

GMCS: Students given alternatives during solar eclipse

Written by Gallupsun Staff
Friday, 18 August 2017 12:31

We are allowing some alternative accommodations for students and parents acknowledging that they want their student(s) to participate in traditional practices involved in the rare upcoming eclipse. Please read the following information so that you understand what is to take place on August 21, 2017.

According to many Native American cultures, the time during a solar or lunar eclipse is a time for reverence. A common belief is that the moon, sun and earth are in a sacred time and place; and therefore, viewing this event may affect individuals mentally and physically.

In our area, a solar eclipse is scheduled on August 21, 2017. The eclipse will begin at approximately 10:21 am and end around 1:13 pm.

Due to this rare event we will allow these students to have the following accommodations:

1. Parents may keep their student at home for any period of time during this day and the absence will be an excused absence. The child only needs to provide a note from the parent/guardian to have an excused absence.

2. If students come to school and express their desire to recognize the tradition of this event then please make appropriate accommodations between 10:15 am and 1:30 pm such as:

- Students have the option to stay indoors during the eclipse
- Teacher must provide alternative assignments if there will be outside activities for those who choose to stay indoors
- If possible Staff should close classroom window shades

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- Staff to provide quiet activities as much as possible
- Make arrangements with food service for those students to eat lunch before 10:15 or after 1:15

Mike Hyatt

Superintendent

Gallup McKinley County Schools