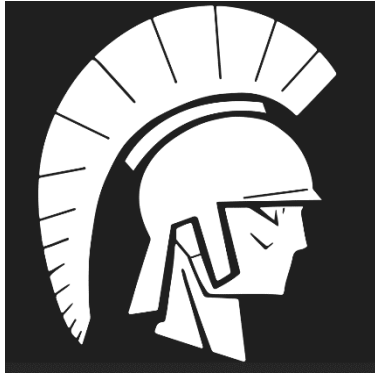


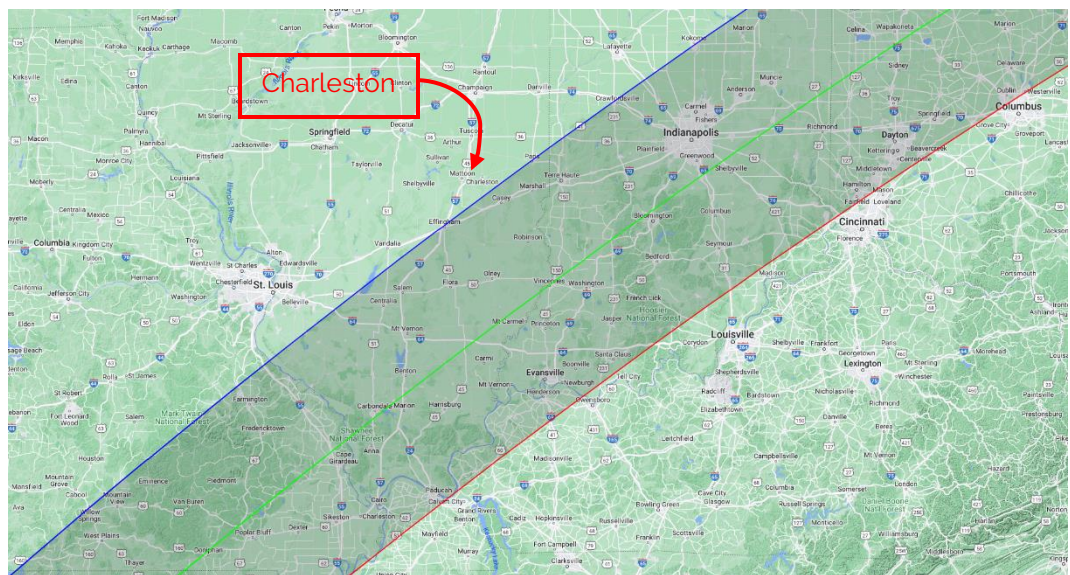
A Special Announcement from Charleston CUSD #1

About the April 8 Total Solar Eclipse



Most are aware by now that a total solar eclipse will occur on April 8. Because such events are rare, many people travel to locations identified as being in the "path of totality" (see image below).

Some school districts in the "path of totality" have elected to close schools on April 8 due to safety concerns over increased traffic from eclipse viewers. In considering whether to close schools on April 8, District staff considered many factors and options before concluding that the best option for our school community is to remain open for a full day of attendance on April 8.



Retrieved from: <https://nso.edu/for-public/eclipse-map-2024/>

We are sending this information to our school community so that parents, as partners in education, can determine a best course of action for their children with regard to the April 8 eclipse event. Please consider the following:

- As Charleston is outside the "path of totality,"
 - our area is not expected to experience the high traffic congestion of communities that are within the "path of totality"; however,
 - the Charleston area will experience a partial eclipse of 99.67% at the "total eclipse" time between 2:02p.m. and 2:05p.m.

- The partial eclipse in our area will occur between approximately 12:45p.m. and 3:20p.m. – during our school dismissal times (see image below).



12:45p.m.

Retrieved from: <https://eclipse.aas.org/eclipse-america-2024>

3:20p.m.

- Viewing a partial eclipse without using a safe solar filter can result in serious and permanent eye injury.
- Staff have planned to capitalize on the solar eclipse event for maximum educational benefit both on and off our campuses.
- For example, viewing events have been scheduled for EIU's campus and at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site.
- Because our school dismissal times occur during the partial eclipse, we have taken extra precautionary measures to help ensure the safety of our students, especially our youngest students.
- The District has purchased enough ISO 12312-2 transmittance-solar filter eyewear for each District student and staff member.
- We are expecting the solar filter eyewear to be delivered and distributed days in advance for staff to "rehearse" how and when to use the eyewear, especially among our youngest students.
- Because of our need to adequately supervise students' proper use of the eyewear during the eclipse, our youngest students will not necessarily gather in large groups to participate in viewing the eclipse. Instead, other measures (e.g., indoor recess) will be incorporated for the safety of our youngest students. More information specific to each school's approaches will be communicated through school websites and electronic messaging.
- Parents who have concerns about the safety of their children or their children's inability or unwillingness to participate in viewing the eclipse by using the eyewear should make arrangements to keep their children home during the day or pick up their children at school prior to 12:45 or prior to dismissal. Although staff will "rehearse" eyewear expectations with children, parents should take into consideration the temptation of children to look up at the sun without solar filter eyewear while walking home or traveling on buses, as staff supervision of students while walking or riding a bus home is quite different than that of school-time supervision.

If you have questions or need more information about how Charleston CUSD #1 is making preparations to provide safe solar eclipse viewing experiences at your child(ren)'s school(s), visit your child(ren)'s school website(s) or contact your children(ren)'s teacher(s).