



March 27, 2024

Subject: Solar Eclipse_April 8, 2024

Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you well. As you may already know, an extraordinary event is soon to grace our skies - a solar eclipse! This rare and exciting astronomical event presents an opportunity for students to learn about science, space, and the wonders of the natural world. Pennsylvania will once again be in the direct line of a total solar eclipse. The last time Pennsylvania was in direct line with a total eclipse was 1806.

On April 8, 2024, the moon will align perfectly between the Earth and the sun, casting a shadow upon our planet. The next total solar eclipse that can be seen from the United States will occur in 2044. The solar eclipse is an exciting phenomenon where the moon passes between the Earth and the Sun, partially or completely obscuring the Sun's light. The Lehigh Valley will be in the 90-92% magnitude range, with the event beginning at approximately 2:08 p.m., including a peak at 3:23 p.m. and concluding at 4:35 p.m.

Safety is paramount during a solar eclipse, so be sure to equip your family with proper eye protection. Eclipse glasses are essential to safeguard our eyes from the sun's harmful rays. During the entire eclipse, it is recommended not to look directly at the sun without protective eyewear to prevent permanent eye damage.

We understand the excitement surrounding the solar eclipse and want to provide our families with resources and information. We encourage families to discuss the solar eclipse with their children at home. By working together and following these precautions, we can ensure that all

students have a safe and enriching experience during this remarkable event. Below, we have included various resources:

LVHN - How to Safely View the Solar Eclipse:

<https://www.lvhn.org/news/how-safely-view-solar-eclipse>

American Astronomical Society - Solar Eclipse Resources:

<https://eclipse.aas.org/resources/education-outreach>

Solar Eclipse Day Teaching Resources:

<https://sites.google.com/rps30.k12.ar.us/rpsscience/instructional-resources>

NASA 2024 Solar Eclipse: <https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/> and <https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/safety/>

NASA Goddard - Different Ways to Safely View a Solar Eclipse:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S3wKzsbCw8M>

PA Dept of Natural Resources: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Pages/2024-Total-Solar-Eclipse.aspx>

PA Dept of Education Resources:

<https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/SolarEclipse/Pages/default.aspx>

The Shapiro administration released other information geared towards visitors:

<https://www.paturnpike.com/news/details/2024/03/15/shapiro-administration-shares-resources-for-visitors-motorists-ahead-of-april-8-solar-eclipse>

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your cooperation and support.