

Dear Parent or Guardian of Hyannis Area Schools Student(s):

Monday, August 21, 2017 a total solar eclipse will be visible throughout North America. The village of Hyannis is in the path of totality. Totality will last approximately 2 minutes and 30 seconds in Hyannis, The total time of the event will be around 3 hours. The eclipse falls on a school day, the students of Hyannis Area Schools will be able to view the eclipse as a "lifetime educational opportunity. **HOWEVER THE HYANNIS BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION WILL REVIEW THE SITUATION ON SUNDAY NIGHT AND MAKE A DECISION BASED ON THE SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS, IF SCHOOL IS NOT IN SESSION ON MONDAY YOU WILL RECIEVE A PHONE CALL SUNDAY NIGHT.**

Viewing an eclipse can present some risks. According to NASA, looking directly into the Sun, except during the brief total phase of the eclipse is unsafe and can result in temporary or permanent eye damage. NASA advises that the only safe way to look at the unclapsed or partially eclipsed Sun is through special-purpose solar filters, such as "eclipse glasses." Ordinary sunglasses are not safe for this purpose. Please click on the link for NASA's guidance titled [How to View the 2017 Solar Eclipse Safely](#). We encourage you to read NASA's guidance and explain it to your children.

Hyannis Area Schools will have approved eclipse glasses for each student and staff member and School staff will use their best effort to make sure all students wear the eclipse glasses while viewing eclipse in its partial stages. Please help us with this effort by explaining to your child the importance of keeping their School provided eclipse glasses on while viewing the eclipse in its partial stages.

Parents and guardians are ultimately responsible for their children and should decide whether their children should view the solar eclipse. Since neither you I can guarantee your child will not remove their glasses, which can result in eve damage, we are asking your assistance. If you **DO NOT** want your children to view the solar eclipse at School then you **SHOULD NOT** send them to school on August 21, 2017. If you want your child to be a part of this experience, please sign and return the consent form to the School office. Consent forms are being sent home with your child to be returned tomorrow(Friday).

Thank you for your cooperation and patience in dealing with this once in a lifetime event.

Sincerely

Bruce A. Parish