

Safety Advisory for Parents (Secondary)

On Monday, April 8, 2024, all of North America will experience an eclipse of the sun. According to NASA, anyone within the “path of totality” will be able to see a total solar eclipse. This path, where the moon will completely cover the sun will stretch from Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Indiana, Ohio, and Maine. Central Florida is outside this path, but will still see a partial solar eclipse where the moon covers part of the sun’s disk. The partial solar eclipse will begin at 1:46 p.m. and last until 4:17 p.m. with a maximum coverage being reached at 3:03 p.m.

Looking directly at the sun when it is partially covered by the moon can cause serious eye damage or blindness. It is dangerous to look at a partial solar eclipse without proper eye protection.

To minimize the likelihood that students will look directly at the sun and risk damaging their eyes:

- Parents have the option of signing their student out **beginning at 12:30 p.m.** Please follow your school’s regular sign out procedure. If students are not signed out early, they will be dismissed at their regular dismissal time.
- All outdoor activities scheduled between 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. (including afterschool activities) will be moved indoors and/or rescheduled until after 4:30 p.m. There will also be no class changes during this time period. Coaches and teachers will communicate directly with students regarding rescheduling these activities.
- Students in classes which have been approved to participate in a 10 minute solar viewing activity with the use of NASA approved eclipse glasses, must return the permission slip (which will be provided by the teacher) no later than the morning of **Monday, April 8, 2024.**
- We encourage you to speak to your student about the eclipse and the dangers of looking directly at the sun.
- We urge you to be careful and particularly attentive while driving during the time of the eclipse. Please be especially careful in the parent pickup driveway at your school to avoid distracted drivers, students, and pedestrians. If your student will be driving during the time of the eclipse, we request that you speak to them about taking precautionary measures.

Tips and instructions on safety during the eclipse can also be located in the link below.
<https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/safety/>

Thank you in advance for your support. If there are additional questions please direct them to your student’s principal.