



Staubton River High School

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August 16, 2017

Dear Golden Eagle Families,

On Monday, August 21, 2017, the shadow of the Moon will sweep across the Earth producing a solar eclipse. The Great American Eclipse will range from a total to partial eclipse depending on location. In Central Virginia we will experience a partial eclipse, which will begin at approximately 1:14 p.m. and end at approximately 4:02 p.m. The maximum viewing time for the eclipse will be at 2:41 p.m.

Last week we distributed a letter that stated that we would not allow students to observe the eclipse for safety reasons. Since that time, Bedford County Public Schools has obtained generous community donations that enabled us to purchase NASA-endorsed eclipse glasses for each student and staff member. These glasses provide the necessary protection for safely viewing the eclipse. For that reason, our school has made the following plan for learning about and observing the eclipse:

- On Monday, August 14, 2017, all students during grade level assemblies were trained on the solar eclipse and the dangers of viewing it directly.
- A reminder will be made during homeroom for all staff and students about the dangers of viewing the eclipse directly, without safety glasses, on August 21, 2017.
- Provided glasses will be distributed to 3rd period teachers prior to August 21, 2017. Third period teachers will distribute glasses to every student at the beginning of third period (12:30 for students with 2nd and 3rd lunch and 1:00 for students with 1st lunch) on August 21, 2017.
- Gym classes will not be outside after the end of second period (12:25).
- Strength and Conditioning classes will not report to the field house after 12:25.
- Prior to class changes at 12:25 and 1:55, and dismissal at 3:35, additional reminders will be made over the intercom to direct students to wear their safety glasses while traveling outside and reminding them of the dangers of viewing the eclipse with the naked eye or damaged glasses.
- Teachers may take students outside to view the eclipse during 4th period for instructional purposes.
- If teachers take students outside to view the eclipse for instructional purposes, teachers will closely monitor and direct students to wear glasses at all times. However, teachers are not required to take students to view the eclipse during class time as students will have the opportunity to view the eclipse with glasses during class and lunch changes.

- Students will be directed to wear provided glasses during class changes, dismissal, and during instructional, eclipse-related, classroom activities.
- Students will keep glasses and wear them to the bus during dismissal.
- Once on the bus, students will be directed to wear safety glasses at all times while looking at the eclipse.

Bedford County Public Schools also recognizes the eclipse will coincide with dismissal time and that there may be other times students typically go outside during the day. Because of these safety concerns, other precautionary measures will be taken to protect students:

- All teachers will be provided links to educational resources to help educate students about the eclipse and related safety risks.
- P.E. classes during the eclipse event will be held indoors.
- All students will be instructed to wear safety glasses while loading or riding the bus or cars at dismissal when directly looking at the sun.
- Bus drivers will remind the students of the safety risks.
- All families who do not want their children to participate in observing the eclipse must complete the enclosed opt-out form and **return it to the SRHS Main Office by Monday morning, August 21, 2017.**
- Any parent may check their children out of school early to observe the eclipse as a family without attendance consequences.

More information about the 2017 solar eclipse can be found on NASA's website at <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/>.

A solar eclipse is a terrific learning opportunity. Taking precautionary measures to educate our students and staff will ensure a memorable and safe experience.

Go Eagles!



Dr. Josh Cornett
Principal

**Eclipse Viewing Opt-out Form
Staunton River High School**

Our school community is providing NASA-endorsed eclipse observing glasses for all students and staff. Our plan for eclipse viewing is outlined in the attached letter. **Students will be included in these activities unless parents/guardians sign below.**

BCPS staff will provide the glasses, instruct students in their use, and supervise students when wearing them.

Student safety is our top priority. At no time should students or participants remove their eclipse glasses and look directly at the sun as it could cause permanent eye damage. There is no way to guarantee that your child will not remove their eclipse glasses so please speak with your child about the importance of keeping their eclipse glasses on at all times during this event.

Only sign and return this form to the SRHS Main Office should you not wish for your child to participate in the event.

I do not want my child _____ to go outside for eclipse viewing activities on August 21, 2017.

Parent Signature