

## Consolidated Unit Benchmarks Coded by Report Card Descriptor

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Astronomy Unit

#### **Descriptor: Understands science concepts**

- Light travels and tends to maintain its direction of motion until it interacts with an object or material. Light can be absorbed, redirected, bounced back, or allowed to pass through.
- Like all planets and stars, the earth is approximately spherical in shape. The rotation of the earth on its axis every 24 hours produces the night-and-day cycle. To people on earth, this turning of the planet makes it seem as though the sun, moon, planets, and stars are orbiting the earth once a day.
- The earth is one of several planets that orbits the sun, and the moon orbits around the earth.
- The patterns of stars in the sky stay the same, although they appear to move across the sky nightly, and different stars can be seen in different seasons.
- Planets change their positions against the background of stars.
- Stars are like the sun, some being smaller and some larger, but so far away that they look like points of light.

#### **Descriptor: Effectively uses science process skills**

- Keep a notebook that describes observations made, carefully distinguishes actual observations from ideas and speculations about what was observed, and is understandable weeks or months later.
- Make sketches to aid in explaining procedures or ideas.
- Use numerical data in describing and comparing objects and events
- Able to identify strengths and limitations of a model.

#### **Descriptor: Actively contributes to one's own learning and the learning community during science**

- Willing to share reasons for findings and consider reasons suggested by others.
- Shares and takes turn in teams.
- Listens when others talk.
- Asks questions to help understand someone else's ideas.
- Willing to discuss multiple ideas before selecting one.
- Refrains from putting-down classmates.
- Works collaboratively and responsibly with team members.