Ms. Rickerson’s 2B and 3B seventh grade classes visited the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in VA at VIMS on April 22nd, 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**

**2B**
- Polychaete worm
- Amphipod
- Tapered red weed
- Grass shrimp
- Slipper shell
- Hooked mussel
- Naked goby
- American eel
- Skilletfish
- Mud crab
- Mud snail
- Saltmarsh flea
- Barnacle
- Eastern oyster
- Sea squirt
- Sea lettuce

**3B**
- Grass shrimp
- Barnacle
- Skilletfish
- Mud crab
- Amphipod
- Red beard sponge
- Eastern oyster
- Sea squirt
- Sea lettuce
- American eel
- Polychaete worm
- Tapered red weed
- Mud snail
- Hard clam
- Lacy crust bryozoan
- Naked goby
Students also explored the shallow water habitats of the York River. Before getting in the water the students tested the water salinity 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. Students even met the director, Dr. Will Reay, of the Reserve and learned about the new educational buoy!

**Shallow Water Species**

**List**

2B
- Sea lettuce
- Slipper shell
- Sand shrimp
- Sea grass
- Blue crab
- Sea squirt
- Pipefish
- Red beard sponge
- Oyster
- Killifish
- Grass shrimp
- Barnacle
- Mud snail
- Anchovy
- Hermit crab

3B
- Sea lettuce
- Tapered red weed
- Hard clam
- Hermit crab
- Oyster
- Grass shrimp
- Blue crab
- Amphipod
- Red beard sponge
- Sea grass
- Bryozoan
- Mussel
- Barnacle
- Anchovy

**Salinity: 17 ppt**
Thanks for a great day
Yorktown Middle School
7th graders!