



Greetings MLE Families,

When we return from Spring Break, a unique educational opportunity is presented to our students as a solar eclipse is set to take place on April 8. Our staff is in the process of planning activities that relate to this event as the last time this happened was over a decade ago.

We have already purchased special "eclipse glasses" for all students, ISO 12312-2 certified. Our plan for the day includes having class viewing opportunities led by teachers between 2:00 pm and 3:30 pm. We will talk to students about safe viewing and emphasize the importance of keeping glasses on at all times when looking directly at the sun. If you would like to opt your child out of the afternoon viewing experience, please contact your child's teacher. The following is a timeline of this event in our local area.

#### **Eclipse Timeline in West Michigan:**

- 1:55 pm - First Contact - the partial eclipse begins when the edge of the Moon touches the edge of the sun.
- 2:17 pm - 20% Coverage - about one-fifth of the Sun's disk is covered by the Moon.
- 2:25 pm - Temperature Changes - the amount of solar energy decreases so temperatures may begin to cool slightly.
- 2:40 pm - Sky Darkens - as the eclipse progresses, the sky begins to darken.
- 2:48 pm - Weather Changes - conditions continue to change.
- 2:55 pm - Colors Fade - surroundings start to darken; colors turn grayish.
- 3:04 pm - Nature Reacts - animal and plant behavior affected.
- **3:11 pm - Maximum Eclipse**
- 3:17 pm - Nature Returns - animals and plants are returning to normal.
- 3:30 pm - 20% Coverage - about one-fifth of the Sun's disk is covered by the moon.
- 3:34 pm - Sky Brightens - the sky and surroundings returning to normal.
- 4:24 pm - Last Contact - the partial eclipse ends when the moon's edge leaves the sun's edge.

This is a unique opportunity, and we are looking forward to helping our students enjoy this learning experience.

Molly Burnett  
 Principal