

**The Universe. It's full of Star's: Understanding the Scale of Planet Earth and the role of Gravity in our Universe**

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The Appoquinimink School District is continuing to integrate PBIS (project based inquiry science) along with NGSS science standards. As our district has recently come out of the state science coalition (in which science kits were used), we are responsible for the planning and curriculum development to ensure all students meet the NGSS science stands. This curriculum unit is developed to ensure our 6<sup>th</sup> grade middle school students are able to access Astronomy curriculum. Astronomy is one of the large topics that students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade are expected to master, along with Earth History and Force in Motion. Unfortunately, our district has not yet found a great fit for Astronomy curriculum. This unit topic will address the NGSS Astronomy standards. This unit is built around the big question: What is Earth's place in the Universe? In addition, there are three guiding lesson questions that will ensure students will understand this big unit question. Those questions include: What is the scope of Earth in our Universe? What is the true size of our Universe? What is the role of gravity within our Universe? This curriculum unit will provide background research as well as activities for middle school teachers to access in order to lead their students towards mastering this Next Generation Science Standard.