

Mrs. Piper L. Bognar, Superintendent

April 4, 2024

Dear Van Dyke Public Schools Parents/Guardians:

On April 8th, a total solar eclipse will make its way across North America. With such a monumental event occurring during the school day, we want parents to be aware of the precautionary steps that are being taken.

Safety Precautions for Students and Parents

- Some classrooms will have glasses specifically designed for eclipse viewing and will supply them to those who wish to participate. Teachers and their principals will ensure that the glasses conform to the transmission requirements set by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). Homemade or ordinary sunglasses are not sufficient ways to view an eclipse, as the reflectivity and polarization are not high enough for viewing in a safe manner.
- All afternoon recesses will be held indoors.
- Parents should review safety procedures with their children and remind them to never look at the sun without special eye protection. The totality of the eclipse will begin about 1:30 p.m. and end around 4:10 p.m. Students will be outside during school dismissal sometime during these 2.5 hours.
- Depending on the forecast and cloud coverage, please share with your child that it will be darker at dismissal time as a result of the eclipse. DTE has assured us that streetlights will go on via sensors in times of darkness, just as in the evening.

For more information about the eclipse and eclipse safety, please visit:

- [Solar Eclipse Observer's Guides and Handouts \(NSTA\)](#)
- [Where & When \(NASA\)](#)
- [American Astronomical Society](#)
- [Live NASA Broadcast of 2024 Total Solar Eclipse \(Youtube\)](#)
- <https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/safety/>

Parental Involvement

Parents who wish to experience this event with their child at an off-site location will be allowed to check-out their children as a verified absence. Normal check-out procedures will be in effect on April 8th.

If you would like more information about eclipse activities planned at your child's school, feel free to contact the school directly.

Thank you, and happy viewing!

P Bognar