

## Solar Eclipse Guidance for Principals

On August 21, 2017, Miami-Dade County will experience a solar eclipse. A solar eclipse occurs when the moon is in the new moon phase and travels between the Earth and the Sun. As the moon moves between the Earth and the Sun, the shadow blocks all or some of the sun's light, causing the sky to be increasingly dark.

A solar eclipse can cause unusual changes to your surroundings, and it can last for several hours. The timeframe of the eclipse for Miami-Dade County is between 1:26 PM EDT to 4:20 PM EDT.

It is expected that this phenomenon will garner a great deal of interest among employees, students, parents/guardians and the community. To ensure the safety of our employees and students, please adhere to the following:

### Prior to the First Day of School

- A Connect-Ed message for parents/guardians and employees featuring safety tips will be sent by the DISTRICT. (Sample Included)
- A Solar Eclipse Ticker with resources will be posted on the [www.dadeschools.net](http://www.dadeschools.net) website.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Day of School

- Principals/Teachers may incorporate agreed upon Science curriculum activities. As outlined in Weekly Briefing #21209, guidance is provided on safe solar watch practices and instructional resources titled "The Great American Solar Eclipse."
- Solar eclipse viewing safety tips should be thoroughly reviewed and understood by anyone participating in this event. Additional information can be found at: <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/safety>.
- All other outdoor classes/activities between the hours of 1:00 and 4:30 pm, including physical education, aftercare programs, athletic/band practices, outside games, field trips and extra-curricular activities, should be moved indoors.
- Keep in mind that the safest methods of viewing the eclipse are through online streaming sites such as <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/eclipse-live-stream>. We are encouraging schools to provide students viewing opportunities online.
- Weekly briefing #21597 is attached and provides additional resource information.
- Principals will make two (2) announcements (morning and prior to dismissal) to staff and students on safety precautions regarding the solar eclipse.
- During a certain timeframe, the eclipse can cast a shadow mimicking the sense of twilight. Therefore, schools should be prepared to turn on any additional lighting, so that staff and students can move safely inside or outside the school (i.e. hall way lights, exterior lights, etc...)

## Dismissal

- Identify prior to the First Day of School a safe location for dismissal.
- Dismissal times have not changed.
- Please identify and assign additional staff to assist with dismissal.
- Distracted drivers and pedestrians are expected on this day. Please have staff be vigilant and ensure that extra safety measures are in place.
- Prepare for extra traffic congestion during dismissal.



## District Connect-Ed Message | Solar Eclipse 08-21-17

### SAMPLE DISTRICT CONNECT-ED MESSAGE DO NOT SEND OUT

**SPECIAL NOTE:** The DISTRICT will send out the following Connect-ED message to parents/guardians prior to the Opening of School.

Good evening parents. This is Miami-Dade County Public Schools calling with an important message.

On August 21, 2017, Miami-Dade County will experience a solar eclipse. This event, which can last for several hours, can cause unusual changes to your surroundings. Looking directly at the sun during a solar eclipse can cause severe damage to the eyes.

To strike a balance between ensuring student safety and leveraging this once-in-a-lifetime educational opportunity, the District will be taking the following measures:

- Dismissal times have not changed.
- All outdoor classes/activities between the hours of 1:00 and 4:30 pm including physical education, recess, aftercare programs, athletic/band practices, outdoor games, field trips and extra-curricular activities will be moved indoors. However, safe indoor and outdoor educational activities will be taking place.
- The safest way to experience the solar eclipse is online at <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/eclipse-live-stream>. We are encouraging schools to provide online viewing opportunities for students.
- We are asking you to speak with your child about the dangers of looking at the sun, especially if your child walks home from school.
- We urge you to use extreme caution when driving during dismissal times as we expect extra traffic congestion.

For additional information please view the District website for resources.

ALL PRINCIPALS/APs AND TEACHERS: The Great American Solar Eclipse Occurring on August 21, 2017

**Category:**

**Audience:** All Principals/APs

Due Date: n/a

Meeting Date: n/a

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To inform schools about the Great American Solar Eclipse that will be occurring on August 21, 2017 and how to safely participate in observing the phenomenon.

