

March 18, 2024

West Central Families and Students:

On Monday, April 8, 2024 the West Central District and Community will be in the path of a solar eclipse. It is expected that we will see about a 90% coverage of the sun during this eclipse. Maximum coverage for our area is expected to happen around 2:00 pm. The last solar eclipse that was visible in our area was in August of 2017! We are excited to witness the eclipse and share this unique learning experience with our students.

As always, safety is our top priority for our students and staff. We will take all precautionary methods that we can to make this experience safe and enjoyable for everyone. Teachers will have the opportunity to watch eclipse videos so they understand the event as well as understanding what safety measures should be taken. We will provide NASA approved viewing glasses for students who would like to participate and view the eclipse.

In order for our elementary (K-5) and middle school students to be able to participate and go outside to view the eclipse, parents will need to complete the attached permission form and return it to the office. If your student does not return a signed permission slip, they will not be allowed to participate in the outdoor viewing. If on the day of the eclipse your student decides they do not want to go outside (even with signed permission) they will be allowed to stay inside. All students will be closely monitored and reminded of the safety measures needed, but we encourage you to take some time to discuss with your student the importance of keeping their safety glasses on at all times while outside.

Our high school students will be given the option to go outside and view the eclipse. If you do not want your high school student to go outside, you need to contact the office and let them know you do not want your student to participate.

As extra safety precautions, students will not go outside for recess or PE on the day of the eclipse (Monday, April 8, 2024). Staff will take additional precautions in their classroom to reduce concerns about students looking outside the windows during the eclipse. If your student needs to leave during the day, a parent or guardian will need to come sign them out and escort them home.

For additional information about the solar eclipse, please check the following links:

www.eclipse2024.org or <https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/where-when/>.

We are hoping the weather cooperates on April 8 and we're able to experience this eclipse with our students! Please reach out to your students' teacher or the building office if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Stacey Day
Superintendent

2024 Solar Eclipse Permission Form

ALL elementary (K-5) and middle school students are required to have a signed permission slip returned in order to be able to go outside to view the solar eclipse on Monday, April 8. Please return a signed form to your student's teacher/building office by Friday, April 5. As a reminder, high school students do not need a permission slip to participate. If you do not want your student to participate, please contact the high school office to let them know.

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Teacher: _____

*Middle School list your homeroom teacher

Signature: _____

