

**MESSAGE FROM CEO ERIC S. GORDON**  
**RE: SAFETY PRECAUTIONS DURING THE SOLAR ECLIPSE**

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Parents & Caregivers of CMSD Students:

On August 21, 2017, Cleveland will experience a solar eclipse. This occurs when the moon is in the new moon phase and travels between the Earth and the sun. As the moon moves between the Earth and the sun, the shadow blocks all or some of the sun's light, causing the sky to become increasingly dark.

Because this will be the first total solar eclipse in 99 years to span coast to coast in the United States, some science classes will be incorporating learning experiences around the eclipse. Guidelines for safety and lesson planning have been provided to those educators to use during the school day. Activities that include viewing the solar eclipse are restricted only to students who have been provided with NASA-approved eyewear and are old enough to follow their instructor's safety guidelines.

The partial eclipse will appear in the sky over Cleveland between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. with the moon covering about 80 percent of the sun at 2:31 p.m.

Guidelines and safety tips are available on the CMSD website, and we are asking families and caregivers to reinforce with your children the following precautions:

1. If your child is at home during the solar eclipse, keep him/her inside the house between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. to avoid any temptation to view the eclipse without protective glasses.
2. During school hours, teachers who are not incorporating the eclipse into their lesson plans are being instructed to keep students inside during the eclipse.
3. Reinforce with your child that looking directly at the solar eclipse without proper eye protection is unsafe and can cause serious permanent eye damage.
4. Homemade filters and standard sunglasses—even dark or polarized ones—are not sufficient to prevent eye damage. This is also true for unfiltered cameras, telescopes, binoculars and other optical devices.
5. The only safe way to directly view the partially eclipsed sun is through special-purpose solar filters, also known as “eclipse glasses” or handheld solar viewers that are certified and meet NASA standards.
6. While self-made pinhole projectors are popular, during the eclipse they should be used only with supervision by an adult who is knowledgeable about safety guidelines.

7. The safest way to view the eclipse is through live streaming of the eclipse on television or on NASA's livestream "Eclipse Megacast" at:

[nasa.gov/feature/aug-21-eclipse-up-close-and-personal-with-nasa](https://nasa.gov/feature/aug-21-eclipse-up-close-and-personal-with-nasa)

8. Principals will be delivering two announcements to students at the beginning and end of the school day, reminding students that when walking to their bus or walking home between 1:00 and 4:00 that day, their focus should be on the sidewalk or street in front of them and they should not look at the sky until they can safely view the eclipse at home on the NASA website above.

Visit [clevelandmetroschools.org/eclipse](https://clevelandmetroschools.org/eclipse) for more information and resources on the solar eclipse.

Sincerely,



Eric S. Gordon  
Chief Executive Officer