



Baker County Public Schools



Sherrie Raulerson, Superintendent of Schools

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August 15, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On Monday, August 21, 2017, the nation will experience a remarkable performance in the sky as we witness the first solar eclipse in nearly forty years. While select parts of the United States will experience total darkness, also known as Totality, Baker County will observe a very large partial solar eclipse during the afternoon. Astronomers have confirmed that the peak time of the solar eclipse will be during our regularly scheduled dismissal times for the Baker County School District (see schedule below).

ECLIPSE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Partial Eclipse Begins	1:16 PM
Maximum Partial Eclipse	2:48 PM
Partial Eclipse Ends	4:16 PM
Eclipse Magnitude	92% darkness at max

Out of an abundance of caution for student and staff safety, the Baker County School District will be altering the dismissal schedule of students on Monday, August 21, 2017. To avoid transporting students during the time of the eclipse, Baker County Middle School and Baker County High School will have a special early dismissal schedule for this one day only. **(This schedule is different than the normal early dismissal schedule.)** The schedule is as follows:

<u>RELEASE SCHEDULE FOR BCMS AND BCHS</u>	
Baker County Middle School	11:30 AM for all students
Baker County High School	11:20 AM for walkers and car riders 11:50 AM for bus riders

The elementary school release times will be altered as well for Monday, August 21, 2017. **(This schedule is different than the normal dismissal schedule.)** The schedule will be as follows:

<u>RELEASE SCHEDULE FOR ALL BAKER COUNTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS</u>	
Pre-K/Kindergarten Center, Westside Elementary, Macclenny Elementary, and Keller Intermediate Schools	4:30 PM for all students

The District has made the decision to keep elementary students longer for safety purposes. This will make the school day longer for our elementary students. The District does not want any of our students traveling during the eclipse or our younger students being at home unsupervised during this event. During the time of the eclipse, students will not be allowed outside.

The District recognizes that these altered dismissal times may cause a problem with your family schedule. If you as a parent decide to keep your child home on Monday, August 21, 2017, your child's absence will be excused. Also, if you would like to check your child out earlier, he/she will be excused for the portion of the day he/she misses.

"Preparing individuals to be lifelong learners, self-sufficient, and responsible citizens of good character"

DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Tiffany McInarnay, District 1 🐾 Richard Dean Griffis, District 2 🐾 Paula T. Barton, District 3 🐾 Charlie M. Burnett, III, District 4 🐾 Patricia C. Weeks, District 5

AN EQUAL ACCESS/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION

During the time of the eclipse, students will not be allowed outside. All after-school activities and sports practices may resume after 4:30 PM. Have your child check with his/her coach or sponsor of the extra-curricular activity for more information.

Please educate your child about the importance of following the safety precautions provided below:

- Do not look directly into the sun during the solar eclipse, as it could be harmful to your vision.
- Do not look into the sun without proper eye protection.
- Do not look at the sun through a telescope or binoculars.
- Do not look at the sun through sunglasses, smoked glasses, or welder's glasses.
- Do not look at the sun through a camera/smart phone.

I appreciate your immediate attention to this event. Thank you for trusting me to lead the educational efforts in Baker County.

Sincerely,



Sherrie Raulerson
Superintendent of Schools