet fish
- Amphipod
- White anemone
- Green striped anemone
- Grass cerith
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**

- Summer flounder
- Grass shrimp
- Sand shrimp
- Croaker
- Blue crab
- Comb jelly
- Hermit crab
- Slipper shell
- Pipefish
- Spider crab
- Oyster
- Mud snail
- Sea lettuce
- Tapered red weed
- Silverside
- Ribbed mussel
- Isopod
- Sea robin
- Naked goby
- Eel grass
- American eel
- Striped killifish
- Anchovy
- Skillet fish
- Tongue fish
- Spot
- Red beard sponge
- Anemone
- Mummichog
- Barnacle
- Pea crab

**Salinity:** 17ppt

**Turbidity:** 60cm (still visible)
Thanks for a great day
Tabb Middle School
7th graders!