



Charles Nix  
Superintendent  
Catoosa County Public Schools  
307 Cleveland Street  
Ringgold, GA, 30736  
cnix@catoosa.k12.ga.us  
(706) 965-2297

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As the anticipated solar eclipse approaches on April 8, 2024, I wanted to share important details regarding how our district is preparing for this extraordinary event.

While the eclipse promises to be a captivating event, it's essential to note that, unlike the total eclipse of 2017, our region will experience only a partial eclipse. News outlets report the eclipse is expected to begin around 1:45 pm, max at 3:00 pm, and end at 4:20 pm. Our area will have about 85-90% of the sun obscured by the Moon at the max of the partial eclipse, which will roughly produce the same ambient daylight as an overcast day. It may seem a little dimmer in the middle of the afternoon, but it will not be like nighttime.

Despite being a partial eclipse, this event presents invaluable learning opportunities for our students. To fully leverage this educational experience, our teachers will integrate related lessons leading up to the event. Discussing natural phenomena such as eclipses can significantly enhance students' understanding of science and the cosmos.

Recognizing that a "one size fits all" approach may not suit every child, and aligning with our commitment supporting parental choice, we understand that some parents may have safety concerns regarding their child's attendance at school. Therefore, we are offering you the flexibility to make the decision that best ensures your child's well-being.

I want to stress the importance of caution during the eclipse. Looking directly at the sun, whether during an eclipse or not, can cause serious eye damage. Our teachers will discuss eclipse safety with students, and I encourage you to do the same at home. While we are taking every precaution to safeguard the well-being of our students during the solar eclipse, we acknowledge that no school can guarantee the prevention of every student from looking up at the sun. Please have this in mind when determining your child's attendance.

Dismissal will be at the normal dismissal times. It's important to note that since the eclipse occurs toward the end of the school day, some students will be loading or riding the bus. Car riders will also be loading during that time. If you prefer to keep your child home or check them out early on the day of the eclipse, a parent note will excuse your child's absence. If you plan to check your child out early, please do so before 2:00 pm.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's principal. We sincerely appreciate your understanding.

Warm regards,

*Chance Nix*

Chance Nix

Superintendent

Catoosa County Public Schools

Connect today!



307 Cleveland Street P.O. Box 130 Ringgold, GA 30736  
706.965.2297 • [www.catoosa.k12.ga.us](http://www.catoosa.k12.ga.us)