

On August 21, 2017, Mena will be in the path of a partial solar eclipse. This event is being called "The Great American Solar Eclipse" because it is the first time since 1918 a solar eclipse will be visible on a path across the entire continental United States.

Safety is always a top priority for Mena High School. We will take all precautionary measures with both students and staff to make this experience both safe and enjoyable. Students and staff will be instructed to not look at the sun, or even the partially eclipsed sun, without proper protective eye wear.

Thanks to University of Arkansas at Rich Mountain, our science department has a few approved glasses. If your child does not have approved solar eclipse glasses, he or she must use some other approved method of watching the eclipse as directed by his or her teacher.

As to safety, we provide the following information from NASA:

Solar retinopathy is a result of too much ultraviolet light flooding the retina. In extreme cases this can cause blindness, but is so painful that it is rare for someone to be able to stare at the sun for that long. Typically, eye damage from staring at the sun results in blurred vision, dark or yellow spots, pain in bright light or loss of vision in the center of the eye. Permanent damage to the retina has been shown to occur in approximately 100 seconds, but the exact time before damage occurs will vary with the intensity of the sun on a particular day and with how much the viewer's pupil is dilated from decongestants and other drugs they may be taking. Even when 99% of the Sun's surface is obscured during the partial phases of a solar eclipse, the remaining crescent Sun is still intense enough to cause a retinal burn. Note, there are no pain receptors in the retina so your retina can be damaged even before you realize it, and by then it is too late to save your vision! <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/faq>.

Mena High School understands and respects the safety concern that you may have as a parent/guardian. We are providing several options for your child to participate in this phenomena or opting out altogether.

1. View the Solar Eclipse outdoors using certified/approved safety glasses
2. View the Solar Eclipse via NASA live stream using a library computer
3. Opt out of viewing the eclipse in any form

Because of the above safety concern, a parent signature on this sheet is required by August 21, 2017, in order for students to participate in outdoor activities using the protective glasses while at school.

In full awareness of these risks, I hereby request that my child be allowed to participate in viewing the partial eclipse and give my consent for Student to do so. I am also aware that Student will not be allowed to participate in this activity without any protecting eye wear.

In consideration of Mena High School/Mena Public School District allowing Student to participate in viewing the partial eclipse, the undersigned's (Student and parents) accept responsibility for any loss, damage, or injury to the Student that occurs during or in connection with the participation in viewing the partial eclipse and release and agree to indemnify and hold the District, its Board of Education, the members of the Board of Education, and the employees and agents of the District harmless from any injury or damages which may be cause to Student or others in connection with Student's participation in viewing the solar eclipse on August 21, 2017.

Please choose **ONE** of the options below:

1) Allow Student to view the partial solar eclipse outdoors, sign below

Student Name Printed (First and Last)

Student Signature

Date _____

Parent Signature

Date _____

2) To view the partial solar eclipse **via computer**, sign below

Student Signature

Date _____

Parent Signature

Date _____

3) I would prefer Student to **not view** the partial solar eclipse at all

Student Signature

Date _____

Parent Signature

Date _____