

"Through the Eyes of a Student: A Moment of Wonder and Learning"

Overview/Purpose of the Campaign:

In anticipation of the Total Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024, the Jordan-Elbridge Central School District aimed to foster excitement and educational engagement within our community. We organized an intergenerational learning experience where members of the Jordan-Elbridge High School NYS Science Honor Society visited Elbridge Elementary School on April 5, 2024. The high school students conducted interactive sessions to educate elementary students about the science behind solar eclipses and the importance of safe viewing practices. This initiative culminated in a heartwarming photograph capturing the collaborative spirit of our students, which was shared on our official Facebook page to promote community involvement and awareness.

Links to the Social Media Content

- Original Facebook Post:
https://www.facebook.com/JordanElbridgeCSD/posts/pfbid02WNeQEFSFz5ZXqQJBH_RARHntBACdrw5gbUzUmXFzVNHiCsq8xnfM6RVsGKmhTHX1
- Featured Photo:
<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=879642500634227&set=pb.100057654549572.2207520000&type=3>

Description of the Outcomes Achieved

The initiative successfully achieved its objectives of promoting educational engagement and community involvement. The collaborative event not only enhanced the third graders' understanding of astronomical phenomena but also provided high school students with valuable teaching experience, strengthening inter-student relationships. The widespread positive feedback and high engagement rates on social media indicate that the event resonated with our audience, fostering a sense of pride and unity within the Jordan-Elbridge school community. Additionally, the emphasis on safe viewing practices contributed to the well-being of our students and their families during the eclipse event.

Why This Photo Is So Special

This photo captures more than just a moment—it tells a story of curiosity, mentorship, and the magic of learning together. It wasn't just about students posing for a picture; it was about a little third grader seeing the world through a new lens—literally.

As I gathered the Elbridge Elementary third graders for a group photo with the Jordan-Elbridge High School NYS Science Honor Society member, one small voice chimed in with an innocent request:

"Mr. Josh, may I please take a photo?"

It was a simple question, but one that filled me with joy. A child, inspired by the moment, wanted to be the one to document it. I smiled, knowing I couldn't hand over my professional

camera, but I could still let him take the picture in his own way. I held the camera steady, showed him where to press, and said, *"Make sure everyone is lined up, and of course, you have to yell 'cheese!'"*

He did—his excitement was contagious. The kids beamed, the shutter clicked, and history was made.

I usually edit every photo to perfect the lighting, straighten the lines, and enhance the colors. But this one? I couldn't touch it. The colors were slightly off, the angle was a little slanted, but it didn't matter. This wasn't my photo. It was his. And that made it perfect.

It's a testament to the innocence and wonder of childhood—how a simple act of inclusion can make a moment unforgettable. The Total Solar Eclipse was a once-in-a-lifetime event, but so was this. It's my favorite photo I never took.