

SOLAR Eclipse Information

On August 21, 2017, North America will experience a partial eclipse lasting two to three hours. Halfway through the event, areas within a 70-mile-wide path from Oregon to South Carolina will experience a brief total eclipse. For two minutes and 40 seconds, the moon will completely cover the face of the sun. For the Roanoke area, the start of the eclipse will begin at 1:12 p.m. and will end at 4:01 p.m. The maximum eclipse will occur at 2:40 p.m. For an animated illustration of what the eclipse will look in our area, please go to the web site entitled: [How the Partial Solar Eclipse Will Look.](#)

With this being a celestial event that has not occurred since 1979, it is a great opportunity to educate students about the nature of solar eclipses. NASA will be live streaming the event at their web site entitled: [NASA Eclipse 2017 Live - Streaming Video of August 21 Total Solar Eclipse](#)

. Principals are encouraged to allow teachers and students to watch the event on a website or TV channel that is live streaming the event.

As a part of teaching students about solar eclipses, it is most important that lessons include the dangers involved with viewing the eclipse directly. The [American Academy of Ophthalmology](#)

reminds us, “looking directly at the sun can seriously damage your eyes. Staring at the sun for even a short time without wearing the right eye protection can damage your retina permanently. It can even cause blindness, called solar retinopathy.” The Academy goes on to say that only solar filters that meet a very specific worldwide standard known as ISO 12312-2 are to be used to look at the sun. Even such glasses or hand-held solar viewers must not be used if there are scratches or other damages to the device.