Bringing Marine Science to the Classroom

What is GK-12?

• VIMS GK-12 (Graduate Fellows in K-12 Education) places young marine scientists in local middle & high schools.
• Fellows enrich STEM content with new activities based on the most current science.
• GK-12 improves teaching skills of the VIMS Graduate Fellows.

Learn More!

- VIMS (www.vims.edu)
- VIMS GK-12 (www.vims.edu/education/teaching/gk12/)
- VIMS Public Programs (www.vims.edu/public/)

Benefitting Teachers & Students

Incorporating marine science research into classroom lessons provides a unique opportunity:

• Learning about past and present issues in science
• Discovering more science, locally and globally
• Gaining hands-on experience through activities & labs
• Exposure to “cutting edge” science

Peasley Middle School’s GK-12 Fellow

Mandy Bromilow

High School: Berrien Springs High School, Berrien Springs, MI
College: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Major: Ecology & Evolutionary Biology; Minor: Oceanography
Graduate School: Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William & Mary

My Research: I study the blue crab, Callinectes sapidus, and its predators in the seagrass beds of Chesapeake Bay. In nature, predation is an important source of mortality (death) and can influence the abundance (numbers) of a prey species over time. My research aims to identify the different animals that eat the young blue crabs living in Bay seagrass beds and to determine how these predators affect crab abundance. Understanding the role that blue crabs play in the food web — as prey and as predator — is important for managing and conserving this important species.

In her field experiments, Ms. Bromilow tethers a crab in a seagrass bed at each white pole. A Go-Pro camera (on the horizontal bar) records the crab’s movements. If a predator attacks the tethered crab, the event is recorded. She checks the crabs each day.

Over the summer, Ms. Bromilow’s Partner Teachers at Peasley, Mrs. Berry and Ms. Sowers, helped with her research project and planned for her visits to their Life Science classrooms during Fall semester.