



Permission Slip

On Monday August 21st, 2017 we will experience a total solar eclipse, an event that hasn't occurred over the U.S. mainland since 1979. A total solar eclipse, which is when the moon completely covers the sun, will occur across 14 states in the continental U.S. along a 70-mile-wide swath of the country. While Bath County is not located in this area, we will still be able to view the partial solar eclipse.

This event will be an extraordinary educational opportunity for our students. All of our schools (with your permission) will have special activities or lessons planned for this day to accompany the event both indoors and outdoors. While this event is extremely exciting for our students, we must also acknowledge the importance of proper eye safety. While it should be common sense not to stare directly at the sun with your naked eyes, this advice will be even more important during this event. The eclipse must be viewed only through proper eclipse glasses. Schools with planned viewing activities will require students to wear proper solar eclipse glasses.

Be aware of harmful solar exposure. If you stare at the sun without protection, you may experience damage to your retina (the tissue at the back of your eye) called "solar retinopathy." This damage can occur without any sensation of pain, since the retina does not have pain receptors. The injury can be temporary or permanent. Visit your local doctor of optometry immediately if an accident occurs.

As always, student safety is our top concern. Looking directly at the sun is unsafe. The only safe way to look at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed sun is through special-purpose solar filters, such as "eclipse glasses". Per NASA, homemade filters or ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are not safe for looking at the sun. The District has purchased and will provide all students and staff who attend the outdoor activities eclipse glasses to wear during this event. Although there is no way to fully guarantee student safety during such a rare event, we will take precautionary measures including pre-education to make sure students are aware of the risks involved in directly looking at the sun. **At no time should students or other participants remove their eclipse glasses and look directly at the sun as it could cause permanent eye damage or other unknown effects. There is no way for the school to guarantee that your child will not remove their eclipse glasses, so please speak with your child about the importance of keeping their eclipse glasses on at all times during this event.**

** If you want your child to participate in outdoor viewing activities planned on August 21, 2017 for the eclipse, please review, sign and return this form as soon as possible. If you do not wish for your child to be outside during this event or if you do not return this form, alternative activities will be held inside during this time. **By signing this permission slip, you are acknowledging that you are aware of the risks associated with this event, are freely assuming those risks, and waive the right to pursue any and all claims against the District, its agents, employees, Board of Education members, insurers, and others acting on the District's behalf, of and from any and all claims, demands, causes of action and/or legal liabilities for eye injury or other damage occurring during, or resulting from the Solar Eclipse Viewing.**

Consent and Release

Student Name: _____ School: _____ Grade: _____

_____ I give consent for my student to participate in outdoor Solar Eclipse activities on August 21, 2017.

_____ I give consent for my student to participate in **indoor Solar Eclipse activities only. No outdoor viewing activities on August 21, 2017**

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature