



August 18, 2017

*A Special Solar Eclipse Message from Sharon Aguina, Executive Principal, and Stacy Wolff, Elementary Science Lab Teacher*



Dear Dragon Families:

This has been an outstanding opening week at Flagstaff Academy. Families were thrilled with the sparkling building, the ambient classrooms, and a variety of events such as “Meet the Teacher,” “New Parent Orientation,” “New Middle School Student Orientation,” “Kinder Camp,” and “Middle School Back to School Night.” Best of all, on opening day, Tuesday, August 15th, students participated in our annual Flag Raising Ceremony as a school community. And on Wednesday the 16th, Kindergarten students and their parents met outside together as Kinder students entered for their first day of school. I was out viewing a variety of interactive and engaging opening lessons and today enjoyed visiting with students during their lunch and recess. The enthusiasm and excitement was just heartwarming.

On another note, we have been promoting Flagstaff Academy’s educational plan for the highly-anticipated solar eclipse on this coming Monday, August 21st. I want you to be aware of the plan for Monday in every respect, and also to provide information about our educational programming for this important event.

Flagstaff Academy is provide safety viewing goggles for all students and staff, which all students and staff will be required to use. By following proper eclipse viewing glasses and other safety procedures, viewing an eclipse can be a safe and rewarding learning experience. Our glasses are ISO 12312-2 and CE certified, providing maximum safety for viewing.



**All permission forms must be turned in by the beginning of school on Monday, August 21, 2017. You may either [fill out the electronic form](#), or [the paper form](#).** Any students who

do not have a signed/submitted permission slip will be required to stay indoors and view the remote broadcast in the gym.

### **Solar Eclipse Reminders and Curriculum Updates:**

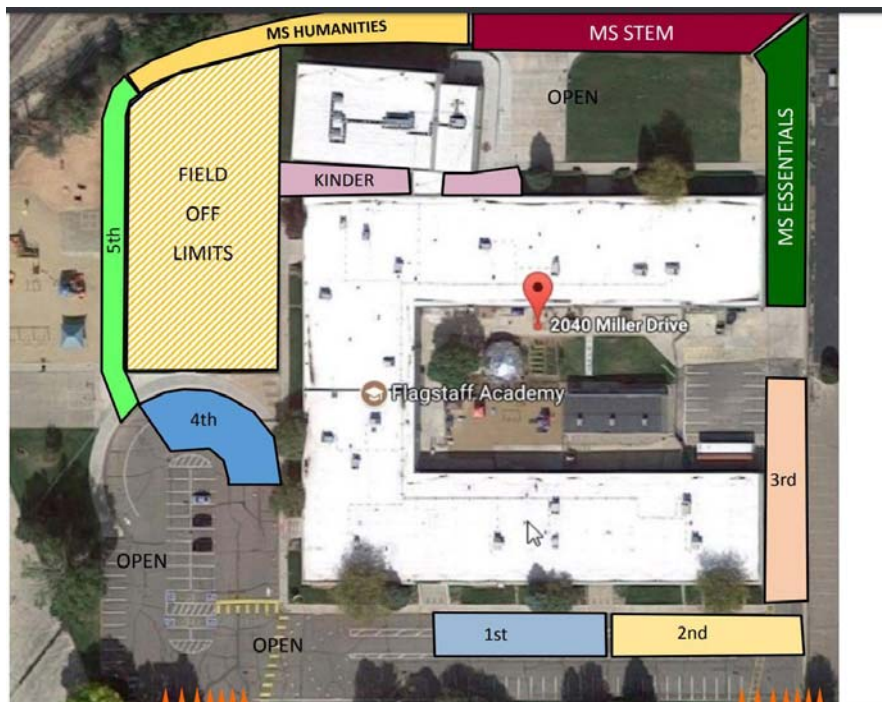
- Students will be outside to view the eclipse between 11:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.; the peak of the eclipse will be at 11:47 a.m. The parking lot will be closed from 11:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. to allow for more viewing space.
- Full day Kinder students will eat lunch in their classroom and view the eclipse in small groups with adult supervision.
- Half-day Kinder will adjust their dismissal time of 11-11:15am. Students will be released to parents at this time. Parents are invited to stay with their children (with a signed permission slip for the eclipse goggles), or they can take their child home/away. Any children left at 11:15 a.m. will wait for parents in the front office.
- PK3 dismissal will be 11:15-11:25 a.m. Parents are responsible for their children after signing out. Parents are invited to stay with their children (with a signed permission slip for the eclipse goggles), or they can take their child home/away. Any preschool children left at 11:25 a.m. will wait for parents in the preschool classroom. PK4 drop off should be at the regular time of 12:20 p.m.
- Parents of our students are invited to come and view the eclipse with their student(s). Parents should check in at the front office before joining their student. We do have a limited amount of safety glasses for parents.
- In case of inclement weather, students will view a remote telecommunicated viewing in their classrooms.
- Students will also be able to view the eclipse through a pinhole camera constructed by Middle School. The camera projects the image onto paper.
- Students will record their observation and sketching responses and some students may collect additional data for Citizen Science Projects.
- Please send a sack lunch with your child, as we want to cut down on traffic to the lunch room!

