**SPACE!** Space is more than just looking into the night sky. People have always been interested in space and kids are no exception to this fact. Students of all ages gaze at the stars and the moon with wonder and amazement but teaching about these concepts is sometimes perplexing to children (Sherrod & Wilhelm, 2009). The concepts that students are learning in this unit will increase their awareness of the world and fulfill their need to understand the world and the “space” that is all around our world. This increased awareness will better help them to succeed in school and society.

This unit is designed to introduce students to a world beyond their own, as well as looking more in-depth at their own planet, Earth. This unit will not only try to reach all students but push them towards excellence and understanding (Tomlinson, 2003). By including choices connected with differentiated instruction, students will discover many new facts and ideas about the stars, the sun, the moon, and the planets and the relationships between these concepts. For most students, space is a very abstract idea; they do not consider the fact that Earth is one planet in one solar system in one galaxy, etc. Students will learn that space is a very interesting concept with endless possibilities. They will be able to look at the world from a different perspective and understand a little more why the world is so unique. Students need to acquire the information presented in this unit to be able to connect multiple ideas and relationships. This unit is cross curricular, connecting to the Ohio Content Standards in mathematics, science, social studies, and language arts.

References

Ohio Academic Content Standards. *Ohio Department of Education*. Retrieved from

www.ode.state.oh.us

Sherrod, S. E. & Wilhelm, J. (2009). A study of how classroom dialogue facilitates the

development of geometric spatial concepts related to understanding the cause of

moon phases. *International Journal of Science Education, 31*(7), 873-894.

Tomlinson, C. A. (2003). Deciding to teach them all. *Association for Supervision and*

*Curriculum Development, 61*(2), 6-11.