

METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT OF STEUBEN COUNTY

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August 18, 2017

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Mrs. Nancy Irwin
Safety Specialist

Dear MSD of Steuben County Families:

On Aug. 21, 2017, the U.S. will be in the path of a total solar eclipse. For an eclipse path to touch only one country and no other, is incredibly rare. In fact, this is the country's first total solar eclipse in 38 years!

Even though the sky may appear dark, students looking up at the sky without approved solar glasses may suffer permanent eye damage. Before Monday, we ask that you speak to your child about the dangers of looking directly at the sun and the potential damage this can cause to their eyes. Looking directly at the sun is unsafe and permanent eye damage may occur. Homemade filters or ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are not safe for looking at the sun; they transmit too many of the Sun's harmful rays and cannot properly protect your eyes. **The only acceptable eyewear for viewing the eclipse is those that have been certified and comply with the ISO 12312-2 International Safety Standards.**

We are also asking that all drivers use caution on the road and at parent pickup, to avoid distracted drivers and pedestrians.

For the safety of all, students are not permitted to bring personally purchased eclipse glasses or homemade viewing devices to school for personal use on this day.

MSD of Steuben County will limit the number of outside activities during the peak eclipse time from 1:25-4:30 to minimize the risk to students. Students viewing the Eclipse with classes will use approved glasses and send home permission forms.

For more information on the Solar Eclipse, visit the NASA website at www.nasa.gov and search for "Solar Eclipse."

Thank you,

Nancy Irwin
Safety Specialist

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