



# Smithtown Central School District

26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, New York 11787

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**Mark Secaur, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools  
(631) 382-2006

April 3, 2024

Dear Smithtown School Community,

On April 8th, our region will experience a partial solar eclipse. It is important to note that on Long Island, there will not be a safe time to look at the eclipse unless one is wearing specialized eclipse/solar viewing glasses. This is due to the fact that we are **not** in the path of the total lunar eclipse. The partial eclipse will begin at approximately 2:12 pm and conclude at approximately 4:37 pm with the maximum (but not total) eclipse taking place at approximately 3:27 pm. To see further information on the timing of the eclipse and a helpful animation tool, please click [HERE](#).

With this in mind, we are directing our students, faculty, and staff to adhere to the following expectations on April 8, 2024:

- All students, faculty, and staff should abstain from directly looking at the sun during the time of the partial eclipse (2:12-4:37 pm) unless they are wearing specialized eclipse/solar viewing glasses.
- For activities that are planned to view the eclipse, all participants will wear school provided eclipse/solar viewing glasses with active supervision to ensure compliance.
  - Permission slips will be utilized for every student who participates in school activities viewing the solar eclipse.
- The dismissal of our students will take place at the normal times and will be carefully monitored to ensure compliance with the safety expectations.
- Absent the previously mentioned safeguards, all other after school activities, including athletics will take place indoors until 4:40 pm. There will be no games scheduled during this time frame, but indoor practices can occur until 4:40 pm.

These expectations must be adhered to in order to ensure the safety of all involved and I ask that you discuss these expectations with your child in advance of the eclipse.

Sincerely,

Mark Secaur, Ed.D.  
Superintendent