**Speech to Eighth Grade Science Prodigies**

Good morning to each of you. I’ve heard that this group is made up of brilliant eighth graders!! Congratulations!

Today we’re going to be looking at a variety of objects in our solar system, but we’re not going to just talk about the specific objects. We’re going to be looking at the patterns of those objects and how they impact us here on planet Earth!

**Examples of patterns that students found in their reading:**

* The planets’ orbits are always the same
* Tides
  + There are 2 low and 2 high tides every 24 hours
  + The tides are affected by the gravitational pull of the moon and sun
  + Neap tides occur at the first and last quarter of the moon
  + Spring (*king*) tides are especially high at the new moon and the full moon
* Asteroids are made of rock, metal and have organic components
  + The follow the same orbit
* Comets
  + Their orbital period is about every 200 years
  + Haley’s Comet was last seen in 1986 and will be seen again in 2061
  + It appears to us on Earth every 75 to 76 years
* Meteoroids are objects in space; meteors are when those objects enter our atmosphere and burn up; meteorites are when those objects hit the earth.