

Matt Nelson
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Jennifer Davie Emily Sheffield Melissa Simpson

April 3, 2024

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff,

On Monday, April 8th, a solar eclipse will occur from approximately 3:28 PM to 3:35 PM. The Sanford School Department is planning to keep our school day the same and follow a normal schedule. If individual families choose to participate in eclipse-viewing activities with their child(ren), student dismissal and parent pick-up is an option. We ask that dismissals occur prior to 2:30 PM to not disrupt or delay our end-of-the-day student dismissal procedures.

The eclipse presents a unique opportunity for students to learn about astronomy and celestial events. Teachers may incorporate related lessons and activities into the curriculum to enhance the learning experience. The Maine Department of Education (DOE) has [compiled resources](#) to make this rare occurrence a safe event and an engaging learning opportunity. We encourage parents to discuss this rare astronomical phenomenon with their children and emphasize the importance of following safety guidelines during outdoor activities.

As many news outlets report, proper eye protection with a special solar filter (not regular sunglasses) is critical to prevent serious eye damage. **Don't look at the sun without adequate protection!** Optical equipment such as binoculars, telescopes, DSLR cameras, etc. can also be hazardous without appropriate filtering. Without a means to block harmful light, these devices can greatly magnify the damage done to eyes. The best way to safely experience the event is to use certified (ISO 12312-2) eclipse glasses, which block harmful UV rays from damaging the eyes.

Thank you for your assistance in making this natural phenomenon safe.

Sincerely,

Matt Nelson
Superintendent of Schools