

Alachua County Public Schools taking precautions during solar eclipse

Alachua County Public Schools will be taking a number of precautions during the upcoming solar eclipse.

For example, between 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Monday, August 21, there will be no outdoor activities in local schools. After-school programs, physical education classes, band and sports practices and other activities will be held indoors or cancelled.

Some secondary schools will be conducting special viewing activities, but only with signed parental permission, certified viewing glasses and adult supervision.

Dismissal will be held at the regular times. However, if parents decide to keep their children at home or check them out of school early, those absences/early check-outs will be excused. Standard check-out procedures at the schools will be followed.

Teachers and other school staff will be reminding students throughout the day not to look directly at the sun during the eclipse or at any other time. Bus drivers will also be cautioning riders about looking at the sun.

Phone and email messages are being sent to parents to inform them of the precautions being taken, and letters will be sent home with students. Parents will also be asked to remind their children of the dangers of looking at the sun and will be provided with a link to a NASA website with safe viewing information.



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