NNHS Astronomy Syllabus
Mr. McWhirter
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MISSION
To educate students to be self-directed learners, collaborative workers, complex thinkers, quality producers, and community contributors

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is an advanced one semester course designed for the student who wants to investigate the inner-workings of the universe. This inquiry based laboratory course will take advantage of and utilize the latest technology advances in space exploration. Topics will include: space navigation, planets, sun, asteroids, comets, robotics, rockets, and humans in space. The course will involve laboratory experiments, group projects, lectures, class discussions, computer activities including NASA digital conferences with NASA scientists.

COURSE LEARNING STANDARDS
Orientation of the Night Sky
The Sun and Stars
Vagabonds of Solar System
Newton / Kepler
Expanding Universe

GRADING
Overall Semester grad
85% of the Course grade, 15% = Final Exam
The final semester grade will be rounded to the nearest percentage point.

Course Grade
Within each unit, summative and formative sections are weighted as follows:
80% Summative (tests, quizzes, projects), 20% Formative (labs, class work, activities, homework, quizzes)

Grading Disbursement: A= 90-100 B= 80-89 C= 70-79 D=60-69 F= <59

REASSESSMENT POLICY
Summative Assignment Retake Policy (retakes are available on most summative work excluding final exams NO retake opportunities are available on formative assessments):
1. Students are only allowed retakes on unit tests on which they receive a 79% or below.
2. The maximum grade the student can get on the retake is an 80%.
3. The higher of the two scores will be entered in Infinite Campus
4. The retake times and locations are left up to the individual teacher.
5. Students opting for a retake must complete an alternative assignment, assigned by the teacher.
6. There will only be 1 retake attempt per summative assessment per student

COMMUNICATION
- Teachers make every effort to respond to emails and phone calls within 48 hours during the work week.
- The best way to communicate with teachers is through email; however, if you haven’t received a response in 48 hours, please resend the email or call their voicemail. Your email may have gone into the spam folder.