Astronomy 2

Students will continue to explore small bodies in our solar system such as dwarf planets, asteroids, comets, and moons. The class will examine the geology of planets and moons and photo-geologic mapping of these bodies. The group will contemplate astrobiology, building blocks of life, and the hunt for extraterrestrial life before examining the development of the science of astronomy through the ages. Each class will consist of a discussion, labs, the creation of models, and building instruments.

Weeks 1: Our Solar System – Small Bodies

- Virtual trip to the dwarf planets, asteroids, comets and other small bodies in the Asteroid Belt and Kuiper Belt

Weeks 2-3: Planetary Geology

- Learn about geologic landforms on other planets and moons
- Experiment with impact craters and what they can tell us about a planet or moon
- Discover photo-geologic mapping

Week 4: Astrobiology

- Experiment with the basic ingredients of life.
- Discover life in extreme environments on Earth.
- Learn how life might exist on other planets.

Week 5: Planet Hunters

- Learn about where are the best places to search for life on other planets.
- Discover and learn about the hunt for exoplanets.
- Experiment with how to search for life on exoplanets.

Week 6-7: Historical Astronomy

- Learn about the historical development of Astronomy as a science.
- Experiment with creating 'star constellations' using LEDs.
- Discover different cultures' interpretations of constellations with mythology.