

Dear Parent/Guardian,

On Monday, August 21, 2017, Omaha will be in the path of a near-total solar eclipse. This event is being called “The Great American Solar Eclipse,” as this is the first time since 1918 that a solar eclipse will be visible in one form or another throughout the entire continental United States.

Planning at our school is already underway so our students can experience this event first-hand. **Students must have a signed permission slip allowing them to participate in viewing the solar eclipse.** Students will be provided solar glasses and will be able to view the eclipse either directly or indirectly. Teachers and Principals will use their professional judgement in determining the level of participation for all students in grades K-12.

Students will not be permitted to look at the sun through a camera, a telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device while viewing the eclipse — the concentrated solar rays will enter human eye(s), potentially causing serious and permanent injury up to and including blindness.

The safe viewing of the eclipse is a priority for the Omaha Public Schools and we want to ensure that all students have a chance to experience the astronomical event for this generation in the safest way possible. Through the generous donation of our OPS community partners, we have purchased certified “eclipse viewing glasses” that meet international safety standards. <https://www.iso.org/standard/59289.html>

Please be aware that the only safe way to look directly at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed sun is through special-purpose solar filters, such as “eclipse viewing glasses.” Homemade filters or ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are **not safe** for looking at the sun.

Because of the safety concerns associated with viewing an eclipse, the attached paperwork is required by the Omaha Public Schools to be completed before August 21. Students without signed permission forms will not view the eclipse. They will be able to view televised coverage and complete an alternative assignment, at no penalty, from inside the school building on August 21.

If you need additional information, please contact your child’s science teacher or principal.

Kris Denton  
Elementary Science Supervisor

Dr. Chris Schaben  
Secondary Science Supervisor

