



## **The Gloucester Public Schools**

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Dear GPS Families,

As you may know, Gloucester will experience a solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, 2024. This is pretty exciting celestial news as it's rare for an eclipse to be viewable so close to where we live!

I am writing to all families with some important safety information to help you and your family view the eclipse safely because most students will be out of school or on their way home when it starts on Monday afternoon. Your student's teacher or school may also reach out with additional information about viewing the eclipse at school.

### **First a Few Details About the Solar Eclipse**

- The eclipse will begin at 2:16 p.m. on Monday, reach its maximum at 3:29 p.m. and then end at 4:36 p.m.
- Solar eclipses occur when the Earth, the Moon and the Sun line up so that the Moon blocks the face of the Sun when viewed from Earth.
- Here in Gloucester at its maximum, the Moon will cover 93% of the Sun's face when it passes in front of the Sun.

### **Next, Some Safety Tips to Help You and Your Children View the Eclipse Safely**

- Only look at the sun with specialized eye protection.
- It is dangerous to look directly at the Sun, even during an eclipse.
- Severe eye damage can be caused if anyone (child or adult) looks directly at the sun during the eclipse.
- To safely view the eclipse you must use safe solar viewing glasses or a handheld solar viewer at all times.
- Regular sunglasses should not be used and are not safe no matter how dark they are.
- Safe solar viewers are hundreds of times darker than sunglasses and will protect your and your child's eyes.
- Do NOT look at the Sun through a camera lens, telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device while wearing eclipse glasses or using a handheld solar viewer — the concentrated solar rays will burn through the filter and cause serious eye injury.
- Always inspect your eclipse glasses or handheld viewer before use; if torn, scratched, or otherwise damaged, discard the device. Always supervise children using solar viewers.



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- [For more safety information from NASA, you can click here.](#)

### **Here's How to Make a Safe Solar Viewer with Your Children**

Click on either link below to see how you can make a safe solar viewer at home:

- [Safe Pinhole Camera Eclipse Viewer](#)
- [Safe Cereal Box Viewer](#)

With these safety tips I hope your children and your family will enjoy this rare and exciting solar eclipse safely.

Sincerely,

Ben Lummis  
Superintendent