Basic Concepts of Astronomy for the NABDAP Curriculum

I would ask that the students become familiar with the basic concepts of astronomy included in the attached page from the Stella Natura.

In addition, I would introduce them to some fundamental anthroposophical concepts regarding the starry world:

Spiritual beings dwelling in the distant periphery of the universe created the earth and humanity. These beings have their homes in the realm of the fixed stars. Each constellation contributes particular spiritual qualities and structural elements to our earthly existence. The planets are also the dwellings of beings living in the astral world, and their influence contributes particular qualities in the realm of soul and color and flavor and the processes of life. The concepts of the Sun and the inner and outer planets could come in here. Much of this could be taught by a eurythmist.

These creator beings have, in the course of evolution, withdrawn their active being from nature. We are left with predictable rhythms and processes, maintained by less exalted spiritual beings.

The Moon has a special significance for agriculture, with its relation to water, germination, growth, and reproduction. I think the students should be aware of the five lunar rhythms. They should know that there has been much work on the correlation of these rhythms to the timing of agricultural tasks, as was called for by Rudolf Steiner in the first lecture of the Agriculture Course. They should know about Maria Thun’s work and also be informed that there is not universal acceptance even in the biodynamic movement of her research and conclusions, but that many people worldwide find them helpful and effective.