



# Central Fulton School District

151 East Cherry Street, McConnellsburg, PA 17233

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[www.cfsd.info](http://www.cfsd.info)

Subject: Early Dismissal at 1pm on April 8th Due to Solar Eclipse

March 27, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As I am sure you are well aware, a solar eclipse is expected to occur in the afternoon hours on April 8th. The timing coincides with our usual dismissal times, posing a potential safety risk as students may inadvertently view the eclipse without proper precautions while leaving school or riding the bus. Guidance from PDE recommends early dismissal as an option for this event.

In light of their recommendation, our school will be dismissing at 1pm on April 8th. This early dismissal will ensure that students and staff have ample time to safely travel home and take the necessary precautions to observe the eclipse. All regular/evening activities that occur outdoors that day may resume at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2024.

While solar eclipses are fascinating phenomena, it's important to remember the potential risks associated with observing them directly, especially without proper eye protection. Therefore, we encourage parents and guardians to discuss safety measures with their children prior to the event. As a preventative measure, we are sending home one pair of solar eclipse glasses with every student. The glasses have been generously donated by the Fulton County Library.

Here are some safety guidelines to consider:

- **Eye Protection:** Directly looking at the sun during an eclipse can cause serious eye damage. Make sure your child has proper eye protection, such as solar viewing glasses (which your child will be receiving), before attempting to view the eclipse.
- **Supervision:** If your child will be observing the eclipse, ensure they are supervised by a responsible adult who understands the safety precautions.
- **Alternative Viewing Methods:** Consider alternative methods for viewing the eclipse, such as using pinhole projectors or observing indirect reflections of the eclipse.

We recognize the educational value of events like solar eclipses and aim to provide our students with opportunities to engage with science in a meaningful way. However, safety remains our top priority.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the early dismissal, please don't hesitate to contact me at (717) 485-7000 or via email at [cramsey@cfsd.info](mailto:cramsey@cfsd.info). For information on safely viewing the eclipse, please visit <https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/safety/>. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding of the importance of this event.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christina Ramsey, Superintendent of Schools