



# Urbana City Schools

*Dedicated to Excellence*

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[www.UrbanaCitySchools.org](http://www.UrbanaCitySchools.org)

*Charles Thiel*  
*Superintendent*

*Mandy Hildebrand*  
*Treasurer*

February 28, 2024

Dear Urbana School Families,

As you may already know, we are in the path of a TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE, to take place on Monday, April 8th, 2024. The eclipse event is scheduled to last for several hours from approximately 1:50 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., with the total eclipse lasting for just over three minutes at 3:10 p.m.

This once in a lifetime phenomenon is exciting for all of us and is a great learning opportunity for our teachers, students, and community. Through national websites and safety information from various state and local agencies, our teachers will introduce the eclipse through math, science, geography and language arts leading up to April 8th.

Though we will introduce the eclipse to students in various ways leading up to the event, we will **NOT** be in school that day due to traffic concerns from the potential influx of visitors coming to Champaign County to view the eclipse. We ask you, as caregivers and parents, to make sure your children follow the appropriate vision safety procedures if you should choose to view the eclipse as a family. No one, eclipse or not, should look directly into the sun without specialized eye protection – the effects can cause permanent loss of vision. Sunglasses are not proper eye protection. Students should be advised to listen carefully to their caregivers when viewing the eclipse and instructed on how to use the proper eye protection.

The District will be providing each student with an approved pair of solar eclipse glasses to use, should you as a family choose to view the eclipse. The glasses are planned for distribution around March 15th. As the students will not be in under our supervision on April 8th, we cannot be responsible for the safe use of solar eclipse glasses and ask that you decide what will be best for your children that day. Other community agencies, such as local libraries, may also have eclipse eye protection for families if necessary.

For more information, please refer to the links below to access various fact sheets, resources, and frequently asked questions.

<https://ema.ohio.gov/media-publications/ohio-total-solar-eclipse/splash-page>

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/Science/Resources-for-Science/2024-Solar-Eclipse#Resources%20for%20Administrators%20and%20Educators>

We appreciate your support and we hope this once in a lifetime experience is one that our families and community can safely enjoy.

Sincerely,

Charles Thiel, Superintendent

Board of Education: – Taylor Armstrong – Jim Arter – Amy Paul – Darrell Thomas – Tyler Wolf

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER