

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Focused on Teaching and Learning...

August 15, 2017

Dear Parent /Guardian(s)

Due to the solar eclipse on Monday, August 21, 2017, the Clay County School District will delay dismissal of our elementary and middle school students by 45 minutes. We will dismiss around 4:15 p.m. The peak time to experience the solar eclipse falls during our regularly scheduled school dismissal time. This event is being called "The Great American Solar Eclipse," because it is the first time since 1918 a solar eclipse will be visible on a path across the entire continental United States. Planning is already underway to ensure our students can experience this once-in-a-lifetime event. The school district has purchased eclipse-safe viewing glasses for all students and staff.

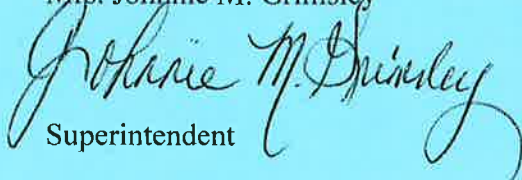
Safety is always a top priority for our district. We will start the day on time and delay dismissal to ensure that neither students nor employees are on the roadways during the time of the eclipse. Clay teachers and students will have the opportunity to experience an extremely rare and awe inspiring event- a total solar eclipse. Clay will be using this "teachable moment" to increase the science literacy of our students. We will be utilizing a variety of resource curated by NASA, and Clay County educators to provide an unforgettable learning experience for our students PK-8. We will take all precautionary measures with both students and staff to make this experience both safe and enjoyable. Homemade filters or ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are not safe for looking at the sun. Students will not be permitted to look at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed sun through unfiltered cameras, telescopes, binoculars or other optical devices, with or without glasses. (For more information regarding the safety certification of the special viewing glasses, please visit www.eclipseglasses.com/pages/safety)

Because of these safety concerns, a parent signature on the attached permission form is required by August 21 in order for students to participate using the eclipse glasses.

Students will also be dismissed 45 minutes early (2:45 P.M.) on Friday August 25, 2017 .

Sincerely,

Mrs. Johnnie M. Grimsley



Superintendent

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

CONSENT AND RELEASE

My child, _____ ("Student") desires to participate in activities related to the viewing of the solar eclipse on August 21, 2017.

I am aware of the risks inherent in viewing a total solar eclipse and are specifically aware of the damage that may occur to the retina and of the risks of any travel to and from the viewing site. Specifically, I am aware of the following information from NASA:

Solar retinopathy is a result of too much ultraviolet light flooding the retina. In extreme cases this can cause blindness, but is so painful that it is rare for someone to be able to stare at the sun for that long. Typically, eye damage from staring at the sun results in blurred vision, dark or yellow spots, pain in bright light or loss of vision in the center of the eye (the fovea). Permanent damage to the retina has been shown to occur in ~100 seconds, but the exact time before damage occurs will vary with the intensity of the sun on a particular day and with how much the viewer's pupil is dilated from decongestants and other drugs they may be taking. Even when 99% of the Sun's surface (the photosphere) is obscured during the partial phases of a solar eclipse, the remaining crescent Sun is still intense enough to cause a retinal burn. Note, there are no pain receptors in the retina so your retina can be damaged even before you realize it, and by then it is too late to save your vision! <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/faq>

In full awareness of these risks, I hereby request that Student be allowed to participate in viewing the total solar eclipse and give my consent for Student to do so. I am also aware that Student will not be allowed to participate in this activity without any protecting eye wear.

In consideration of the District's allowing Student to participate in viewing the total solar eclipse, the undersigneds (Student and parents) accept responsibility for any loss, damage, or injury to the Student that occurs during or in connection with the participation in viewing the total solar eclipse and release and agree to indemnify and hold the District, its Board of Education, the members of the Board of Education, and the employees and agents of the District harmless from any injury or damages which may be caused to Student or others in connection with Student's participation in viewing the solar eclipse on August 21, 2017.

_____ Student	_____ Date
_____ Parent	_____ Date
_____ Parent	_____ Date

CLAY COUNTY ELEMENTARY

GRADE _____