

## Bright Light Vocabulary

**Light:** The form of energy that makes it possible for the eye to see.

**Diffraction:** The bending of light around an obstruction so that the ray of light then breaks into bands of the different wavelengths of color.

**Refraction:** The bending of a ray of light when it passes at an angle from one medium into another and changes its speed (as when light passes from air into water, or through a prism).

**Reflection:** Heat, light, or an image that bounces off an object or surface.

**Visible Spectrum:** A band of colors that is formed when light is passed through a prism, or is bent in some other way.

**Electromagnetic Spectrum:** The entire range of electromagnetic frequencies from radio, the lowest, to gamma rays, the highest.

**Frequency:** The number of energy waves that pass a certain point in a certain time period. Frequency is used to measure radio waves, light waves and other kinds of radiation.

**Laser:** A device that makes a strong, narrow beam of light by stimulating the atoms in a gas or crystal. The word laser is an acronym that stands for "light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation".

**Prism:** A solid glass or crystal object that light can pass through. It has three sides that are rectangles and two ends shaped like triangles. A prism splits a ray of light into the colors of the rainbow. .

**Wavelength:** The distance between two points in the progression of a wave of sound, electromagnetism, or light.

**Medium:** A substance through which a force acts or by which something is carried.

**Rainbow:** An arc in the sky containing the colors of the visible spectrum, which results from the refraction of sunlight through water droplets during or after a rain.

**Radiation:** The process of giving off radiant energy in the form of waves or particles.