

Dear Parent/Guardian,

On Monday, August 21, 2017, the fifth day of our next school year, “The Great American Solar Eclipse” will occur. Omaha will be in the path of a near-total (98%) solar eclipse. This is a rare opportunity for students (and adults) to experience this impressive phenomenon. This is the first total solar eclipse viewable in the United States since 1979. The last total eclipse path to cross the entire continent dates back to 1918.

Planning at our school is already underway so our students can experience this event first-hand. This spring and early next school year, teachers will introduce content and practice safety procedures to prepare our students for the eclipse. Emphasis includes the safe viewing of the eclipse, including the school’s purchase of certified “eclipse glasses” that meet the ISO 12312-2:2015 international standard. *Please be aware that the only safe way to look directly at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed sun is through special-purpose solar filters, such as “eclipse glasses”.* Homemade filters or ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are not safe for looking at the sun. Students will not be permitted to look at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed sun through an unfiltered camera, telescope, binoculars, or other optical device.

Children in grades 1-12 will have the opportunity for direct viewing of the eclipse using solar eclipse glasses. If you do NOT wish to have your child participate in direct viewing, please complete the “opt out” form and return it to your child’s school before August 18th. Preschool through first grade students will indirectly view the eclipse via live television coverage.

On August 21, 2017, all MPS students in Grades 1-12 will have the opportunity to go outside to view the eclipse using eclipse safety glasses meeting ISO 12312-2:2015. If you prefer to opt out your student from this experience, you must complete this [form](#) by August 18, 2017. This does not mean that you are opting out of school that day. The school still needs to be contacted if a student will be absent from school that day.

As is the practice in all circumstances, building administrators and teachers have the responsibility to ensure the safety of students in their care. If you need additional information, please contact your child’s teacher or building administrator.

Sincerely,

Dr. Erik Chaussee
Principal

Opt Out Form

On August 21, 2017 all MPS students will have the opportunity to go outside to view the eclipse using eclipse safety glasses meeting ISO 12312-2:2015. If you would like to opt your student out of this experience you must complete this [form](#). Completing this form does NOT opt a student out of school on August 21st. Should a student need to be absent that day, a parent/guardian will need to contact the school office.

Google Form Details:

Individual Requesting Exclusion:

Name of Student:

Building:

Grade:

Please indicate your wishes regarding your child's level of participation in eclipse activities on August 21, 2017:

- opt out of direct viewing, but I approve my student participating in alternative related eclipse activities on August 21, 2017
- opt out of all direct and indirect viewing on Aug. 21st, 2017