



# Aberdeen School District

1100 W Commerce Street

Aberdeen, MS 39730

Dr. Andrea Pastchal-Smith, Superintendent

April 5, 2024

Dear Parents,

As we approach the eagerly anticipated total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, 2024, we want to ensure that our students have the opportunity to learn from this rare astronomical event and the guidance to do so safely. The eclipse promises to be an educational spectacle, but our top priority remains the safety and well-being of our students.

In anticipation of this event, I would like to provide you with some essential details and precautions that will be implemented in the Aberdeen School District:

**Eclipse Timing:** The partial eclipse will commence at 12:32 PM, reach its maximum at 1:52 PM, and conclude at 3:11 PM.

**Eye Protection:** Proper eye protection is essential for viewing the eclipse safely. Regular or prescription sunglasses do not offer adequate protection. Instead, approved eye protection that meets the ISO 12312-2 international standard/protection level is required for students participating in outdoor viewing. If the students do not have the approved eye protection, they cannot participate. The students will have an indoor activity.

**Safety Procedures:** To ensure the safety of our students, we have established the following procedures:

- **K-1 Students:** These students will remain indoors from noon until dismissal. All activities during this time will be conducted indoors.
- **Grades 2-12 Students:** Students in these grades may be offered the educational opportunity to view the eclipse from outside under teacher supervision, provided they have returned a signed permission slip indicating parental approval. Only students with parental consent will be allowed to participate in outdoor viewing.
- **School-Sponsored Activities:** All school-sponsored in-school and afterschool activities between 12:00 PM and 3:15 PM will occur indoors unless they are specifically related to educational eclipse lessons. Participants in these lessons must adhere to safety procedures and wear appropriate eye protection at all times.

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**Parental Responsibility:** We urge parents to remind their children of the importance of taking necessary precautions to prevent eye damage during the solar eclipse. Our motto for the day is "DON'T LOOK UP," emphasizing the critical need to avoid direct exposure to the sun without proper eye protection.

Please review the enclosed "How to Safely View the April 8, 2024, Total Solar Eclipse" document for additional guidance on eclipse safety measures.

I appreciate your cooperation in ensuring the safety and well-being of our students during this exciting astronomical event. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Dr. Andrea Pastchal-Smith  
Superintendent of Education  
Aberdeen School District