




# Solar Eclipse Information and Permission Slip

Dear Parents and Guardians of Prairie Central C.U.S.D. 8 students,

The first day of school this year comes with a unique learning opportunity for our students! On Monday, August 21, 2017, a solar eclipse will be visible across all of North America. Although there are some parts of Illinois where a total eclipse will be visible, only a partial eclipse will be visible in our area. During a partial eclipse, the Moon comes between the Sun and Earth, but the Moon only partially covers the Sun's disk. The eclipse will happen in three phases; a description of each phase and the times they will be visible in our area are below.

| Event                  | Time in Fairbury   | Direction | Altitude | Looks like  | Comments                                  |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------|---|---|
| Partial Eclipse begins | Aug 21 at 11:52 am | 149° ↘    | 57.9°    |  | The Moon touches the Sun's edge.          |
| Maximum Eclipse        | Aug 21 at 1:19 pm  | 191° ↓    | 60.7°    |  | Moon is closest to the center of the Sun. |
| Partial Eclipse ends   | Aug 21 at 2:43 pm  | 226° ↗    | 52.9°    |  | The Moon leaves the Sun's edge.           |

## School Plan

**While this event creates an excellent learning opportunity for our students, there are some important safety guidelines that should be followed. Please read the information below. Each individual school's safety plan may vary slightly depending upon the schedule, etc.; however, a general plan can be found below. You will receive a plan specific to your child's building at open house.**

**Please Note: Looking directly at the Sun during this partial eclipse is unsafe and can have very harmful effects on your vision.** The only way to **safely** look directly at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed Sun is through special-purpose solar filters, also known as "eclipse glasses". Homemade filters or ordinary glasses, even very dark ones, are not safe for looking at the Sun. To date, only four manufacturers have certified that their eclipse glasses and handheld viewers meet the international standard for such products. These manufacturers include: Rainbow Symphony, American Paper Optics, Thousand Oaks Optical, and TSE 17. ([eclipse.aas.org](http://eclipse.aas.org))

**Since the eclipse will take place during the first day of student attendance, many teachers will likely take the students out to view it. Our plan for the day is below.**

- During the morning, each teacher who plans to take his/her class out to view the eclipse will carry out a lesson about the event.
- At the same time, we will also do a school-wide lesson outlining precautions for safely viewing the partial eclipse and proper use of eclipse glasses.
- Each child will be provided with a pair of eclipse glasses that have met international safety standards.
- Around 1:15pm, the students will put on their glasses and will be taken outside by individual classroom teachers to view the maximum phase of the eclipse. (**Please note:** The students will also have indoor recess on this day.)
- The students will go back inside for a wrap-up lesson surrounding the eclipse.

**Note:** Since we are making sure to provide your child with certified eclipse glasses, we are asking that each parent pay \$1.25 towards the cost of the glasses for your child. Please return the attached permission slip along with the \$1.25 (if you are giving him/her permission) to school with your child on the first day of attendance.

We are excited to share this experience with your child. If you have further questions, please contact the Principal of your child's building.

**More safety guidelines for viewing the eclipse are on the back.**

## **Safety Guidelines**

(Found on <https://eclipse.aas.org/sites/eclipse.aas.org/files/AAS-Solar-Eclipse-Safety-v170210.pdf>)

- Always inspect your solar filter before use; if scratched or damaged, discard it. Read and follow any instructions printed on or packaged with the filter. Always supervise children using solar filters.
- Stand still and cover your eyes with your eclipse glasses or solar viewer before looking up at the bright Sun. After glancing at the Sun, turn away and remove your filter. Do not remove it while looking at the Sun.
- Do not look at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed Sun through an unfiltered camera, telescope, binoculars, or other optical device. Similarly, do not look at the Sun through a camera, a telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device while using your eclipse glasses or handheld solar viewer. The concentrated solar rays will damage the filter and enter your eye(s), causing serious injury. Seek expert advice from an astronomer before using a solar filter with a camera, a telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device.
- If you do not have eclipse glasses, an alternative method for safe viewing of the partially eclipsed Sun is pinhole projection. For example, cross the outstretched, slightly open fingers of one hand over the outstretched, slightly open fingers of the other. With your back to the Sun, look at your hands' shadow on the ground. The little spaces between your fingers will project a grid of small images on the ground, showing the Sun as a crescent during the partial phases of the eclipse

A solar eclipse is one of nature's grandest spectacles. By following these simple rules, you can safely enjoy the view and be rewarded with memories to last a lifetime. More information can be found by visiting the following website:

[eclipse.aas.org](http://eclipse.aas.org)

[eclipse2017.nasa.gov](http://eclipse2017.nasa.gov)

<https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/in/@4891520>

**Note: The information shared in this letter does not constitute medical advice. Contact a qualified eye-care professional with further questions.**

## Solar Eclipse Permission Slip

Please fill out the following form and **return it to your child's school by August 21, the first day of student attendance**. If the permission slip is not returned by this date, your child will not be able to view the eclipse. If you are giving your child permission to view the eclipse, we are asking that you pay \$1.25 towards the cost of the eclipse glasses. If you are unable to do so, please make a note on your child's permission slip.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read the school safety plan and give my child, \_\_\_\_\_,  
permission to view the solar eclipse on August 21, 2017. (Please enclose \$1.25 for eclipse glasses).

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read the school safety plan and DO NOT give my child, \_\_\_\_\_,  
permission to view the solar eclipse on August 21, 2017.

Note: If you do not give your child permission to view the eclipse, he/she will have an alternate place in the building to go during this time.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_