



MUNCY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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March 28, 2024

Dear Muncy Family,

A friendly reminder that a solar eclipse will be occurring toward the end of our school day and during our dismissal on Monday, April 8th.

Please work with us to educate our students that for our area it is not safe to look directly at any phase of the eclipse without proper eye protection.

The approximate timing for all the different phases of the solar eclipse for Muncy will be between 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. A more specific timeline released by [the Pennsylvania Department of Education](#) is listed below for your review.

- 2:00 PM: The eclipse phase sequence will begin around 2:00 p.m. (EST). The Moon's orbit begins to travel in between the Sun and Earth, appearing as a dark shadow increasingly moving into the bright sphere of the sun.
- 3:00 PM: When the Moon is covering most of the Sun, watch for the ambient light to change and grow dimmer. The change will become more pronounced in the last 15 minutes before totality. The light may look eerie or strange. Even if it's cloudy and you can't see the Sun, the skies will still grow darker.
- 3:15 PM – 3:20 PM: Within the path of totality, the total eclipse phase as the Moon completely covers the Sun's surface. The sky will darken much like dawn or dusk for the short duration of the total eclipse.
- 3:20 PM – 4:30 PM: The phases of the solar eclipse will be played out in reverse.
- 4:30 PM: The visible eclipse effects will conclude around 4:30 p.m. in Pennsylvania.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) released [safety guidelines](#) for eye safety during a solar eclipse. A few of their safety guidelines are listed below for your review.

- It is not safe to look directly at the Sun without specialized eye protection for solar viewing.
- When watching the solar eclipse, you must look through safe solar viewing glasses (“eclipse glasses”) or a safe handheld solar viewer at all times.

- Eclipse glasses are NOT regular sunglasses; regular sunglasses, no matter how dark, are not safe for viewing the Sun. [Safe solar viewers](#) are thousands of times darker and ought to comply with the [ISO 12312-2](#) international standard.
- Do NOT look at the Sun through a camera lens, telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device while wearing eclipse glasses or using a handheld solar viewer — the concentrated solar rays will burn through the filter and cause serious eye injury.
- Viewing any part of the bright Sun through a camera lens, binoculars, or a telescope without a special-purpose solar filter secured over the front of the optics will instantly cause severe eye injury. The solar filters do the same job as the eclipse glasses to protect your eyes. Seek expert advice from an astronomer before using a solar filter with a camera, telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device. Note that solar filters must be attached to the front of any telescope, binoculars, camera lens, or other optics.

The American Automobile Association (AAA) also released tips for safe driving during the solar eclipse.

- Keep your eyes on the road.
- Keep headlights on
- Put the sun visor down to block your view of the sun.
- Do not wear eclipse glasses while driving.
- Do not try to photograph or video the eclipse while driving.
- Do not pull over to the side of the road, highway, or interstate to view the eclipse.
- Exit the roadway and park in a safe area away from traffic to view the eclipse.
- Be mindful of pedestrians that may be walking around with their eyes on the sky.

A link to [NASA's Live Stream Link](#) may be used to track the different stages of the eclipse.

A link to an Arkansas Children's Hospital podcast called [Solar Eclipse 2024: Expert Guide to Eclipse Safety for Kids](#) may be used to review why eye safety matters during the eclipse.

A link to video by [NASA Goddard](#) may be used to review the different ways to safely view a solar eclipse. Please note the part of this video that states “the only time you can look at a total solar eclipse without eye protection is during the brief period of totality when the moon completely covers the sun” does not apply to our area as we will not experience 100% totality.

As stated earlier, please work with us to educate our students that for our area it is not safe to look directly at any phase of the eclipse without proper eye protection.

As always, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Stay Safe! Stay Healthy! Stay Strong!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Craig R. Skaluba". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Dr. Craig R. Skaluba
Superintendent