



## GREENWICH TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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March 18, 2024

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Gibbstown Community Members:

On April 8, 2024, there will be a total solar eclipse. During this event, the Moon will move directly between the Sun and Earth, completely obscuring the Sun. Our region will experience a partial solar eclipse. As exciting as this event is, however, it is unsafe to view it without proper protection as viewing it can cause eye damage or even blindness.

The National Science Foundation has stated that during an eclipse, “looking directly at the Sun is unsafe except during the brief total phase called totality.” Before and after this phase, the only safe way to view the event is through special-purpose solar filters or hand-held solar viewers. “Homemade filters or ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are not safe for looking at the Sun.”

We have included information on how to view the solar eclipse safely on our website and within the broadcast. You can find more information regarding this issue on the National Science Foundation’s website.

The anticipated viewing window will be from approximately 2:00pm until 4:30pm and occurs as our schools are dismissing students for the day. We will provide age and grade appropriate instruction to students about the solar eclipse and we encourage all parents to reinforce the importance of safety precautions for viewing. Should any parent have concern about their child traveling home, either as a walker or rider, as a result of the solar eclipse, please reach out to your school building and make arrangements to pick up your child.

Please reach out to your building principal should you have any further questions or concerns regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Foley".

Dr. Jennifer Foley



# SOLAR ECLIPSE:

## How to View Safely



Solar eclipse glasses must meet an international standard known as ISO 12312-2

- Looking directly at the sun without eye protection can cause serious eye damage or blindness. Safely view an eclipse through special solar eclipse glasses, a special-purpose solar filter or a pinhole projection.
- Eclipse glasses are **NOT** regular sunglasses! Regular sunglasses, no matter how dark, are not safe for viewing the sun.
- **Always** inspect your solar glasses or filter before use. Discard if scratched, punctured, torn or otherwise damaged. Read and follow any instructions printed on or packaged with your eye protection.
- Before looking at the eclipse, cover your eyes with eclipse glasses or solar viewer. After glancing at the sun, turn away and remove your eye protection — do not remove it while looking at the sun.
- Viewing any part of the sun through a camera lens, binoculars or a telescope without a special-purpose solar filter secured over the front of the optics will instantly cause severe eye injury.
- Do **NOT** look at the sun through an unfiltered camera, telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device while using your eclipse glasses or handheld solar viewer in front of your eyes — the concentrated solar rays could damage the filter and cause serious injury.
- **Always** supervise children using solar filters or eclipse glasses. For more information on eclipse and eye safety, visit <https://eclipse.aas.org/safety>.



Except during the total phase of a total solar eclipse, the sun is dangerously bright. At all times during an annular or partial solar eclipse, or when no eclipse is occurring at all, view the sun only through special-purpose solar filters that comply with the **international standard known as ISO 12312-2**.