**Biology Course Description**

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| **Zannie Dallara**ZDallara@themarinschool.org[http://zanniedallara.weebly.com](http://zanniedallara.weebly.com/)Wing 1 – Classroom 4 | **hatchlings3.jpg** |

This class is a laboratory based science class that focuses on four major units to teach skills and concepts in biology.  You will apply scientific processes to solve problems through the use of data analysis and drawing conclusions. You should be able to make connections between scientific disciplines while forming knowledge and opinions about topics and issues we discuss this year.

1. **GRADING:** Your semester grade is figured like this:

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| **Section** | **%** | **Expected School-Wide Learning Results (ESLR)**  |
| Participation  | 10% | *Promote self-directed learners* *Promote effective communicators**Promote creative and critical thinkers* |
| Written Assignments | 10% | *Promote critical and creative thinkers* *Promote effective communicators* |
| Labs & Projects  | 30% | *Promote effective communicators* *Promote responsible members of society* *Promote creative and critical thinkers* |
| Notebook  | 10% | This is weighted heavily because I carefully grade homework and labs, checking for completeness and accuracy here, while also checking for organization.*Promote self-reliant learners – Organization* |
| Current Events | 5% | *Promote responsible members of society* *Promote self-directed learners* |
| Tests  | 25% | *Promote effective communicators* |
| Final exam  | 10% | *Promote effective communicators**Promote self-directed learners – study skills & academic achievement*  |

1. **WEBPAGE:** <http://zanniedallara.weebly.com> - *Promote self-directed individuals*
* Course material, table of contents, study tools, links to helpful videos will all be available on my webpage, updated weekly.
1. **CLASS RULES:** *Promote self-directed individuals who strive to act with integrity*
* Respect yourself and those around you.
	+ No preaching of your values, and no put downs of other people's values.
	+ All points of view are worthy of being discussed.
	+ Right to pass
	+ Confidentiality
	+ Ask questions! - There is no such thing as a "dumb question".
* No cell phone use (not even if it is your parents), music or gum in class. – I will confiscate cell phones.
* Work for other courses is not to be done in class.
* BEHAVIOR: If you disrupt the learning environment for others in the class with behavior or tardy problems, you will be penalized by losing their class participation/attitude/cooperation points
1. **EXTRA HELP:** *Promote self-reliant learners*
* Science is challenging. If you feel overwhelmed or want extra help at any time, come see me. Feel free to come see me or contact me by email if you have any questions or need help.
* I will be available for extra help: Lunch (by arrangement), tutorial and via email
1. **ATTENDANCE:** *Promote self-reliant learners*
* You are responsible for material presented in class. Exams, quizzes, and homework often include questions on material presented only in class. If you have an excused absence, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and how to make it up. Check the TOC online at http://zanniedallara.weebly.com to find out what you missed.
1. **HOMEWORK**: *Promote critical and creative thinkers & Effective communicators*
* It will be assigned at the beginning of each class period on a daily basis. Homework will be posted on **Thinkwave** through the TMS webpage.
* Helpful links and material can be found at http://zanniedallara.weebly.com. Late work will be worth 50% credit for the first week and 0% credit after that, unless your child’s absence is excused.
1. **MAKE-UP WORK/GRADES:** *Promote self-reliant learners*
* Make-up work will be accepted if the absence is excused. Late homework assignments may be turned in for half credit. Projects, labs, and papers will lose 10 percentage points for every day late in addition to being considered incomplete.
1. **BINDERS:** *Promote self-reliant learners – Organization*
* These will be set up in the following manner. All handouts, homework, assignments, labs, tests, quizzes and projects will be filed into your notebook in order as they are assigned. All of these items will be placed after the Table of Contents in order. Each item needs your name, the block and the assignment # in the top right hand corner. Binders will be checked throughout each semester.
* SCIENCE SECTION
	+ This section has its own table of contents and stays in your binder all year
* UNIT TABLE OF CONTENTS SHEET
	+ For the current unit, only one unit needs to be kept in the binder at a time
	+ All work will be numbered and in order according to the table of contents and order assigned.
* Paper: We use an online textbook and printed sections are available on request.

Syllabus (Not necessarily in this order)

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| 1. Introduction

Characteristics of Living ThingsOsmosis and Diffusion Cell Structure & FunctionCell Membrane Structure & FunctionUsing a microscope 1. Plant Evolution

Photosynthesis & RespirationEnergy Flow in an EcosystemHistory of Life on Earth 1. Body Systems

Connection between organ systemsSynergism 1. Immune System
 | 1. Genetics

DNA (Purpose and Replication)Gene Expression and RegulationCellular ReproductionGenetics (Mendelian) Biotechnology and Bio Ethics 1. Sex Ed

Unit taught with a focus on the Evolution of OrgansHealthHealthy Relationships Personal Care1. Key Concepts:

Structure and Function Surface to Volume RatioLevels of OrganizationScientific Method/ Experimental Design1. On-going sand crab monitoring project
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**Extra Credit:** *Promote self-directed individuals*

* May be offered to students who have completed all their regular work but may not exceed 3% of the total points possible in any given semester. If you can maintain an A- average in the class (after two tests), the completion requirement for some assignments may become optional. You will still be responsible for the material.

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_