

august.21.2017
ECLIPSE
Bristol Tennessee City Schools

How does BTCS celebrate an event which hasn't happened in 99 years?

We celebrate big and we celebrate together!

On August 21, 2017, the moon will pass between earth and the sun for the first coast-to-coast solar eclipse since 1918. Millions of Americans in 12 states will be able to watch this solar spectacle that will turn day into night for a brief period of time. Tennessee is among the 12 states that have been declared to be a best place to experience this rare phenomenon.

We are planning now for students to participate in the event by creating lessons and activities to make the most of the educational experience. The school system has also purchased special eclipse glasses for students and employees. The glasses are ISO 12312-2 compliant and CE certified.

While we are excited to share this learning opportunity with students, the sun and moon decided to put on the best part of the show in the midst of dismissal time for us (which also happens to be the most unsafe time to view the event without eye protection). Many options were considered regarding how we might adjust our schedule for the phenomenon, each with pros and cons. After weighing what was in the best interest of students, especially related to safety and education, we decided to extend the school day by one hour so **students can enjoy the eclipse safely, with adult supervision and then be safely dismissed.**

School will begin at the regular time and dismiss one hour later:

Vance and Tennessee High	Dismissal at 3:30 p.m.
Elementary Schools	Dismissal at 4:10 p.m.

- For safety purposes, K-3 students will remain inside for eclipse-related instruction, activities, and a live-video feed. However, K-3 students who are present on August 21, will also be given a pair of special eclipse glasses as a souvenir prior to dismissal.
- Provided their parents have signed and returned a release, 4-12 students will be given special eclipse glasses for viewing the eclipse outside. Students who have not returned a release will remain inside.

Parents may contact their child's school with questions.

Signed Release Due August 11 for Grades 4-12



To ensure parents are well-informed regarding the activities, 4-12 students must have parents sign and return the attached release in order to go outside and view the eclipse with safety glasses! Signed releases must be returned to the school by **Friday, August 11.**



Viewing the 2017 Solar Eclipse

A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon blocks any part of the Sun. On Monday, August 21, 2017, a solar eclipse will be visible (weather permitting) across all of North America. The whole continent will experience a partial eclipse lasting 2 to 3 hours. Halfway through the event, anyone within a roughly 70-mile-wide path from Oregon to South Carolina (<http://bit.ly/1xuYxSu>) will experience a brief total eclipse, when the Moon completely blocks the Sun's bright face for up to 2 minutes 40 seconds, turning day into night and making visible the otherwise hidden solar corona — the Sun's outer atmosphere — one of nature's most awesome sights. Bright stars and planets will become visible as well.



Looking directly at the Sun is unsafe except during the brief total phase of a solar eclipse (“totality”), when the Moon entirely blocks the Sun's bright face, which will happen only within the narrow path of totality (<http://bit.ly/1xuYxSu>).



The only safe way to look directly at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed Sun is through special-purpose solar filters, such as “eclipse glasses” (example shown at left) or hand-held solar viewers. Homemade filters or ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are not safe for looking at the Sun. To date five manufacturers have certified that their eclipse glasses and hand-held solar viewers meet the ISO 12312-2 international standard for such products: American Paper Optics, Baader Planetarium (AstroSolar Silver/Gold film only), Rainbow Symphony, Thousand Oaks Optical, and TSE 17.

- Always inspect your solar filter before use; if scratched or damaged, discard it. Read and follow any instructions printed on or packaged with the filter. Always supervise children using solar filters.
- Stand still and cover your eyes with your eclipse glasses or solar viewer before looking up at the bright Sun. After glancing at the Sun, turn away and remove your filter — do not remove it while looking at the Sun.
- Do not look at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed Sun through an unfiltered camera, telescope, binoculars, or other optical device. Similarly, do not look at the Sun through a camera, a telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device while using your eclipse glasses or hand-held solar viewer — the concentrated solar rays will damage the filter and enter your eye(s), causing serious injury. Seek expert advice from an astronomer before using a solar filter with a camera, a telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device.
- If you are within the path of totality (<http://bit.ly/1xuYxSu>), remove your solar filter only when the Moon completely covers the Sun's bright face and it suddenly gets quite dark. Experience totality, then, as soon as the bright Sun begins to reappear, replace your solar viewer to glance at the remaining partial phases.



An alternative method for safe viewing of the partially eclipsed Sun is pinhole projection. For example, cross the outstretched, slightly open fingers of one hand over the outstretched, slightly open fingers of the other. With your back to the Sun, look at your hands' shadow on the ground. The little spaces between your fingers will project a grid of small images on the ground, showing the Sun as a crescent during the partial phases of the eclipse.

A solar eclipse is one of nature's grandest spectacles. By following these simple rules, you can safely enjoy the view and be rewarded with memories to last a lifetime. More information:

eclipse.aas.org

eclipse2017.nasa.gov



RELEASE FOR PARTICIPATION IN SOLAR ECLIPSE ACTIVITIES

I, as parent, guardian, or legal custodian of _____, give permission for the above-named student to participate in school activities related to viewing the solar eclipse on August 21, 2017.

I have reviewed the viewing information provided by Bristol Tennessee City Schools and understand that there is risk associated with this activity if proper procedures for viewing a solar eclipse are not strictly followed. (See information provided on the back of attached document.)

Knowing the above, I release the above-named student to participate in the events and activities associated with observing the solar eclipse on August 21, 2017. I further agree to indemnify and hold Bristol Tennessee City Schools—including its board members, directors, agents, and employees—harmless as to any claims, damages, suits, and/or actions which arise from or are in any way related to the student's participation on August 21, 2017.

This release must be returned to school by August 11, 2017.

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Parent Name Printed

Student Name Printed

Date

Date