

Hapeville Charter Middle School

Home of the Hornets

Main Campus
3535 South Fulton Avenue
Hapeville, GA 30354

8th Grade Academy
6045 Buffington Road BLD B
Union City, GA 30291

August 14, 2017

Dear 6th grade Parents,

Hapeville Charter Middle School is excited about the solar eclipse that is occurring Monday, August 21. This is a real-time “teachable moment” to increase the science literacy of our students, and we will be utilizing a variety of instructional resources to provide an unforgettable learning experience.

At Hapeville Charter Middle School, a part of that learning experience is allowing students to view the event. At approximately 2:35 p.m., the metro Atlanta area will experience a 98% solar eclipse and we will take students outdoors for about 20 minutes if weather permits. Similar to a field trip, we will have extra adult chaperones to provide supervision and safety, as well as specialized eclipse viewing glasses to protect students’ eyes. However, the best safety precaution we can ask for is your cooperation. We need you to reinforce with your student(s) that they should listen to the chaperones and adhere to their requests (i.e., not removing the solar glasses without permission). Keeping students safe while they enjoy the educational experience is our goal.

We are sharing the school district’s consent form for this event. If you wish your student to participate in outdoor viewing activities, it is imperative that you sign and return this document to your child’s teacher by Friday, Aug 18, 2017. We have indoor learning experiences planned if you do not want your child to participate or if a signed consent form is not received.

We understand that many parents want to share this experience with their child. Fulton County Schools has determined that all student absences and/or early check-outs on this day will be counted as excused. Parents who wish to pick up their students are requested to do so before 12:30 p.m. so that there is ample time to get safely home or to an eclipse viewing location. From start to finish, the event is expected to last approximately three hours, with the actual eclipse occurring around 2:35 p.m., which is why there is the 12:30 p.m. check-out deadline.

Also, on August 21, elementary schools throughout Fulton County will not dismiss until 3:05 p.m. since the darkest part of the event is scheduled to occur during the dismissal process of elementary school students. For the majority of elementary schools, this is a 45-minute delay, and middle and high school buses also will experience delays due to the delay in elementary dismissal. Middle and high school walkers, car riders, and drivers will dismiss according to their normal schedules.

As you can see, this is an exciting time for our students and our staff. We look forward to an informative and enjoyable day of scientific learning on August 21.

Sincerely,

Principal Strong