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- The Department of Science is informing schools about the Great American Solar Eclipse that will be occurring on August 21, 2017, and how to safely participate in observing the phenomenon.
  - On August 21, the moon will completely obscure the sun for observers in 12 states, from Oregon to South Carolina, in the first total solar eclipse visible from the United States mainland since 1979.
  - The rest of North America, and parts of South America, Africa and Europe, will be treated to a partial eclipse. (If the link does not work please copy this URL and paste it on the address line): <https://www.space.com/35171-great-american-solar-eclipse-coming-in-2017.html>
  - Comprehensive Science 3 and the grades 3, 4 and 5 science curricula include multiple standards that focus on the Sun, Earth, and Moon relationships and interactions.
  - Looking directly at the sun, especially during an eclipse, can damage eyesight. Therefore, schools are encouraged to practice a Safe Solar Watch through the use of the following STEAM integrated engineering design resource (If the link does not work please copy this URL and paste it on the address line): <http://www.space.com/15614-sun-observing-safety-tips-infographic.html>
  - Let us all plan to implement this STEAM activity and learn how to participate and engage in scientific inquiry through a Safe Solar Watch on the day of the eclipse, August 21, 2017, as a kick-off to the school year.

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**Contact:** Ava D. Rosales, Executive Director ( 305-995-1939 )

**Department:** Department of Mathematics and Science

ALL PRINCIPALS/APs AND TEACHERS: Weekly Briefing #21209 Follow-up: Safe Viewing of the Great American Solar Eclipse Occurring on August 21, 2017 and Related Activities

*Category: For Your Information*

**Audience:** All Principals/APs, All Teachers

Due Date: n/a

Meeting Date: n/a

**Attachment(s):** [The Great Solar Eclipse of August 21 Rev.pdf](#)

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To inform schools of the Great American Solar Eclipse that will be occurring on August 21, 2017 and how to safely participate in observing the phenomenon as a follow-up to weekly briefing #21209.

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- The Department of Science is informing schools of the safe viewing options and available activities for the Great American Solar Eclipse occurring on August 21, 2017, as a follow-up to Weekly Briefing #21209.
- Schools are reminded that **extreme caution** during the Great American Solar Eclipse is critical.
  - Even looking directly at a small part of the eclipse is too dangerous, as the normal squint response will not occur and the eye will be exposed to dangerous amounts of UV light. The cornea will focus the light and actually scorch the retina.
  - There is no pain involved with retinal damage. By the time the damage is done it is too late.
- The safest methods of viewing the eclipse are through **online streaming** at sites such as <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/eclipse-live-stream> and indirect viewing methods such as pinhole projections found at <http://solar-center.stanford.edu/observe/>.
- Solar eclipse viewing safety should be thoroughly reviewed and understood by anyone participating in this event. Additional information can be found at: <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/safety>
  - It is imperative that any eclipse glasses used to view the solar eclipse are compliant with the ISO 12312-2 safety standard.
  - Unfortunately, unscrupulous vendors can grab the ISO logo off the internet and put it on their products and packaging even if their eclipse glasses or viewers haven't been properly tested. Just seeing the ISO logo or a label claiming ISO 12312-2 certification isn't good enough. You need to know that the product comes from a reputable manufacturer or one of their authorized dealers. Certified reputable dealers can be found on the NASA safety website.
- On Aug. 21, the moon will completely obscure the sun for observers in 12 states, from Oregon to South Carolina, in the first total solar eclipse visible from the United States mainland since 1979.

- This is an exciting event that brings science instruction to life, with respect to Earth and Space Science (Earth, sun and moon relationship), Life Science (anatomy of the eye), Physical Science (light) and so much more. **Classroom activities** can be found at: <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/k-12-formal-education> .
  - The rest of North America, and parts of South America, Africa and Europe, will be treated to a partial eclipse. <http://www.space.com/35171-great-american-solar-eclipse-coming-in-2017.html>
  - The attached flyer is also available for parents, students, and teachers at <http://science.dadeschools.net>
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