Q & A regarding the Solar Eclipse on Aug. 21

1) Are schools in session on Aug. 21? OPS schools are in session for all grades on Aug. 21. We will not cancel school because this is also a phenomenon that affords teachers the opportunity to do many creative lessons based on the event that support our curriculum standards.

2) For kids who stay in school, will the district provide approved eclipse glasses? All K-12 grade students are being provided safety approved solar eclipse viewing glasses thanks to a generous donation from our community partners. These were delivered to schools on August 2nd. Students participating in the viewing are required to have signed permission slips.

3) Will parents need to sign a permission slip before the district will provide glasses and allow them to watch? Students must have a signed permission slip to view the eclipse outside. Permission slips were provided at the end of the school year to our secondary schools and then all schools received permission slips on August 2 to send home during back to school nights and the first few days of school. Students without a signed permission slip will be able to watch the eclipse online.

4) Are all OPS schools participating in the viewing of the solar eclipse? Schools have unique schedules and needs and the decision to view the eclipse outside is based on what the school decides. Only students wearing safety-approved solar eclipse glasses and have a signed permission slip will be allowed to view the eclipse outside. Parents should contact their schools directly to determine what their plan is for viewing the eclipse.

5) Will OPS excuse a child's absence if parents take them out of school to watch it? The event does not fall within any current classification of excused absences as defined in our current policy.

6) Since the eclipse will occur around lunch time, will the lunch schedule change to accommodate kids going outside to watch? Each school has unique schedules and needs and will review their lunch schedule to determine what works best for their students. The eclipse only lasts for a brief amount of time, lunch schedules may be adjusted slightly to accommodate viewing the eclipse.