

***Totality 2024: No Inmate Left Inside!***

**SEC, San Antonio**

**30 September 2023**



**Charles Fulco**

NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador  
The Brooklyn Friends School, NYC

# TSE2010 from Patagonia, Argentina, S. America



## TSE2016 from above the Pacific Ocean





# North Adams Community Schools

625 Stadium Dr.  
Decatur, IN 46733



*Excellence: Teach it, Model it, Inspire it, Achieve it!*

August 18, 2017

Dear Parents:

An exciting learning opportunity will take place on Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. The Great American Total Solar Eclipse will cover our part of the country that afternoon with varying degrees of impact. Our school district is not in the direct path of the total eclipse, but we will experience a substantial darkening. This is a wonderful teaching moment brought directly to us by nature. There is no textbook required.

While this is a wonderful opportunity, it is our desire that all students understand the safety precautions that must be taken during an eclipse. As educators, we are emphasizing to all students the critical message that you do not look directly at an eclipse. It is our hope that you will reinforce this message at home.

Here at school we will follow these guidelines:

- Staff will monitor students during any outdoor activity on Monday afternoon.
- The school will operate a regular dismissal time for students.
- After school practices will be held at the regular times.
- Students have been instructed and will be reminded not to look directly at the eclipse.
- Students can indirectly observe the eclipse through a projected image or shadow.

As for reporting absences on Monday: The state is not qualifying this event as an "extraordinary circumstance" to miss school and therefore absences will be marked Absent and Unexcused.

We are excited about this event and many teachers will use this opportunity to provide a quality educational experience for students during the school day.

**Experience the Eclipse Together Without Missing School:**

If you wish to enjoy and experience the exceptional learning opportunity before us with your child[ren], NASA has a wonderful website dedicated to providing education, safety tips to discuss with your student[s], the history of eclipses, and an interactive countdown to the expected first contact to occur in Oregon on Monday. The website is: <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/>. We encourage you to join in this unique learning experience with your student[s]. We are a part of a truly memorable moment in our scientific history.

Thank you for teaming with us to make this a safe and educational experience for all students. If you have questions, please contact the school your child attends.

Sincerely,

Brent Lehman

The Good...

**...the Bad...**

**Should Arizona**

**watch solar**

**distri**

**Students at Reno High School were not allowed to watch the Great American Eclipse**

**...er eclipse fears pro...  
...class, keep kids in...  
...ing no**

**Do not go outside during the eclipse. It's believed pregnant women who are in the presence of the eclipse could cause their baby to have facial deformities or birth marks**

**Middle School mother will not be allowed during eclipse**

**Is an eclipse harmful during pregnancy?**

**...and the Ugly.**

There had been talk that Sarasota schools, as well as other districts, could consider going into a lockdown during the eclipse or shutting all schools early.

# Sun...Moon...You!

ANNULAR SOLAR ECLIPSE  
OCTOBER 14, 2023

APRIL 8, 2024  
TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

Why is TSE2024 Important to Education and UB?

## What are the 3 Types of Solar Eclipses?



Partial eclipse



Annular eclipse



Total eclipse



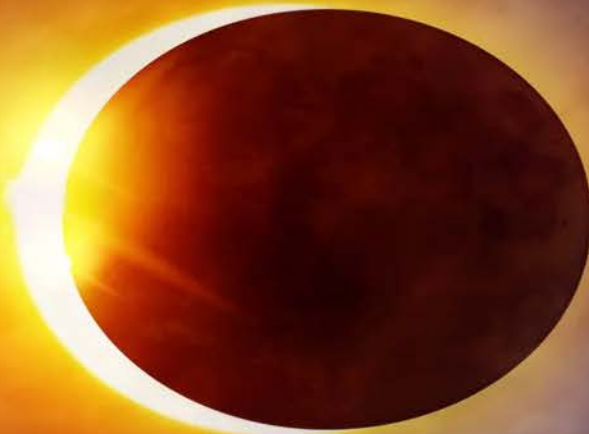
## Why TSE2024 is Important to Alternative Educational Communities

**Traditionally:** most eclipse education and preparation have targeted the regular ed community; countless inmates (and other learners) have missed out on this important facet of science

**There is an “education desert” within these underserved communities that needs to be addressed, and TSE2024 is the perfect vehicle to highlight and address this inequity of learning**

**Educationally:** TSEs are a rare chance for teachers and students to witness one of nature’s most spectacular sights, offering a dynamic and dramatic opportunity to see celestial mechanics in action. Intrinsicly, eclipses are non-discriminatory. How we teach to them is.

**Spiritually:** A TSE is unlike anything in this world, because it is otherworldly. One feels a connection with the Universe when standing in the shadow of the Moon, some 250,000 mi. distant. There are no words to describe this, and ALL learners should have the privilege of experiencing this feeling.

