



Louisville City School District

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February 20, 2024

Dear Louisville Families,

On April 8th, we will experience a full solar eclipse in Ohio for the first time since 1806. The teacher in me wants to make an educational experience for our students on this date; however, there are safety factors that have led me to make the decision to close school. Given the hardship that closing school causes our families, I wanted to take a moment to share with you some of the factors that led to this decision.

- Full solar eclipses are rare and draw many spectators. Ohio's last full eclipse was in 1806, and we will not have another until 2444. In fact, the next full eclipse that will be seen in North America will not be until 2044.
- The eclipse will start around 2:00 p.m. and last until around 4:00 p.m. This timeframe is when our students would normally be leaving, driving/riding home, going to athletic practices, etc.
- The Stark County Emergency Management Agency has advised that we should expect Stark County's population to **DOUBLE** on April 8 as people from neighboring states come to view the eclipse. As of today, most Stark Hotels are at or near capacity (Think of the traffic experienced during a major concert or event).
- From past eclipses in neighboring states, emergency management leaders advise that they saw extreme heavy demand for gasoline, hotels, campsites, restaurants, parks, and severe traffic jams. There were reports of heavy stress to cellular phone and internet service, first responder services, and infrastructure.

For these reasons, after consultation with the Stark County Emergency Management Agency, I have determined that it is in the best interests of our students, staff, and families to close school. This will keep our buses, student drivers, families, and staff off the roads during the eclipse.

Thank you,

Michele Shaffer

Michele Shaffer
Superintendent