

Dear HSE Parents and Guardians:

As many of you may well be aware, a solar eclipse will be occurring on Monday, August 21. During the event, we are expected to have 90 percent totality. It will start around 1 pm, peaking at 2:25 pm, and ending at 4 pm.

While this event creates an excellent learning opportunity, the safety and health of our students is of the utmost importance to HSE Schools.

In order to minimize risks to students, other than classes specifically prepared to observe the eclipse, all outdoor activities will be suspended between 1 pm-4 pm. This includes recess, P.E. classes, athletic and marching band practices.

Please note the eclipse will be taking place on a day of early dismissal. To protect students, HSE Schools will **NOT have early dismissal on Monday, August 21**. All schools will release students at their normal time.

We ask that you remind your child that it is never safe to look directly at the sun's rays – even if the sun is partly obscured. When watching the eclipse, students must wear NASA-approved protective eyewear. Normal sunglasses do not provide required protection.

Classes that will be viewing the event will have NASA-approved protective eyewear for students. Your child's teacher will contact you for your approval for participation. But it's important to reiterate safe viewing practices with your child during afternoon dismissal and travel home.

- Be aware that only during totality (which is not expected in our region) is it safe to look at the sun without NASA-approved protective eyewear.
- Damage to eyes from looking at the sun will not always show up immediately, but could in the days following the eclipse and may be permanent. Please emphasize that sunglasses do not provide necessary protection.
- Do not look at the sun through a pair of binoculars or a telescope without having the proper NASA-approved filters.
- Taking pictures of the eclipse with unprotected lenses on cameras, cell phones, and tablets may result in damage to the device.

For more information on the eclipse and how to view it safely, please visit:
<https://goo.gl/NeQUxT>

Thank you,
HSE Schools