**DC Public Schools Solar Eclipse Viewing**

Dear DCPS Parent,

The first day of school this year comes with a unique learning opportunity for our students. On Monday, August 21, 2017, a solar eclipse will be visible across all of North America. This event is being called “The Great American Eclipse,” because it is the first time since 1918 that a solar eclipse will be visible on a path across the entire continental United States. What an exciting way to start the school year!

*A solar eclipse is a type of eclipse that occurs when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, and fully or partially blocks ("occults") the Sun. You can find more information at www.greatamericaneclipse.com*

Although there are some parts of the United States where a total eclipse will be visible, only a partial eclipse will be visible in our area. During a partial eclipse, the Moon comes between the Sun and Earth, but the Moon only partially covers the Sun’s disk. This will occur at approximately 2:42 pm. It is at this time that permitted students at our school will gather to view the eclipse. The partial eclipse will last a maximum of 2 minutes and 40 seconds.

We want to ensure all students have the opportunity to participate in this event in a safe manner. Students will be permitted to view the eclipse in a supervised setting in a short time frame with specially designed solar filter glasses. The sunglasses are made especially for viewing a solar eclipse and meet all applicable safety requirements. At no time should students or participants remove their eclipse glasses and look directly at the sun as it could cause permanent eye damage or other unknown affects. Although there is no way to fully guarantee student safety during such a rare event, DCPS will take all precautionary measures with students to make this experience both safe and enjoyable. Homemade filters or ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are not safe for looking at the sun. Students will not be permitted to look at the eclipsed or partially eclipsed sun through unfiltered cameras, telescopes, binoculars or other optical devices, with or without glasses. Students who normally wear eyeglasses will need to wear the eclipse glasses over their normal eyewear. For more information regarding the safety procedures for viewing the eclipse, please visit [www.eclipseglasses.com/pages/safety](http://www.eclipseglasses.com/pages/safety) and <https://www.nasa.gov/content/eye-safety-during-a-total-solar-eclipse>.

Any parent who does not wish for their student to participate in this event must complete and return the attached opt-out form to their school by the beginning of school on August 21. Students whose parents choose to opt out their child will not be able to participate in the solar eclipse viewing.

Should you have any questions, please contact your child’s school.

Best,

xxxxx signature xxxxx

**Solar Eclipse Opt-Out**

If you do not wish your child to participate in the DCPS solar eclipse viewing on August 21, 2017, please complete this form and return it to your child’s school by the beginning of school on August 21. If this opt-out form is not returned by this date, your child will be included in the group of students participating in the eclipse viewing.

I have read the DCPS Solar Eclipse Viewing letter and DO NOT give my child, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, permission to view the solar eclipse on August 21, 2017.

Note: If you do not give your child permission to view the eclipse, he/she will remain in the building during this time.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

School: ­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Grade: ­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_