

## **Positional Statement for the Solar Eclipse**

The Cortez area will experience a partial Solar Eclipse on Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. The last Solar Eclipse occurred in 1979. Montezuma-Cortez schools will be in session the entire day on a normal basis. Student safety is my top priority, and therefore our students will not be permitted to go outside the buildings during the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. for recess, lunch or to view the eclipse. M-CHS will be an exception. Students who elect to stay at the high school during the lunch hour will be allowed to use the gymnasiums during that time.

The staff will be offering learning opportunities throughout the day regarding the eclipse. Staff and/or parents may access the following link <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/eclipse-live-stream>. This will allow students an opportunity to view the eclipse in a safe manner.

I respect the cultural traditions of our families and the safety concerns of parents. If parents and/or guardians choose to keep their children home on Monday, August 21, they must call their school secretary to report the absence due to the Solar Eclipse and this absence will not count against the student's attendance record. We ask that parents partner with the district in emphasizing the safety issue of looking directly at the sun during this event.

If cultural beliefs hinder the student from eating lunch during the normal school lunch hour, parents may send a sack lunch with their student. A time to eat their sack lunch will be provided at the conclusion of the Solar Eclipse.