### **Additional Instructional Components:**

- Our Elementary Science Lab Teacher and Greenhouse Manager will be visiting all K-5 classrooms in order to provide an interactive astronomy lesson to prepare the students to watch the eclipse.
- Our Middle School students will learn about the eclipse and make pinhole shadow boxes to use during the viewing event.
- Eclipse information and projects for families and students to view and complete at home are available through our website. This will also include Citizen Science Projects for families who are traveling to see the eclipse.
- During the eclipse all classrooms will have a pinhole camera. The pinhole camera projects the image onto another surface - such as a piece of paper or cardboard box, allowing good viewing without any risk and makes it safe to view the eclipse without glasses. Additionally, students will have an observation and sketching response sheet.

Some students may be collecting data for Citizen Science Projects. For some brief portions of this, students would have to take off their glasses but would be under close supervision. The glasses would be off during the above listed activities, but students would not be looking directly at the sun.

- Here is a link where you can see more about Pinhole Cameras:  
<https://www.exploratorium.edu/eclipse/how-to-view-eclipse>
- A link has been constructed by the Science team for teachers and staff to access online instructional resources and projects. **Parents may also browse our Eclipse link at:**  
<http://www.flagstaffacademy.org/apps/pages/solar-eclipse-2017>
- **View an aerial map of our Solar Eclipse activities:**



**Summary of Professional Development in preparation for eclipse lessons:**

The science team at Flagstaff Academy reviewed moon phases and eclipses through an interactive training offered by Mike Zawaski, scientist, science educator and operator of Observant Naturalist. We used Kinesthetic Astronomy and moon balls to learn how to facilitate age appropriate lessons for our students.

**Summary of activities this week:**

Third-Fifth grade students will work with Mrs. Wolff in Science Lab to prepare for the eclipse. They will review the motions of the Earth in relationship to the Sun, how we see different phases of the moon, and how the orbit of the moon leads to lunar and solar eclipses. Students will use a grade appropriate version of Kinesthetic Astronomy and the Moon Ball lesson.

Kindergarten, First and Second grade students are working with Ms. Cole. They will discover, explore and model that the Solar Eclipse we will see is a shadow cast by the moon as it moves in front of the Sun.

Sixth-Eighth graders will work with their science teacher, Mr. Starr, Mr. Willis, or Ms. Herman to create a pinhole camera to view the eclipse. They will distribute one camera to each elementary classroom to use during the eclipse. They will also use moon balls to better understand how a solar eclipse occurs.

**Do you have concerns about the eclipse?** The Sun is the same during the eclipse as it is on any other day of the year; except that now we are more excited to look it. Please know, as with all things at Flagstaff Academy, safety is our number one priority! Learn about [Solar Eclipse misconceptions by NASA](#).

**Calling all families who are traveling to see the eclipse!**

Ms. Wolff would like to collect data from the eclipse that are taken at many different locations and compile the data afterwards for a scientific inquiry project. She wants to help students learn about exciting changes that occur during a solar eclipse. If you are traveling to see the eclipse and are interested in collaborating on a Citizen Science project, please contact her at [swolff@flagstaffacademy.org](mailto:swolff@flagstaffacademy.org).

We know that this will be an interesting “learning in the moment” experience. Please fill out the permission below and return it to your child’s teacher by Monday, August 21st. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Aguina, Executive Principal at [saguina@flagstaffacademy.org](mailto:saguina@flagstaffacademy.org).

Have a great weekend!

**Sharon Aguina,**  
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