

Cedar Cliff Local Schools



February 6, 2024

Cedar Cliff Families,

On Monday, April 8, 2024 our region of Ohio will experience a total solar eclipse, a once in a lifetime natural phenomenon that last happened in Ohio in 1806 and won't happen again until 2099! Unlike partial solar eclipses, which occur more frequently, total solar eclipses are exceptionally rare. For those within the 124-mile wide band of totality pictured on the map, the moon will completely block our view of the sun, resulting in near total darkness for approximately five minutes, and affording a rare glimpse of the sun's outer atmosphere - the corona - which is typically obscured by the sun's radiance.

While this unique event is certainly exciting, its timing does present potential challenges for schools. The eclipse will occur shortly after 3:00 PM during our regular dismissal time. This means it will be dark as students leave and many will be distracted by what is happening, making for an unsafe situation for student-drivers, buses, parent pickups, and walkers.

Beyond these factors, the Greene County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) has recommended that schools consider closing on this day due to public safety concerns. Because a large portion of Greene County is within the path of totality, the EMA anticipates severe traffic congestion, with potentially 4x - 5x the typical traffic volume on the roads as out-of-area visitors flood the county to view the eclipse. This will potentially limit the ability of first responders to efficiently manage emergency situations. More critically for schools, this creates the potential for students to be stuck in traffic on the bus for extended periods of time.



Because student safety will always be our top priority, the Cedar Cliff Local School District will be **closed on Monday, April 8, 2024 and all events - including practices - canceled on this date.** The district will send home instructions for safely viewing the total solar eclipse and specially designed eclipse glasses for every student to experience this once in a lifetime event with his or her family. Eclipse glasses are being purchased and provided courtesy of Second Act and the Cedar Cliff Ministerial Association. Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Brian Masser
Superintendent