

# Marin School of Environmental Leadership

San Rafael City Schools  
**Terra Linda High School**

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[www.thesel.org](http://www.thesel.org)



The Marin School of Environmental Leadership (MarinSEL) is an academy program within Terra Linda High School. With an average of thirty students at each grade level, MarinSEL currently encompasses grades 9-12 for a total of 120 students. Formed in August 2011, MarinSEL is a project-based, environmentally-focused program, with emphasis on the development of both leadership and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. The overriding goal of the MarinSEL program is to engage students and create community leaders of tomorrow through a multi-disciplinary, project-based high school education with a focus on environmental issues.



MarinSEL students are integrated with the Terra Linda High School community and attend many of the conventional classes offered in the mainstream curriculum. The MarinSEL program distinguishes itself by offering an innovative curriculum that builds on the traditional core subjects and augments a students' high school experience.

The framework for the MarinSEL program is a progressive education with a focus on environmental leadership. The MarinSEL students' education is integrated with action; learning is multi-disciplinary and personal initiative is purposely fostered, thereby encouraging the program participants (our students) to see themselves as active participants in the world around them.

MarinSEL students have five common classes during their freshman year, three in their sophomore and junior years, and one in their senior year with an external internship through Skyline Community College in San Bruno. These common courses have an environmental theme while also covering core content. The featured course of the MarinSEL program (specific to each grade level) is the Environmental Leadership Seminar. During freshman, sophomore, and junior years, students complete semester-long Leadership in Environmental Action and Development (LEAD) projects within seminar-style classes. These projects are designed to develop essential project management and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.



MarinSEL curriculum also centers on the “Four Cs” – critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication. These skills are assessed on a rubric once a semester by peers, the Environmental Leadership Seminar teacher, and the individual student. After reviewing the results of these Four C Assessment Rubrics, students write measurable goals for each of the Four Cs with their Seminar teacher.