

March 26, 2024

Dear Farmingdale Families,

A solar eclipse is expected to occur on Monday, April 8, 2024. The path of the eclipse will span 15 states in the US, putting our location at about 88% in the “path of totality,” meaning Farmingdale will have a partial eclipse. While a solar eclipse creates a breathtaking display in the sky, it also requires careful attention to safety protocols. The event will occur between 2:00pm through 4:40pm, peaking for about two minutes shortly after school dismissal. Most of our students will have been dismissed and be heading home. As such, there will be no onsite school events to observe this celestial phenomenon. Although this event offers a unique educational opportunity for our students, **it is important to emphasize to them that looking directly at the Sun during the eclipse, or at any time, can cause serious eye damage or even permanent blindness.**

To facilitate safe observation, teachers will engage students in age-appropriate activities to enhance their understanding of this fascinating astronomical phenomenon. These activities will not only enrich their knowledge, but will also emphasize the importance of safety when observing celestial events. Below are some resources you can share with your student to help foster an appreciation of this rare event.

Student Solar Eclipse Resources

- [Various Eclipse Resources](#)
- [Generation Genius - Solar and Lunar Eclipses](#)
- [PBS Learning Media - Resources on Eclipses](#)
- [NASA Resources for Students](#)

In addition to our efforts to review safety protocols during school hours, we also urge parents and guardians to review these protocols with their children and to follow these recommendations for safety when observing this phenomenon:

1. Never attempt to look directly at the partially-eclipsed Sun with the naked eye, regular sunglasses, binoculars, or a telescope, as doing so can cause severe damage to your eyes or permanent blindness. The concentrated solar rays passing through these optical devices can intensify the harmful effects of the Sun's rays. It is crucial to resist the temptation to observe the Sun without proper protection during this phase.
2. According to NASA, you should wear a set of eclipse glasses that complies with the ISO 12312-2 international standard when viewing any solar eclipse. These glasses are specifically designed to protect your eyes from the harmful effects of solar radiation. They are thousands of times darker than standard sunglasses and provide the necessary filtration to ensure safe viewing. It is essential to wear ISO-certified glasses throughout the entire duration of the eclipse to safeguard your eyes. Because Farmingdale will not experience 100% totality, it is not safe to remove protective eyewear at any time if viewing the eclipse. Several resources providing information on safely viewing the eclipse are available near the bottom of this letter.

3. ISO-Certified Glasses: If you choose to utilize ISO-certified glasses, carefully inspect them for any damages or scratches. Even a small imperfection can compromise the effectiveness of the filters, exposing your eyes to harmful solar radiation. Make sure the glasses have an intact label stating they meet the requirements of ISO 12312-2. To ensure your safety, it is highly recommended to obtain ISO-certified glasses from reputable and trusted sources. Remember, your eye health and safety should always be a priority. If you notice any defects or no label, do not use the glasses and seek a replacement from a reputable source.
4. Other Safety Measures: To enhance your eclipse viewing experience while maintaining safety, consider the following precautions:
 - Use solar filters specifically designed for cameras, binoculars, or telescopes if you wish to capture the eclipse.
 - If you experience any discomfort or vision problems after viewing the eclipse, consult an eye care professional immediately.

Additional Helpful Information for Eye Safety and Safe Viewing

[NASA Total Solar Eclipse \(Video & Maps\)](#)

[Total Solar Eclipse Safety](#)

[Guidelines for Safe Eclipse Viewing](#)

[Solar Eclipses and Eye Safety](#)

[5 Safe Ways To View The Eclipse](#)

[How can I safely watch a solar eclipse with my children?](#)

[Solar Eclipse Eye Safety](#)

A solar eclipse is a remarkable natural phenomenon, but it should never be observed without taking proper precautions. Remember, looking directly at the Sun, even during a partial eclipse, can cause irreversible damage to your eyes. Always use ISO-certified glasses that comply with the ISO 12312-2 international standard.

By working together and prioritizing safety, we can ensure that this event is both memorable and safe for everyone involved.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

In education,

Dr. Edith Conroy

Principal/Superintendent