**Sun Notes**

The sun is an ordinary star, but the center of our solar system and makes life possible on Earth.

**The Sun’s Atmosphere**

**Photosphere**~ Lowest layer of the sun’s atmosphere and the layer that gives off light. Often called the surface of the sun. Temperatures are about 6,000 k.

**Chromosphere**~ The layer that extends upward about 2,000 Km above the photosphere with a transition zone occurring between 2,000 km and 10,000 km above the photosphere.

**Corona**~ Above the transition zone, this is the largest layer of the sun’s atmosphere into space and extends millions of kilometers into space. Temperatures can reach as high as 2 million k. Charged particles continually escape from the corona and move through space as solar wind.

**Sunspots**~ Areas of the Sun’s surface that appear dark because they are cooler than surrounding areas. They are not permanent and there are times when many large sunspots occur, this is call sunspot maximums.

**Prominences**~ Intense magnetic field associated with sunspots, they are a huge arching columns of gas.

**Solar Flare**~ Violent eruptions of gasses near sunspots.

**CMEs** ~ Coronal mass ejections are emitted from the sun and can appear as a halo. CMEs present little danger, but are highly charged solar wind materials along with ultraviolet light, X rays from solar flares that can disrupt radio signals.