

# Eastport-South Manor Central School District

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

On April 8, 2024, Long Island will witness a rare celestial event – a total solar eclipse! This incredible phenomenon occurs when the moon completely covers the sun, creating a breathtaking display.

Reports indicate that the eclipse will begin in our area at approximately 2:12 pm and reach its peak around 3:27 pm, with an impressive 88% coverage of the sun. The entire eclipse will conclude by 4:35 pm.

In preparation for this exciting event on Monday, all students in grades K-12 will be participating in special science lesson plans which are specifically designed to teach them about a solar eclipse. This engaging curriculum will explore the science behind the eclipse, its historical significance, and safe viewing practices.

We understand that this celestial event presents a unique opportunity for students and families to witness a breathtaking natural phenomenon and learn about the wonders of our universe. For families who wish to experience the eclipse together, we are offering the option for you to pick up your children early from school on April 8th beginning at 1:30 pm. Any time missed from school that day due to early dismissal for the eclipse will be considered an excused absence. Please be sure to follow our standard early dismissal procedures if you choose to do this.

To learn more about the eclipse, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has a wealth of information available online. The NASA Eclipse Website can be accessed here:

<https://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

We hope all students and families in the Eastport-South Manor community will enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime event! It's important to remember that looking directly at the sun, even during an eclipse, can cause serious eye damage. Since the peak of the eclipse is expected to occur around our regular dismissal time and while students may be on the bus, we kindly ask for your assistance in reminding your children not to look directly at the sun. We will also be reinforcing this message with all students throughout our planned science lessons.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph A. Steimel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "S".

Joseph A. Steimel  
Superintendent of Schools