

April 7, 2024

Dear West Deptford Families,

As you may be aware, a solar eclipse is scheduled to occur during our regular school dismissal time at our middle and elementary schools on Monday, April 8, 2024. The partial eclipse begins in our area at 2:09pm and ends at 4:35pm. The safety and well-being of our students and staff during this event are of paramount importance to us. To ensure everyone's safety, we are implementing the following guidelines and considerations:

Safety Precautions: We will take appropriate measures to ensure that students do not go outside during recess and PE classes after 2:00pm. Our MS/HS after school events will also alter their outdoor practices during the event, especially at the maximum point of darkness on or about 3:20pm. For safety's sake, our staff will not take students outside to watch the eclipse as we cannot properly ensure that all students will have the correct certified eyewear needed.

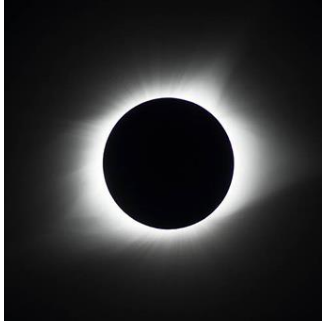
Normal Dismissal: - We understand that some families may wish to experience this rare event together. Therefore, if you feel more comfortable picking up your child early to enjoy the eclipse as a family, you are welcome to do so. If you plan to pick up your child early on Monday, April 8th, please notify the school office so our schools can make the necessary arrangements.

Eclipse Information from the Department of Education: It is important to not look directly at the sun without proper eye protection. Direct viewing of the sun during an eclipse can cause serious eye damage or blindness. Only certified solar viewing glasses or solar filters for viewing the eclipse should be used. If you do view, make sure these glasses meet the necessary safety standards (ISO 12312-2). Rethink the use of homemade or improvised viewing devices, such as sunglasses or smoked glass, as they do not provide adequate protection.

By following these guidelines, we can ensure that the solar eclipse is both a safe and educational experience for everyone in our school community. Additional information and resources may be found at [NASA 2024 Total Solar Eclipse](#) webpage.

**Sincerely,
Dr. Brian C. Gismondi, Superintendent of Schools**

<https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/>



[2024 Total Eclipse](#)

On April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. A total solar eclipse happens when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, completely blocking the face of the Sun. The sky will darken as if it were dawn or dusk. Safety is the [...]

science.nasa.gov