



Dear Romeo Families:

On Monday, April 8, millions across North America will witness a rare total solar eclipse. Did you know the last total solar eclipse visible in Michigan was in 1954? The next opportunity to view a solar eclipse won't be until August 2044.

Michigan's eclipse coverage will range from 75% in the northwest Upper Peninsula to a small area in the southeast Lower Peninsula experiencing totality (100%). If you would like to learn more about where and when the 2024 Total Eclipse will take place, [here is a link to NASA's Eclipse Explorer](#). You can also follow the event live on April 8 on [NASA's official broadcast](#).

While this is an exciting scientific occurrence we know adults and children alike will want to experience, it is critical to keep safety in mind. Looking directly into a solar eclipse for any amount of time can be damaging to the human eye, so preparing for eye safety is top priority. [Here are some helpful tips from NASA](#). Additional tips for safe eclipse viewing are provided on the next page.

Here in Romeo, the eclipse will start at 1:59 p.m., peak at 3:14 p.m. (with maximum coverage at 98.2%), and end at 4:25 p.m. The impact on school levels will vary due to our different dismissal times.

- At the high school, dismissal is before the eclipse and all outside practices/games are scheduled at 5:00 p.m. or later, so this will not have an impact on the high school.
- At the middle school, we will be providing solar eclipse viewing glasses to all students and staff. Additionally, outdoor athletic practices have been canceled for the afternoon.
- At the elementary schools, students will be provided with solar eclipse viewing glasses. They will go outside for eclipse viewing as a building between 3:00-3:20 p.m. This will take the place of afternoon recess. The eclipse glasses will be sent home for students to enjoy this incredible experience.
- At Croswell, we will discuss with the children the importance of not looking at the sun. Children will remain in the building with the blinds closed until 4:25 p.m. unless arrangements are made for an earlier or later pick-up. Any child who is dismissed during the eclipse will receive a pair of viewing glasses. Please call Director Jeanine Beck at (586) 281-1738 with any questions.

As a final note, if you would like to experience the event as a family, feel free to contact your school office to make arrangements for an early dismissal.

Go Bulldogs!

Dr. Todd R. Robinson, Superintendent



HELPFUL SAFETY TIPS FOR VIEWING A SOLAR ECLIPSE

DO

- Use eclipse glasses or solar viewers that meet the [ISO 12312-2](#) standards (sometimes written as ISO 12312-2:2015). But do not stare continuously at the sun. Take breaks and give your eyes a rest.
- Use a box pinhole viewer. [Learn how to make one.](#)
- Use a pinhole projector. [Learn how to make one.](#)
- Use your hands to cast shadows on the ground. Cross your hands with fingers slightly spread to create a waffle pattern. Look down and you will see the spaces between your fingers project a shadow image of the sun in a crescent shape during the partial eclipse stages.
- Look at shadows on the ground, such as under a leafy tree, during the partial eclipse. You can see the crescent sun shadows projected by the spaces between the leaves.

DON'T

- Do not look at the sun directly.
- Do not view through regular sunglasses. No matter how dark they are, they will not protect your eyes.
- Do not use damaged eclipse sunglasses or solar viewers. If they are torn, scratched or punctured, do not use them and throw them away. If the filters are coming out of their frames, discard them.
- Do not use homemade filters.
- Do not view through welder's glass. The glass in most welding helmets is not strong enough.
- Do not view through your camera viewfinder.
- Do not view through a telescope without the proper solar filter. Do not view the telescope using your eclipse sunglasses either.
- Do not view through binoculars.