



Solar Eclipse Across America

Monday, August 21, 2017: The Sun... The Moon... and GCPS

Are You Ready for August 21 and the 2017 Solar Eclipse?

On August 21, 2017, all of North America will be treated to an eclipse of the sun. This means that Earth, the sun, and the moon—which all orbit in space in predictable paths—will align. The moon will move between the sun and Earth, blocking the light of the sun. Thus, the moon will cast a shadow on Earth. Here in Gwinnett, we will experience a near-total eclipse between 2:35 and 2:40 p.m. that will last approximately two minutes. This alignment of the sun, the moon, and Earth will mark the first time this phenomenon has occurred coast-to-coast in our country in nearly 100 years.

Gwinnett County Public Schools is planning to make this day a special educational event for our students by organizing a safe and engaging viewing experience. Instructional activities may include viewing the solar eclipse using solar shades, learning how to safely view it using a reflective surface, watching the eclipse via live-streaming on the web, and much more. Safety is always a top priority and we will take all precautionary measures to make this exciting experience both safe and enjoyable.

While schools plan to provide an opportunity for a safe, educational experience, we understand that some parents may not want their children to participate in a live viewing of the eclipse. ***In order for your student to participate in an outdoor viewing of the solar eclipse, please sign the following permission form and have your student return it to his or her teacher by _____.***

Students who do not return this form signed by a parent/guardian will complete an alternate activity from inside the school building during the eclipse.

We look forward to working together to make this once-in-a-lifetime event meaningful for GCPS students!

STUDENT NAME: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Gwinnett to delay dismissal by one hour on August 21

In Gwinnett, the near-total eclipse is expected to begin around 2:35 p.m. and will last approximately two minutes. While it may be tempting to brush off warnings against looking up at this eclipse bare-eyed, don't. The light of an eclipse really can damage your eyes.

In order to help ensure the safe viewing for our students and a safe dismissal of students, Gwinnett County Public Schools will delay dismissal for all schools by one hour.