

## MPHS Exploring Astronomy Overview

This course will introduce students to the exploration, composition, behavior and structure of the universe. This elective course will provide the student with a study of the universe and the conditions, properties, and motions of bodies in space. The topics of study include, but not limited to, historical studies of space, astronomical instruments and tools, the physical features of solar system, the earth as a system in space, other space bodies, stars and the future of space exploration. Aspects of the physical sciences, engineering, technology & applications of science are taught throughout this half year course. A guided inquiry program gives students the opportunity to explore topics and concepts through investigations. Participating in this hands-on program helps students:

1. To foster a life-long enjoyment of learning science.
2. To observe science in the world around them.
3. To meet the science standards for New Jersey Public Schools.

### Course Sequence

Unit One: Historical Perspective of Space Exploration and Astronomy

Unit Two: Tour of the Solar System

Unit Three: Technology, Light and Telescopes

Unit Four: The Earth as a Planet and its One Moon

Unit Five: Energy in the Stars and Galaxies

Unit Six: The Future of Exploration and Knowledge of Space

**Grading:** Students will be assessed in a variety of ways. This elective will rely heavily on independent work and research, but you can also expect quizzes, tests, labs along the way.

### Communication:

[debmarks@mpsnj.org](mailto:debmarks@mpsnj.org)

District website

Google classroom (student access)

Powerschool

*We had the sky, up there, all speckled with stars, and we used to lay on our backs and look up at them, and discuss about whether they was made, or only just happened.*

*-Mark Twain, Huckleberry Finn*