REINS

Riders in the Environment Improving Native Shorelines
Equitherapy and Nature

I saw a child who couldn’t walk,
Sit on a horse, laugh and talk ......
I saw a child who could only crawl,
Mount a horse and sit up tall ......
I saw a child born into strife,
Take up and hold the REINS of life.
And that same child was heard to say,
Thank you for showing me the way.

--Unknown
A Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) combining equitherapy, interdisciplinary aquatic studies, and action plans for special needs students ages 7 - 21 on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.
Using horses, students gain access to and investigate aquatic ecosystems.

Side walkers and leaders assist riders on the trail ride to the pond and stream study areas.

Students dismount at the site where they learn to do basic water chemistry tests, collect macroinvertebrates, seine, and use a fishing pole.
REINS integrates the arts
A mosaic based on aquatic studies
Integration of English/Language Arts

Students use field guides to identify and describe plants and animals of the Chesapeake Bay. They record observations and ideas in their naturalist journals.
Fieldwork in Action

Students are taught to fish and seine. Quantitative and qualitative data are recorded (fish adaptations and numbers of each type of organism).
REINS Volunteers

- Parents & Guardians
- Teachers (science, social studies, english, art, PE, and special education) & Coaches
- School Administrators
- Students ("buddies")
- Retirees
- Local Scientists
REINS Partners

- Timber Grove Farm
- North American Riding for the Handicapped Association, Inc.
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
- Maryland Dept of Natural Resources
- Cooperative Oxford Lab
- UMCES at Horn Point Lab
- Chesapeake Voyagers
- Phillips Wharf Environmental Center
- YMCA of Chesapeake
- Maryland Public Television
- Environmental Concern
- Growing Up WILD, Project WET, WOW
- Washington College
- Athletic House
- Pierson’s Port-a-Potty
Finding a place in nature
An outdoor classroom for study
Translates to meaningful experiences
Alignment with E-Lit Standards*

- Your (and Your Horse’s) Connection to the Bay Watershed
- A Model of Adaptation in Stream Organisms
- Importance of native wetlands
- Organisms in the Bay
- Chemical and Biological Sampling of Pond & Stream
- Websites as Resources
- Planting a Rain Garden

*REINS is also aligned with math, science, service learning, STEM

- S4, A, 1a & b; E, 1j. Also S5, A, 1b, bull 4; A, 1e & 2a, bull 4. Also S6, B, 1, bull 2.
- S4, E, 1b.
- S5, A, 2, d.
- S4, C, 1b & E, 1j.
- S5, B, 1a, c, & f, bull 4. Also S1, A, 4b.
- S1, A, 4c & f.
- S1, B; S7, B, 1, bull 2 & 3.

*REINS is also aligned with art, ELA, and social studies
For More Information

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  (scroll to REINS links, also video clip aired on MPT)
- Bay Backpack
  http://blog.baybackpack.com/
- Mid-Shore Life
  http://midshorelife.com/article/unique-therapeutic-riding-program
Questions?