Honors Astronomy

Course Description:

This course is an intensive introduction to astronomy that applies the hands on approach to learning. This course uses a popular textbook and a wide variety of other learning tools such as the Internet, Starry Night astronomy software, videos, class discussions and research to gain an understanding of astronomy. A planetarium experience is included in this course.

Course Expectations:

Honors Astronomy is a semester course that meets for 85 minutes per day and is worth 1 credit. Computers are used extensively accessing real astronomical images from telescopes around the globe, for sky simulation work and for searching the Internet. A textbook is used mainly for homework and background reading. Field guides, on-line resources and models are used during the class.

Course Topics Include:

1. Predicting motions of the Stars, Sun, and Moon
2. Decoding hidden messages in Starlight
3. Analyzing Scales and Motions of the Universe
4. Exploring our Evolving Solar System
5. Probing the Dynamic Sun
6. Observing properties of Distant Stars
7. Inferring Patterns in Star Lifecycles
8. Predicting the violent end of the largest stars
9. Exploring our Galaxy