Course Description:

Marine Science I utilizes a standards aligned curriculum to encompass the essential concepts of marine science. Students will analyze and explain the nature of science in the search for understanding the natural world, as well as practice the application of technology, scientific tools and critical thought skills in solving problems. As scientific learners, students will collect and analyze data, interpret results, draw conclusions and communicate their findings. Throughout the course, students will work both independently and collaboratively, in a laboratory based classroom with an active learner approach. The goal for the course is for students to gain a meaningful understanding of the marine environment.

Course Objectives

The objectives of the course are aligned with the topics found in the Marine Science I curriculum map for Volusia County schools.

Students who successfully complete Marine Science I will be competent in the following areas. The approximate timeline is as follows:

Major Units/Topics:

UNIT I: INTRODUCTION TO MARINE SCIENCE AND HISTORY OF EXPLORATION
UNIT II: MEASURING THE OCEAN, PROPERTIES OF WATER/SEAWATER
UNIT III: TIDES, WAVES, AND OCEAN CURRENTS
UNIT IV: OCEAN ZONES, MARINE GEOLOGY, AND OCEAN SEDIMENTS
UNIT V: MARINE ECOSYSTEMS
UNIT VI: FOOD CHAINS, FOOD WEBS AND BIOGEOCHEMICAL CYCLES
UNIT VII: MARINE RESOURCES AND HUMAN IMPACT ON THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT
UNIT VIII: CLASSIFICATION AND EVOLUTION OF MARINE ORGANISMS

Projects:

There will be several major projects throughout the school year. Students will be given time during class to work on these projects.
Grading policy

Students and parents will be able to follow grades by logging onto the Volusia County portal. I will update grades weekly. I will typically update grades on a weekend so that by the following Monday, grades will reflect what the student is currently earning. The following county grading policy will be used:

A  90-100  Outstanding Progress (Mastery)
B  80-89   Above Average Progress
C  70-79   Average Progress (Proficiency)
D  60-69   Lowest Acceptable Progress
F  0-59    Failure
I  In progress toward grade level proficiency in skills and concepts

Summative assessments are 60% of a student’s final grade and include exams, quizzes, lab reports, projects, etc. Formative assessments are 40% of the final grade and include daily assignments, daily activities and labs, worksheets and notebook assignments. Diagnostic assessments are 0% of the final grade but the results are used by the teacher to plan and adjust lessons to meet student learning needs.

Make-up Policy:

Make-up work will be given for absences. It is the sole responsibility of the student to get the assignment from the teacher and return the completed work. If a student is absent the day before a scheduled test and returns on the test day, the student will take the test on that day, provided no new content has been presented. If a student misses the day of the test, the test must be made up on the student’s return. It is the student’s responsibility to arrange the time and day of the makeup test with the teacher.

Class Expectations

Each student is expected to participate in all class activities to the best of his/her ability. Each student is expected to act in a responsible manner in class and during laboratory activities. While performing labs and class work, each student is expected to pay attention and follow instructions; this is especially critical in lab. Disruptive behavior is distracting to the learning process for everyone and will not be tolerated, and may result in loss of lab privileges. No food or drinks are allowed in class or in the lab. Students must not touch anything on or around the fish tanks unless instructed to do so. Students should not add or take anything to/from the fish tanks.

Classroom Rules

1. Be prepared
2. Listen and follow directions promptly
3. Speak only with permission*
4. Move only with permission*
5. Respect other people and their property
*Expectations for noise level and movement around the room will be specified before the start of each activity. Students are expected to follow these guidelines at all times.

Consequences

1. Verbal Warning
2. Written Warning
3. Move Seat
4. Send out of class
***repeats of #4 will constitute lunch detention or discipline referral
Severe disruption will result in a discipline referral
Bathroom Pass Policy:

Unless there is an emergency or other circumstance, students may use up to three bathroom passes per nine weeks. Students are not allowed out of class during the first or last 10 minutes of class.

Electronics Policy:

The county electronic device policy will be in effect in class. All electronic devices must be powered off and out of sight at all times. The first infraction will result in a warning, and the second will result in a referral with parent contact.

Class Requirements

Students are required to have a 3 ring binder and notebook paper which we will be using as an Interactive Science Notebook. Most assignments (except summatives) will be found on assigned pages. This is a valuable tool to use while studying for summatives as well as the final exam. Students are required to bring this notebook each day as well as a pencil or pen. These notebooks will be graded periodically. We will also be using index cards (size 3x5) frequently in class. Any donations of these index cards would be greatly appreciated.

Lab Fee: $5

These funds will be used to provide the students with a variety of hands on lab experiences.

Academic Dishonesty

It is the expectation of all students that any work handed in is completely the work of the student. If outside sources are used, they should be properly cited. If cheating occurs during an exam, a grade of “0” will be given for that exam and that exam cannot be retaken. In cases of plagiarism, a zero will be given for that grade.
Please sign and return this last page by Wednesday August 21ST 2019:

I, ________________________________, have read and understand all student requirements for Marine Science I class.

____________________________________  ______________________________________
Student Name Printed                  Parent Signature/Date

____________________________________  ______________________________________
Student Signature / Date               Parent Email Address