

**Dr. Kimberly Sigman***Chief School Administrator***Mr. Richard Rennie***Business Administrator /Board Secretary***Mr. RJ Baumgartner***Vice Principal*

April 4, 2024

Dear Hamburg School Community,

As many of you may be aware, there is an upcoming celestial event that has captured the attention of astronomers and sky watchers alike: a solar eclipse. Scheduled to occur on Monday, April 8, 2024, this event promises to be a captivating sight for those fortunate enough to observe it. However, with any such event, it is crucial to prioritize safety, particularly when it comes to viewing the eclipse.

At Hamburg School, the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and community are of paramount importance. While we recognize the educational value of experiencing natural phenomena such as solar eclipses, we must also ensure that we approach it with the appropriate precautions in mind.

April 8 will be a regularly scheduled school day for Hamburg School. However, given the potential risks associated with viewing a solar eclipse, including the dangers of eye damage from looking directly at the sun, Hamburg School has made the decision not to participate in organized viewing activities on school grounds. Furthermore, we will not be distributing eclipse glasses to students or staff.

However, this decision does not mean that we will miss out on the educational opportunities presented by this event. Our dedicated teachers have been asked to incorporate lessons about solar eclipses into their classrooms in a safe and engaging manner. These lessons will cover topics such as the science behind eclipses, the historical and cultural significance of eclipses, and the importance of proper eye protection when viewing the sun.

We encourage parents and guardians to take this opportunity to discuss the solar eclipse with their children and to reinforce the importance of safety precautions. If families choose to view the eclipse outside of school hours, we urge them to do so safely by using approved solar viewing glasses or other indirect viewing methods. We ask that you read the attached link and discuss it with your child prior to April 8, 2024:

<https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/safety/>

As always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding our approach to the solar eclipse or any other matter, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

With Hamburg Pride,

*Kimberly Sigman*

Kimberly Sigman, Superintendent

