



Addison G. Davis  
Superintendent of Schools

## CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS

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### BOARD MEMBERS:

Janice Kerekes  
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*District 2*  
Betsy Condon  
*District 3*  
Mary Bolla  
*District 4*  
Ashley Gilhousen  
*District 5*

August 15, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On August 21, 2017, the nation will experience a remarkable performance in the sky as we witness the first solar eclipse in nearly 40 years. While select parts of the United States will experience total darkness, also known as Totality, Clay 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 elementary dismissal time (see schedule below).

### ECLIPSE INFORMATION SUMMARY

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

Please be informed that Clay County District Schools will maintain regular dismissal times on August 21, 2017. With this said, it is imperative that everyone in the community understand the safety precautions related to this event.

While this experience creates an exciting learning opportunity for our students, important safety guidelines should be carefully followed. Please educate your child about the importance of following 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.

The only safe method to view this experience is by using special-purpose solar filters, such as eclipse glasses or hand-held solar viewers. Homemade filters and ordinary sunglasses are not safe for looking at the sun during the eclipse. To date, four manufacturers have certified solar glasses and handheld solar viewers that meet the ISO 12312-2 international standard for such products: Rainbow Symphony, American Paper Optics, Thousand Oaks Optical, and TSE 17. Please note that the district will not purchase protective eyewear for this event.

Schools may provide students with opportunities to participate in the eclipse phenomena but all activities will be reviewed to ensure lesson alignment, proper safety equipment availability, and adequate supervision. If you have

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reservations about your child participating in any activities related to this solar event, complete the **OPT OUT** form below and return it to the school on or before Friday, August 18, 2017.

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

Sincerely,

Addison G. Davis  
Superintendent of Schools

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**PARENT OPT OUT OF SCHOOL-BASED SOLAR ECLIPSE ACTIVITIES**

I understand that my child's school may provide curriculum and instruction relative to the scientific relevance of a solar eclipse that includes safety warnings concerning proper methods of watching a solar eclipse. However, I do NOT wish for my child, (name of student) \_\_\_\_\_, to participate in school activities related to viewing the solar eclipse on August 21, 2017.

This release should be returned to the school by August 18, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature  
\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Name Printed  
\_\_\_\_\_ School  
\_\_\_\_\_ Date

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