



Southwestern Consolidated School District of Shelby County

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August 16, 2017

Southwestern Parents, Students, and Staff:

Southwestern Consolidated Schools are excited about the upcoming solar eclipse that will take place during the afternoon on Monday, August 21, 2017. For our area, the eclipse is scheduled to begin at approximately 12:59 and reach its peak at 2:27 with a conclusion around 3:51 PM. This is an historic event because a solar eclipse has not made a path across the United States since 1918!

Although viewing this solar eclipse will likely be an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, we want to ensure that our students and staff are safe throughout the experience. Since looking directly at the sun can cause eye damage which could result in permanent injury, we will be taking a variety of precautions. Please explain the importance of this safety concern with your student. There is additional safety information at <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/safety>.

As a precaution, we will not be allowing junior high or high school students to be outside after 12:30 p.m. until dismissal. This will include cadet teachers. Likewise, at the elementary there will be no outside recess or outside physical education classes after 12:30 p.m. Additionally, there will be no outdoor athletic practices until 4:00 p.m.

Protective viewing glasses that have an ISO 12312-2 certification have been purchased through the STEM class for 2nd through 6th graders to view the solar eclipse. If they return a signed parental permission form, they will be given directions on the proper use of the glasses and will be permitted to view the eclipse under teacher supervision at approximately 2:15 p.m. Any 2nd through 6th graders without a signed permission form will have the opportunity to watch a live stream video from NASA inside the school building.

Because our afternoon dismissal will occur toward the end of the eclipse, we will be instructing students not to look at the eclipse during dismissal. We will be monitoring the students closely, but we appreciate your help in stressing to your student the importance of their safety during this time.

We are excited about this historic scientific event! We want everyone to be safe and utilize proper precautions for a healthy and memorable learning experience.

Sincerely,

Paula Maurer

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Our mission is to encourage, challenge, explore, and strive for excellence.