



### **COURSE INTRODUCTION**

This is an exciting course in which you will challenge your own opinions, develop new ones, acknowledge our miniscuity in the universe, and ponder our role within it. My hope is that you will leave this course with an appreciation of our universe and our planet, a curiosity for knowledge, and a desire to forever explore the unknown.

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

The order of topics is designed to take students on a journey. We'll start by gazing into the night sky and then explore stars and tour galaxies before returning home to Earth.

1. Part 1: The Scale of the Cosmos and the Origin of Modern Astronomy
2. Part 2: Exploring Light and the Life Cycles of Stars
3. Part 3: Types of Galaxies and How They Evolve
4. Part 4: The Origin of the Solar System, Comparative Planetology, and Our Unique Planet

### **RECOMMENDED MATERIALS**

- #2 pencils
- Notebook and paper for notes
- Colored pencils (some homework involves coloring)

### **CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS/GUIDELINES**

- Come to class prepared to learn, both physically and mentally. Do not distract yourself or others from learning.
- Be respectful and supportive of others and yourself.
- Be in your assigned seat prior to the bell ringing.
- All food and drinks, except water, must be put away.
- Cell phones and all electronic devices must be turned off and put away prior to entering class. Electronic devices are only to be used if instructed to do so by the instructor.
- Have FUN and remember SCIENCE IS AMAZING!

Students who choose not to follow classroom rules will be put through the steps of progressive discipline:

1. Verbal Warning
2. Teacher/Student Conference (Step 1: Guideline Infraction Notice)
3. Letter or Telephone Call to Parents and Counselor (Step 2: Action Plan)
4. Referral to Assistant Principal (Step 3)

\*Consequences 1 through 3 may be skipped depending on the severity of behavior.

## LABORATORY POLICY

Labs are an integral part of science courses and we may deal with materials that require caution. Discipline must be maintained in the lab at all times. If a student does not behave according to established lab-safety guidelines and class expectations, the student will be suspended from the lab and receive a failing grade for that particular lab. A note from a parent or guardian may be required in order for the student to return to future lab work. A signed safety contract and a passing grade on the lab test are required before students may participate in any labs. Copies of the safety requirements will be handed out at the beginning of the school year.

## GRADING SYSTEM

Each assignment will receive points. The student's grade average is calculated by dividing the total number of points earned by the student by the total number of points possible. Grades are not rounded up. The grading scale is as follows:

>98%—A+	88-89%—B+	77-79%—C+	68-69%—D+
93-96%—A	83-86%—B	73-76%—C	63-66%—D
90-92%—A-	80-82%—B-	70-72%—C-	60-62%—D-
			<60%—F

## ATTENDANCE AND LATE WORK POLICY

Attendance is important and is directly related to success. Missing work due to absence must be made up in a time period *equal to the number of days missed* to receive full credit. Late work will be accepted and awarded partial credit (up to 80% if received within a week of the due date, up to 60% if received later). Late work **MUST** be accompanied by a completed Late Work Form. Late work will be accepted through my deadline at the end of each grading period. Students are encouraged to make arrangements with me to make up missed tests, and to retake tests (one retake allowed per test). Test retakes will receive partial credit up to 75%. **It is the student's responsibility to ask for makeup work and arrange makeup tests and labs.**

## TARDINESS

When arriving late to class, it is the student's responsibility to sign in at the door. The school Tardy Policy outlines consequences for excessive tardiness.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students are expected to do their own work when assigned individual papers, projects and when taking tests. Any student involved in dishonest behavior, including copying or plagiarism, on any work may be subject to an automatic fail on the assignment and may be subject to consequences in accordance with Valencia High School policies.

## CONTACTING THE TEACHER

Parents and students are encouraged to contact me with any questions or concerns that may arise. The more I know about a student, the better I can support his/her educational needs and goals. The best way to reach me is through email: [mloch@hartdistrict.org](mailto:mloch@hartdistrict.org).

**TUTORING:** I am usually available during lunch on Thursdays. Students may also schedule other times to speak with me and get additional help in my class.

**Ms. Loch's Astronomy Class**  
**Signature Page**



\*Please note that all information you provide will be kept confidential\*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Info \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Info \_\_\_\_\_

Child Lives With \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email Addresses \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Does the student have computer and internet access at home? \_\_\_\_\_

From the **Parent** to the Teacher

Here is some important information that I would like you to know about my child (e.g. IEPs, 504s, home situations, how amazing they are, etc.)...

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From the **Student** to the Teacher

Here is some important information that I would like for you to know about me...

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I have read Ms. Loch's Course Outline and understand the guidelines for success in her class.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_