

# SOMERSET INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS — EST. 1888 —

305 COLLEGE ST • SOMERSET, KY 42501 • PHONE 606-679-4451 • FAX 606-678-0864

Dear Parents,

**There will not be school in Somerset Independent School District Monday August 21, 2017.** If you choose to take the opportunity to view the solar eclipse with your child, please observe the following safety tips from the Kentucky Department of Education.

- **Tips for Safely Viewing the Aug. 21 Solar Eclipse from Kentucky Department of Education**

A solar eclipse will be visible across Kentucky and throughout all of North America on Aug. 21. The moon will pass between the sun and earth and block all or part of the sun for up to about three hours.

A total solar eclipse – the first seen in Kentucky since 1869 – will be visible in parts of 25 counties in western and south-central Kentucky. All of Kentucky will see at least 90 percent of the sun obscured by the moon.

Within the path of totality, a band about 70 miles wide stretching from Oregon to South Carolina, the moon will completely cover the sun for less than three minutes and the sun's atmosphere – the corona – can be seen. The sky will grow dark (except for a glow of orange around the horizon) and stars and up to four planets will be visible. The temperature may drop 10 or more degrees, and animals will behave as if night has arrived. Outside the path of totality, the moon will cover most of the sun. It will appear as if the moon has taken a bite out of the sun, and the light will be similar to that seen at dusk.

**It is NEVER safe to look directly at the sun without appropriate protection.** You could severely injure your eyes or even go blind. However, there are ways to safely view an eclipse directly:

- Anyone planning to view the solar eclipse should get a pair of eclipse viewing glasses, which make it possible for observers to look directly at the sun during a partial eclipse. Glasses should be obtained and should be compliant with the ISO 12312-2 international safety standard and should be obtained from reputable vendors approved by NASA and the American Astronomical Society.
- If you normally wear eyeglasses, eclipse glasses should be worn over your glasses.
- Regular sunglasses – no matter how dark – and homemade filters do not provide sufficient protection.
- Do not look at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed sun through an unfiltered camera, telescope, binoculars or other optical device.
- Do not put on or remove eclipse glasses while looking at the sun. Turn your head first.

**Kyle B. Lively**  
Superintendent

**Elaine A. Wilson**  
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Vice Chair

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Member

**Jacob W. Grabeel II**  
Member

**Scott P. Gulock**  
Member

Take every precaution necessary. You can safely view the eclipse, but it is critical to protect your eyes and the eyes of those for whom you have direct responsibility from the sun.

You can also view the partial eclipse indirectly through pinhole projection in which sunlight passes through a small opening (such as a hole in an index card or even the space between your fingers with one hand laid over the other), through a solar viewing projector or through a sun funnel attached to a telescope.

Visit this page on NASA's website (<https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/safety>) for more information on safely viewing the eclipse. In addition, visit these pages for information on the eclipse itself:

- Information from the American Astronomical Society
- A Google map that can pinpoint the times and duration of the eclipse at any point (zoom in and click on a location)
- Tips on preparing for the eclipse in Kentucky from Lt. Gov. Jenean Hampton (video)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. B. Lively', written in a cursive style.

Kyle B. Lively  
Superintendent of Somerset Independent Schools