



SAHUARITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #30

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

August 18, 2017

Dear Families:

A solar eclipse is a significant event. It provides an interesting educational opportunity to learn about our solar system. However, viewing it must be approached with intentionality, as it also presents some level of risk. As you are likely aware, there is a solar eclipse that will occur in the morning of August 21, 2017.

In the interest of safety and communication, I wish to present a summary of the SUSD#30 approach to creating clarity in regards to this topic:

- All members of the principal leadership team were briefed with basic information in regards to this special event. This included sharing factual information presented by NASA.
- Principals were asked to communicate this information with faculty and staff.
- The primary focus is to raise understanding and awareness, in support of appropriate decision making and supervision.
- This responsibility and trust rests with the individual school and classroom teacher. For example, an individual classroom teacher may choose merely to keep students indoors during that time frame. That is one reasonable option. Another teacher may choose to use the event to teach an educational lesson. If a particular teacher chooses to teach a congruent objective related to the eclipse, then he/she will plan, supervise, and manage the activity appropriately.
- Any lesson will be planned, and will have appropriate precautions, as needed. For example, one way to view the event is through a pin-hole type paper or cardboard apparatus. Or, the class may choose to view the event in class through the multiple media video streams of the event.
- If a class chooses to actively view the eclipse live as part of a lesson, the teacher will be responsible for ensuring that the appropriate standard of viewing glasses is purchased, verified, and used, and that the activity is appropriately supervised and managed.
- Given some reports about substandard glasses on the market, and in support of quality control and minimizing risk, teachers will not allow items brought from home to be used.

In summary, our schools have been provided with guidance, information, and support in regards to effectively managing the eclipse in a safe and reasonable manner. There is some latitude, and principals and teachers have professional discretion in these decisions. However, the common standard is, as always, a relentless commitment to student safety in all decisions and actions.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Manuel O. Valenzuela, Ed.D.  
Superintendent