Freeland Elementary Families,

As the solar eclipse approaches on April 8, 2024, we want to ensure everyone enjoys this event safely. During the afternoon hours, with the max coverage expected at approximately 3:10 p.m., the moon will align with the sun, offering a total solar eclipse. Michigan's eclipse coverage will range from 75% in the northwest Upper Peninsula to a small area in the southeast Lower Peninsula experiencing totality (100%). Adults and children alike will want to "look up" to see this exciting scientific occurrence! While experiencing this phenomenon, it's important to safeguard our eyes. Directly gazing at the sun, even during an eclipse, can lead to serious eye damage. Therefore, we kindly urge everyone, especially our students, to prioritize safety during this event. Looking directly into a solar eclipse for any amount of time can be damaging to the human eye, so top priority is to prepare for eye safety.

The following resources can be used to prepare everyone for a safe and exciting learning experience:

Eye Safety During a Total Solar Eclipse (NASA)

Where to Get Solar Eclipse Glasses (America Academy of Ophthalmology)

Solar Eclipse Observer's Guides and Handouts (NSTA)

Where & When (NASA)

American Astronomical Society

Live NASA Broadcast of 2024 Total Solar Eclipse (YouTube)

Please take a moment to discuss with your children the significance of not looking directly at the sun without proper eye protection. With our students departing from school during this time frame, whether by vehicle, bus, or on foot, it's crucial for them to exercise caution and remain vigilant. As a precautionary measure, the elementary school will be having our afternoon recess indoors this afternoon.

Your attention to this matter is deeply appreciated, and we hope everyone experiences a safe viewing of the solar eclipse.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kali McKenna
Principal-Freeland Elementary School