



Caroline County Public Schools  
Solar Eclipse - Monday, August 21, 2017

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s) of CCPS Students:

On Monday, August 21, 2017, the moon will pass between the earth and the sun for the first coast-to-coast total solar eclipse since 1918. Millions of Americans in 12 states will be able to watch this solar spectacle that will turn day into night for a few brief minutes. Virginia is among the 12 states that have been declared to be a “best place” to experience this rare phenomenon. Because prime visibility will occur in the Richmond area between the school hours of 1:00-4:00 p.m., Caroline County Public Schools will implement the following schedule modifications and educational opportunities to ensure the safety of our students and staff:

On Monday, August 21:

- All students will report to school/class at their normally scheduled time.
- Outdoor recess for elementary students will occur prior to 1:00 p.m.
- Elementary students will dismiss at 4:10 p.m. to ensure safe travel after the completion of the solar eclipse.
- Middle and high school students will dismiss at their normal times. Safety tips related to the solar eclipse will be provided to all secondary students prior to departure.
- Should a parent be concerned about his/her teenage driver being distracted by the eclipse while behind the wheel, a written excuse to depart at 12:00 p.m. must be submitted to the CHS office.
- All after school activities will remain inside until 4:10 p.m. Please note, the evening activity bus may be delayed by 10-15 minutes due to the altered elementary departure time.
- While CCPS has instituted appropriate precautionary measures, should a parent elect to keep his/her child home for the day an excused absence will be granted with a parent note.

Schools have planned activities surrounding this “once-in-a-lifetime” educational opportunity. The level of participation will vary by campus. Classroom activities may include integrated instructional activities, watching the live NASA broadcast, and/or viewing the eclipse using school provided official eyewear. Solar eclipse glasses brought from home will not be permitted. Schools selecting to view the eclipse will be sending home a parent permission form.

NASA and The American Astronomical Society have outlined safety measures for viewing the 2017 solar eclipse. Please go to the link provided for additional information: <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/safety>.

As always the safety of our students is in the forefront of every decision. Thank you for helping us make the 2017 solar eclipse a safe and memorable educational opportunity for Caroline County Public Schools' students.

Thank you,

CCPS Instructional Department



CCPS Solar Eclipse Opt-Out of Viewing Form  
August 21, 2017

On August 21, 2017 the moon will pass between the earth and the sun for the first coast-to-coast total solar eclipse since 1918. Millions of Americans in 12 states will be able to watch this solar spectacle that will turn day into night for a couple of minutes. Virginia is among the 12 states that have been declared to be a best place to experience this rare phenomenon.

CCPS students will be in school during this event and our educators will take full advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime happening to make it a tremendous learning experience for our students. NASA approved safety glasses have been ordered for select grades and all participating teachers will be trained on methods of safe viewing of an eclipse, complete with warnings regarding attempts to watch this event without protecting one's eyes. We look forward to this extraordinary event and making it a positive learning experience for everyone!

\*\*\*\*\*

SOLAR ECLIPSE OPT-OUT VIEWING FORM

I/WE, as parent, guardian, or legal custodian of (name of student) \_\_\_\_\_  
**do not give permission** for the above named student to participate in the viewing of the solar eclipse on August 21, 2017.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name Printed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_