



School Closure

MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2017

Out of an abundance of caution, and after much thought and consideration, schools in Jackson County will be closed August 21 because of the solar eclipse. No extracurricular activities may be scheduled for this day between the hours of 10:30 AM and 3:30 PM. The safety of our students and staff is the number one priority.

WHY WAS THIS DECISION MADE:

In making this decision the following things were considered:

- Looking directly into the sun at any time can cause permanent eye damage, but this unusual occurrence will draw more curiosity and attention, therefore the potential for permanent eye damage is much higher.
- The eclipse will begin in Jackson County around 12:00 noon and last until 3:00 PM.
- The timing of the event is such that, if a regular school day is held, dismissal time would occur during the time of the eclipse, risking exposure of students.
- Early dismissal is not a good option because students would have to be dismissed by 10:00 AM at the latest to ensure buses were off the road prior to noon, when the eclipse is scheduled to begin.
- Holding students until 3:00 PM is not a good option because Hope School and Jackson Alternative transport students back to outlying schools and ordinarily dismiss around 2:00. If Hope and JAS were not dismissed until after 3:00, the outlying schools would have to hold buses and there would be students would not arrive home on the bus until close to 6:00 pm.
- Even if transportation was not an issue, the majority of our schools have 'open' campuses, with rooms that require students to walk outside to access cafeterias and even bathrooms. It is not feasible to hold students inside in one place during the hours of 12:00-3:00.
- The purchase of protective eye-wear is not feasible, as there is no way to ensure that a student would not remove the eyewear. In addition, there have been reports of eyewear being sold and labeled as safe which do not actually meet the requirements for safety from potential damage from the eclipse.

SAFETY

While we want our schools to take the opportunity to use this rare event as a learning experience, we also want to make sure we take every effort to protect our students and do what is best for them during this time. Please take caution with your children at home and be reminded that regular sunglasses are not safe to view the eclipse.

**JACKSON
COUNTY
SCHOOL
BOARD**

H. Larry Moore
Superintendent

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HELPFUL TIPS:

- * Never look directly at the sun.
- * There are no pain receptors in the retina so your retina can be damaged even before you realize.
- * Regular Sunglasses are not safe to view the eclipse.

NASA WEBSITES

- <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov>
- <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/safety>
- <http://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/eclipse-live-stream>