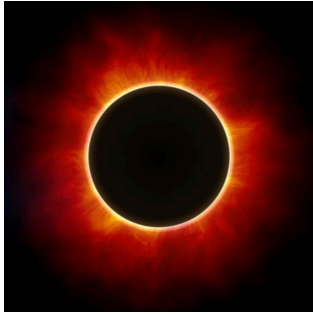


CENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Digital Backpack



April 5, 2024

Dear CES Families,

Next Monday, April 8, a total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. This happens when the moon passes between the sun and Earth, completely blocking the face of the sun. The sky will darken as if it were dawn or dusk. The information below has resources from astronomy websites, including the American Astronomical Society (AAS) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

The moon will begin to pass in front of the sun at approximately **2:15 p.m. on April 8th**. The path of the eclipse here in Connecticut will result in approximately 90% of the sun being blocked by the moon at the height of the event – at approximately **3:25 p.m.** The maximum darkness that Connecticut will experience will occur at that time for 2-3 minutes before gradually brightening back to normal daylight levels. Therefore, 50% occlusion will occur at approximately **2:50 p.m.** and again at **3:50 p.m.** The moon will completely pass by the sun by approximately **4:30 p.m.** Even at its darkest point (3:25 p.m.), experts indicate that light levels will be similar to dusk or pre-sunset light levels and individuals will be able to see their surroundings. By contrast, light levels during a total eclipse would be similar to visibility during a full moon phase. **Except during a brief total phase of a total solar eclipse, when the moon completely blocks the sun's bright face, it is not safe to look directly at the sun without specialized eye protection for solar viewing.** Since there will not be a total solar eclipse occurring in Connecticut, **there is no safe time to view the event without specialized glasses or filters.** Viewing any part of the bright sun, even through a camera lens, binoculars, or a telescope without a special-purpose solar filter secured over the front of the optics, **will instantly cause severe eye injury.** Viewing must only occur through safe solar viewing glasses (“eclipse glasses”) or a safe handheld solar viewer at all times. Eclipse glasses are not regular sunglasses. Regular sunglasses, no matter how dark, are not safe for viewing the sun. [Safe solar viewers](#) are thousands of times darker and must comply with the [ISO 12312-2](#) international

CENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Digital Backpack

standard. An alternative to eclipse glasses or a handheld solar viewer, is an [indirect viewing method](#), which does not involve looking directly at the sun. Commonly referred to as a [pinhole projector](#), this method projects an image of the sun onto a nearby surface. Viewing occurs with the sun at the viewer's back, onto the projected image rather than the sun. Mr. Stevens sent out a School Messenger this morning to all families and staff that eclipse glasses have been ordered for everyone at both schools and will be distributed on Monday. There will not be an early dismissal on Monday, but if you would like to pick up your child early to watch the eclipse together, please notify the office at cesoffice@willingtonct.org Monday morning.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs. Lisa Cushing, Principal (lcushing@willingtonct.org)

New Kindergarten Eligibility Entry Date

Children entering kindergarten must turn 5 years old on or before September 1, 2024 to be eligible for kindergarten in the 2024-2025 school year. This is a change from the previous kindergarten cutoff date of January 1, 2025. Based on the new Connecticut legislation, if your child's 5th birthday falls on September 2, 2024 through August 31, 2025, your child will enter kindergarten in the 2025-2026 school year. If your child is eligible for kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year, please contact the Center School office as soon as possible at 860-429-9367 or cesregistration@willingtonct.org

Kindergarten Waiver Screenings

If a child does not meet the new cutoff date of September 1st, families may submit a waiver request in writing for early entry to kindergarten. Please submit your written waiver request by **April 26, 2024** to cesregistration@willingtonct.org. Families will be notified of the appointment time for their child's screening. Waiver screenings will be held on **May 3, 2024**. Families will be informed of either acceptance or denial of their waiver request by **May 14, 2024**.

CENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Digital Backpack

Kindergarten Orientation and Screenings

Kindergarten screenings for new students accepted for the fall of 2024 will be held **May 13 and 14, 2024**. Kindergarten orientation will be held in the library for families. **There will be no regularly scheduled kindergarten or preschool on May 13, 2024 to accommodate screenings.** Final decisions for all incoming kindergarteners will be made by the end of the day **May 14, 2024**.

Mark Your Calendar

April

8	Total Solar Eclipse
11	PTA Meeting - 6 PM at CES
15 - 19	No School - Spring Recess
24	Spirit Day! Bring Your Stuffy to School Day (Kindergarten choice)

Flyers

Dance Committee Flocking Time
WPRD Spring Camp
4-H Camp
WHS Comedy Show
Fercroft Wildlife Rescue
WPS Hidden in Plain Sight
Mansfield Community Center April Camp
Mansfield Community Center Parking Lot Picasso's
Science Night
Youth Tennis Lessons
Vale Soccer Clinic
Cub Scout Pack 82

Food Services Information – Meal Order Link

🌟🌟 The sign up link will be turned off on Monday morning. Be sure to sign your student up by noon on Sunday. Please go over this form with your students as well, especially 3rd and 4th graders. We utilize this form to know how many items

CENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Digital Backpack

we should prepare daily, and many students are wanting to switch what they are signed up for when they are already in the lunch line. Thank you! 🌟🌟

★★ Some families received negative balance emails a few weeks ago. If you have any questions regarding your student's balance please reach out to Stephanie Knight, Food Services Director - sknight@willingtonct.org. ★★

★★ We have some exciting news to share! Starting November 1st, 2023 all meals will be served at no cost to all families for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. Each student may get one breakfast and one lunch at no cost daily. ★

★★ We still encourage families to apply for free or reduced meals. Forms are available on the school website or in the main office at each school. You may also apply online -

<https://lingconnect.com/public/meal-application/new?identifier=QHNJ5P> ★★

★★ Any questions please contact Mrs. Knight, sknight@willingtonct.org ★★

★ 🍕 Please complete this form to order your child's lunch. If you have more than one child at the school click "Submit Another Response" after hitting submit for the other child. 🍕 ★

★ This form will be sent out twice a week. Once on Wednesday or Thursday and then you can find the link in the digital backpack every Friday. ★

🍎 This form is only for lunch. Breakfast will be served grab and go in the cafeteria when the children arrive at school. Children can grab their breakfast and head right to their classroom. 🍎

😊 PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM BY 12:00 p.m. ON SUNDAY 4/7. 😊

★★ Each child must select at least three of the five components on their tray to make a meal, including a fruit or vegetable. Children MUST select a fruit or a vegetable with their lunch every day. Without a vegetable or fruit, students will be charged the a la carte price instead of the meal price. For instance, a protein choice, a grain choice and a vegetable would make a complete meal. ★★

CENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Digital Backpack

🍎 Our school district will again be encouraging students to try the new foods being offered. 🍎

★ ★ We are also asking for your help. Please explain the program to your child before they arrive at school. Every student needs to be prepared to select at least one fruit or one vegetable with their breakfast and lunch every day. We are planning our menus to include selections we know students like, as well as many different foods they may not have tried before. Please encourage your child to try these new foods. They just might find a new favorite! ★ ★

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Knight at sknight@willingtonct.org or 860-487-2107.

[Link to sign up for lunches for the week of 4/8-4/12](#)

[Link for PM Preschoolers to sign up for lunches for the week of 4/8-4/11](#)