



# Rankin County School District

TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

BRANDON FLORENCE McLAURIN NORTHWEST PELAHATCHIE PISGAH PUCKETT RICHLAND

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April 2, 2024

Dear Parents,

As you know, there will be a total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, 2024. Mississippi will be able to view a partial eclipse starting at 12:32 PM, will be at its maximum at 1:52 p.m., and will conclude at 3:11 p.m. While this is a great educational opportunity, the safety of our students is our first concern. The eclipse must only be viewed with proper eye protection to avoid any eye damage. Regular or prescription sunglasses are **NOT** approved eye protection.

With the safety of our students in mind, we will follow the procedures described below:

- Students in Pre-K, K-1 will remain indoors from 12:00 - Dismissal. All activities will be conducted indoors during this time.
- Students in grades 2-12 may be offered the educational opportunity to view the eclipse from outside with teacher supervision using proper eye protection that meets the ISO 12312-2 international standard/protection level. (See the “How to Safely View the April 8, 2024, Total Solar Eclipse” document.) In order for a student to participate in outside viewing of the eclipse, parents must return the signed permission slip provided by the school. Only students with parental approval as indicated on the signed permission slip will be allowed to participate in outside viewing.

All school sponsored in school and afterschool activities between 12:00 PM and 3:15 PM must take place indoors, unless it is for educational eclipse lessons. Participants must follow safety procedures and wear appropriate eye protection during these lessons. Class changes, dismissals and other similar procedures will take place - but students will be reminded not to look at the sun, as it can cause permanent damage.

***Parents, it is vital that you remind your children of all necessary precautions related to the solar eclipse that must be taken to prevent eye damage. “DON’T LOOK UP” is our motto of the day.***

Sincerely,

Scott Rimes, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Education  
Rankin County School District

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**Dr. Scott Rimes**  
*Superintendent of Education*