

Dear Parent/Guardian,

On Monday, August 21, 2017, Omaha will be in the path of a near-total solar eclipse. This event is being called "The Great American Solar Eclipse," as this is the first time since 1918 that a solar eclipse will be visible in one form or another throughout the entire continental United States.

Planning at our school is already underway so our students can experience this event first-hand. **Students must have a signed permission slip allowing them to participate in viewing the solar eclipse.** Students will be provided solar glasses and will be able to view the eclipse either directly or indirectly. Teachers and Principals will use their professional judgement in determining the level of participation for all students in grades K-12.

Students will not be permitted to look at the sun through a camera, a telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device while viewing the eclipse — the concentrated solar rays will enter human eye(s), potentially causing serious and permanent injury up to and including blindness.

The safe viewing of the eclipse is a priority for the Omaha Public Schools and we want to ensure that all students have a chance to experience the astronomical event for this generation in the safest way possible. Through the generous donation of our OPS community partners, we have purchased certified "eclipse viewing glasses" that meet international safety standards. <https://www.iso.org/standard/59289.html>

Please be aware that the only safe way to look directly at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed sun is through special-purpose solar filters, such as "eclipse viewing glasses." Homemade filters or ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are **not safe** for looking at the sun.

Because of the safety concerns associated with viewing an eclipse, the attached paperwork is required by the Omaha Public Schools to be completed before August 21. Students without signed permission forms will not view the eclipse. They will be able to view televised coverage and complete an alternative assignment, at no penalty, from inside the school building on August 21.

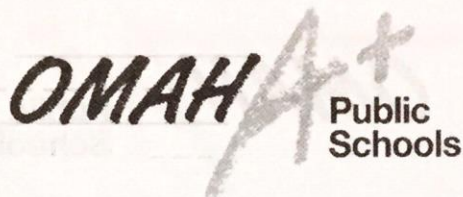
If you need additional information, please contact your child's science teacher or principal.

Kris Denton

Elementary Science Supervisor

Dr. Chris Schaben

Secondary Science Supervisor



**Solar Eclipse Opt In/Out Form and Release of Liability
2017/2018 School Year**

WRITTEN PERMISSION IS REQUIRED FOR STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE

This permission form is used to inform and gain signed opt in/opt out of parents/guardian for the 2017 Solar Eclipse which will be taught by the Omaha Public Schools' Science Instructors. Check "yes" if you would like your student to participate; and/or, check "no" if you would not like your child to participate. A parent/guardian must also sign below and return to the classroom teacher. If you have any questions about the 2017 Solar Eclipse lesson, please contact your student's Science Instructor.

By signing below the parent/guardian understands the nature of this activity described and the risk associated with that activity. The signing of this permission form releases the Omaha Public Schools and its employees from any claims made by the child or on behalf of the child should injury or loss of property occur as a result of participation, except when either the Omaha Public Schools or its employees are found negligent in the performance of responsibilities associated with the activity.

	Schedule Period	Yes (Opt In)	No (Opt Out)
2017 Solar Eclipse Viewing	August 21, 2017		

_____ (Student's First and Last name)

_____ (Student Number)

School: _____

*Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

By signing this form, the parent/guardian acknowledges that they have read the **Solar Eclipse Opt In or Out Form/Release of Liability form and full understand its contents and the consequences of signing this form.*

Omaha Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis or race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, age, genetic information, citizenship status, or economic status in its programs, activities, employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated school groups. The following individual has been designated to address inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Superintendent of Schools, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (402-557-2001)