

Safety Advisory for Parents

In the afternoon of Monday, August 21, 2017 Pinellas County will experience a partial solar eclipse. A partial solar eclipse is when the moon transverses in between the Earth and the sun. The partial solar eclipse will begin at 1:17 p.m. and last until 4:13 p.m. with a maximum coverage being reached at 2:49 p.m.

Observing the sun can be dangerous to the eyes if proper precautions are not taken.

To minimize the likelihood that students will look directly at the sun and risk damaging their eyes we are asking that before Monday, August 21, 2017: **ALL PARENTS speak to their children about the eclipse, the dangers of looking directly at the sun, and the potential damage this can cause to their eyes.** In the interest of safety, Pinellas County Schools is highly recommending that students, faculty, and staff view the eclipse virtually through a live broadcasted feed provided by NASA.

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

We are also asking parents to use an abundance of caution while driving during the time of the eclipse, and to be especially careful in the parent pickup area at school to avoid distracted drivers, students and pedestrians. Regular dismissal will not be affected.

Here is a link to a Scientific American informational article "Science Says Why We Can't Look at the Sun" by Rachael Rettner (Copyright 2017 *Live Science*) on the risks when looking directly at the sun.

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/science-says-why-we-cant-look-at-the-sun/>.

Thank you for your support. If you have questions, please contact your child's school.