

Florham Park Public Schools

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DR. STEVEN G. CAPONEGRO Superintendent of Schools steve.caponegro@fpks.org JOHN CSATLOS Business Administrator/ Board Secretary john.csatlos@fpks.org

March 22, 2024

RE: Eclipse Information (April 8th)

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On Monday, April 8th, New Jersey will experience an eclipse of the sun. A solar eclipse occurs when the moon blocks any part of the sun. This eclipse will occur in our Florham Park area beginning at approximately 2:09 p.m. and ending at approximately 4:35 p.m. A brief summary of an eclipse is found at <u>Solar Eclipse 101: National Geographic</u> (5 min).

To take advantage of this event, all of our schools are organizing a structured, supervised viewing opportunity for students along with instruction that will be taking place prior to. Safety during the eclipse viewing is paramount since looking directly at the sun for any reason is unsafe. Because the sun may not be totally covered during our eclipse experience, students will be <u>required</u> to wear special ISO certified eclipse glasses during the entire time they are outside for this event. The Florham Park Education Foundation (FPEF) has graciously donated ISO certified eclipse glasses for all of our students and staff to keep that will be distributed on April 8th. Please note that homemade filters or ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are deemed as unsafe for looking at the sun and will not be permitted.

At no time should students remove their eclipse glasses and look directly at the sun as it could cause eye damage or other unknown affects. There is no way for the school 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, as we will do the same. If you, or your child's teacher, feel that your child is unable to keep their glasses on during this time or unable to participate due to your child's specific age or needs, please communicate with each other prior to and an alternate activity will be planned. Viewing schedules will be coordinated with the staff by the school's principal.

Because of these safety concerns, other precautionary measures will be taken to protect students during this timeframe:

- Physical Education classes during the eclipse event will be held indoors
- The Brooklake Outdoor classroom will not be available for use
- School Sports Coaches will contact players regarding changes to practice schedules (indoors, etc.)

If you <u>DO NOT</u> want your child(ren) to participate in the outdoor eclipse viewing activity or do not want your child to receive an FPEF donated pair of ISO certified eclipse glasses since you will be providing your own ISO certified glasses, please email your school's secretary prior to April 8th with the subject line "Eclipse" along with your message.

This solar eclipse provides a true "teaching moment" for the Florham Park Schools and students; providing the opportunity to both learn and experience this rare natural occurrence along with instructional guidance provided by our incredible staff. Hopefully, the weather will be clear and this event will be a wonderful experience for your child(ren).

Sincerely,

Steven Caponegro

Dr. Steven Caponegro Superintendent of Schools



Ms. Bennet, Mr. Serfozo & Ms. Seubert (FPEF President)



Mr. Foster & Ms. Seubert



Dr. Cap & Ms. Seubert

