The reading of non-fiction can introduce us to the private thoughts of people, through biography or to a clearer insight into historical/political events taken from the viewpoint of people involved in those events. We, the science department, wish to continue or begin your year(s) of science study by including The Canon: A Whirligig Tour of the Beautiful Basics of Science by Natalie Angier on your summer reading list. We advise you to read it, Introduction through the end, not as a textbook where you are expected to understand and manipulate the information entirely but as an experience of the beauty of science as an interconnected and "living" body of knowledge. We, therefore, ask you not to get bogged down in the technicalities of the first few chapters. We hope that this book will help to open your mind to areas of scientific questioning that you never thought of before and that you may wish to delve into on a deeper level" as a life long learner".

After reading Chapters 3 through 7, respond to the following questions:

1. What was your favorite chapter? Why? Be sure to cite evidence, from the text, to support your choice.

2. What "size" issue, from Chapter Three, surprised you the most? Why? Give two specific examples, from the text, to support your choice.

3. Quote one part of the book that was an "Aha!" moment or revelation of the natural world for you, and explain why you chose that one part?

4. In your own words explain one of the following: bonding, phases of matter, or solubility.

5. We, as a science department, believe a background in all three areas of science study is essential to a well rounded educational experience. How does the author confirm this? Cite portions of the book that speak directly to why each area, chemistry, biology and physics, is important.

6. Some people look at uncertainty as a weakness. Use evidence from the book to show how the author agrees or disagrees with this statement.

7. In a well constructed paragraph, respond to the following question: How has reading the book changed your perspective on science study?

Your responses to these questions will be collected by your science teacher within the first week of school. If you are not taking a science course they are to be turned into Ms. Wiedower as directed at the beginning of the year.