



Dear Parent/Guardian:

I am delighted to be your child's teacher for this school year for Astronomy! Astronomy is a study of our sky, all it contains, and what exists beyond what we can see. It's the oldest science in that it started the first time our ancestors looked up and wondered what was up there.

We are very excited about the course we have put together for our students, and as the year goes on we will continue to improve it to meet the needs of each child. The units and topics we have scheduled for this grading period are below. Please don't hesitate to reach out if what you see from your child doesn't match the schedule below. The most likely reason for that is that we saw a need to reschedule a topic to make sure every student succeeds. We intend to follow this schedule as closely as possible, but we will also put the needs of your child first and will move topics around as necessary to meet those needs.

The first six weeks topics will focus on building a strong foundation of what astronomy is and how to make observations of the night sky:

- Unit 1: Course Introduction & Current Events
- Unit 2: Constellations, Motion, and Observations
- Unit 3: Astronomy in Society, Past and Present
- Unit 4: Our Solar System: Comparing the Earth to Other Planets
- Unit 5: Small Objects in Our Solar System

We aim to make this course as interesting and interactive as possible by using learner inquiry-based activities and projects, and include real-world applications of the targeted topics. Students will learn critical thinking skills, safe scientific practices, how to plan and implement scientific design and to communicate their findings.

Students are expected to complete and turn in homework on time as instructed. Students are encouraged to participate, ask questions and be involved in their learning processes in the classroom. To be academically successful is determined by both attendance and participation in class. Please encourage your child to be active and responsible in keeping up with their work and checking Skyward for grades. Please see my tutorial schedule on the school website.

I am looking forward to this school year and to be working with your child. Together we can make this a successful year by working together as a team and positively supporting our learners in the classroom. Please e-mail or call if you have any concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD Astronomy Teachers