



On April 8th, our area will experience a very rare total solar eclipse. It is an exciting educational opportunity that our schools will celebrate.

However, **our schools will be closed that day, and all extra-curriculars will be canceled**, as there are significant safety factors associated with the experience.

This decision was made after consultation with Emergency Management agencies. Many of the districts that bus our students have also decided to close, so transportation will not be widely available.

Some of the Safety factors considered are as follows:

- **Timing of the Eclipse:** The eclipse is expected to begin around 2 pm and last until around 4 pm. This timeframe coincides with when our students would typically be leaving school, driving or riding home, and participating in after-school activities, including athletic practices.
- **High Influx of Visitors:** Past eclipse experiences in other areas brought in large groups of visitors excited to experience the total eclipse. Heavy demands were placed on gas, hotels, campsites, parks, and restaurants. Stress on cell phone and internet service was reported.
- **Traffic and Safety:** Traffic conditions can be congested, with traffic jams creating potential issues for first responders.

The solar eclipse will be the last of its kind that will be visible for people in the U.S. until Aug. 23, 2044, according to [NASA](#). While we regret not being able to have students together that day, our schools will take advantage of this teachable moment leading up to it.

Thank you for your understanding. Our concern is for the safety of your children as well as our faculty, staff, and all who care for your children during the school day.