Dear Parents,

We at Polk School District are sure that you are aware that there will be an eclipse of the sun on Monday, August 21, 2017. This event will occur over all of North America. A solar eclipse occurs when the moon blocks any part of the sun. This is the first time since 1918 a solar eclipse will be visible on a path across the entire continental United States.

In Polk County, the eclipse is estimated to begin around 1:08p.m., and will end at approximately 4:00p.m. Over 96% of the sun will be covered at 2:34 p.m.

Safety during the eclipse is our top priority. Looking directly at the sun is unsafe. PSD initially planned to purchase ISO 12312-2 compliant, eclipse-safe viewing glasses for all students and staff. Due to the recent news concerning the forgery and sale of counterfeit glasses, even containing the certification stamp, Polk School District does not want to take that risk. Therefore, PSD will not be taking students outside to view the eclipse.

Because of these safety concerns, other precautionary measures will be taken to protect students:

- P.E. classes during the eclipse event will be held indoors.
- Students that have recess will remain indoors during the time of the eclipse.
- Students will have the opportunity to participate in eclipse viewing through internet/media sources in class or through grade-level activities.
- There will be no student dismissals between 2:00-3:00.
- Extra-curricular activities may resume at 4:00.

In addition, Polk School District will be extending the school day an additional 30 minutes. It is our desire to avoid the risk of distracted drivers near the peak of the eclipse. If you would like to view the eclipse with your child at home, you may sign elementary students out at 11:45; middle and high school students at 12:00. As stated above, there will be no dismissals between the hours of 2:00 – 3:00. High School students that drive to school, must provide the school with a note from home with parent/guardian consent to checkout at noon. These students must checkout prior to leaving, and are expected to leave promptly. Again, it is our desire to have our young drivers off of the roads during the eclipse event.

We apologize for any inconvenience that this adjusted schedule may cause. It is our desire to keep our students safe.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Greg Teens

Distinguished Program