

Virginia Ecosystems is a 2-hour nature program that introduces students to features of our local ecosystems including the Chesapeake Bay watershed, native plants and animals, their adaptations and how they interact. It integrates Virginia Standards of Learning (*Science SOL: 3.1, 3.4, 3.5, 3.7, 3.8, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.8*) for third and fourth grade. The program begins with an introduction to the gardens followed by a rotation through three stations.

## **Animals Adaptations Station**

Investigate how bird beaks are adapted for eating different foods. Create a living food web and test its resiliency against environmental disruptions.

## **Our Watershed**

Students will discuss how Virginia's changing landscape has impacted the watershed. We will evaluate, using an immersive model, the impact human development has had and discuss ways to become better stewards in our community.

## Virginia Plant Walk

Without plants animals could not survive. Gain an appreciation for Virginia's trees and plants as you walk through our deciduous forest and stream. Explore how their adaptations help them survive in our



region.