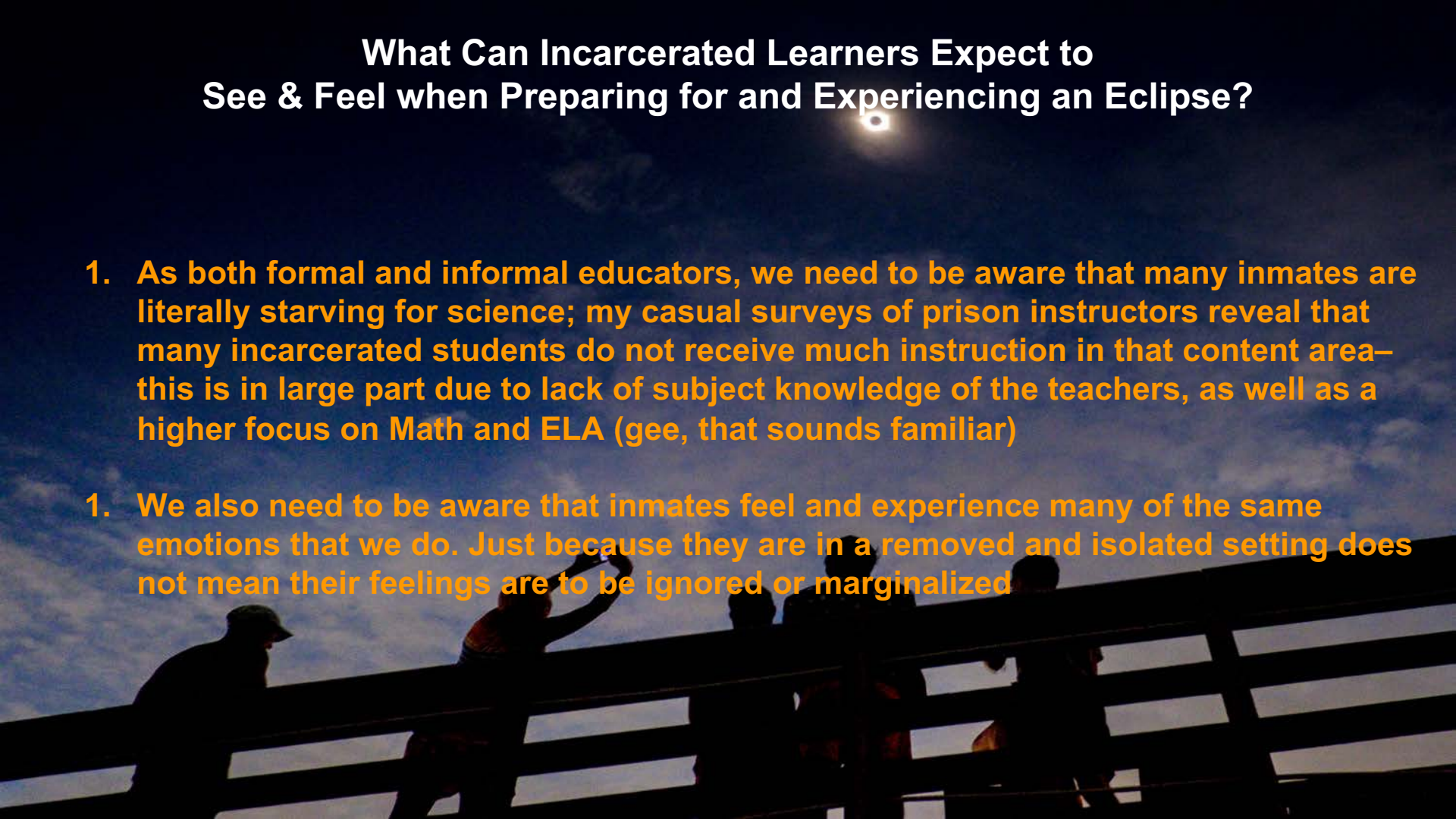


# What Can Incarcerated Learners Expect to See & Feel when Preparing for and Experiencing an Eclipse?



1. Inmate students at prisons, detention centers and other institutions all across the country will (with warden's permission and clear skies) be able to observe at least a partial eclipse
2. Based on my recent experience with prison populations, it can reasonably be expected that both eclipses will be appreciated (on many different levels) by a majority of inmates
3. Sufficient preparation and outreach prior to the eclipses is a must! (It also generates anticipation and excitement within the entire community)
4. Keeping in regular contact with the principal and teachers promotes their confidence in subject content, application of lessons and E-Day success

# What Can Incarcerated Learners Expect to See & Feel when Preparing for and Experiencing an Eclipse?

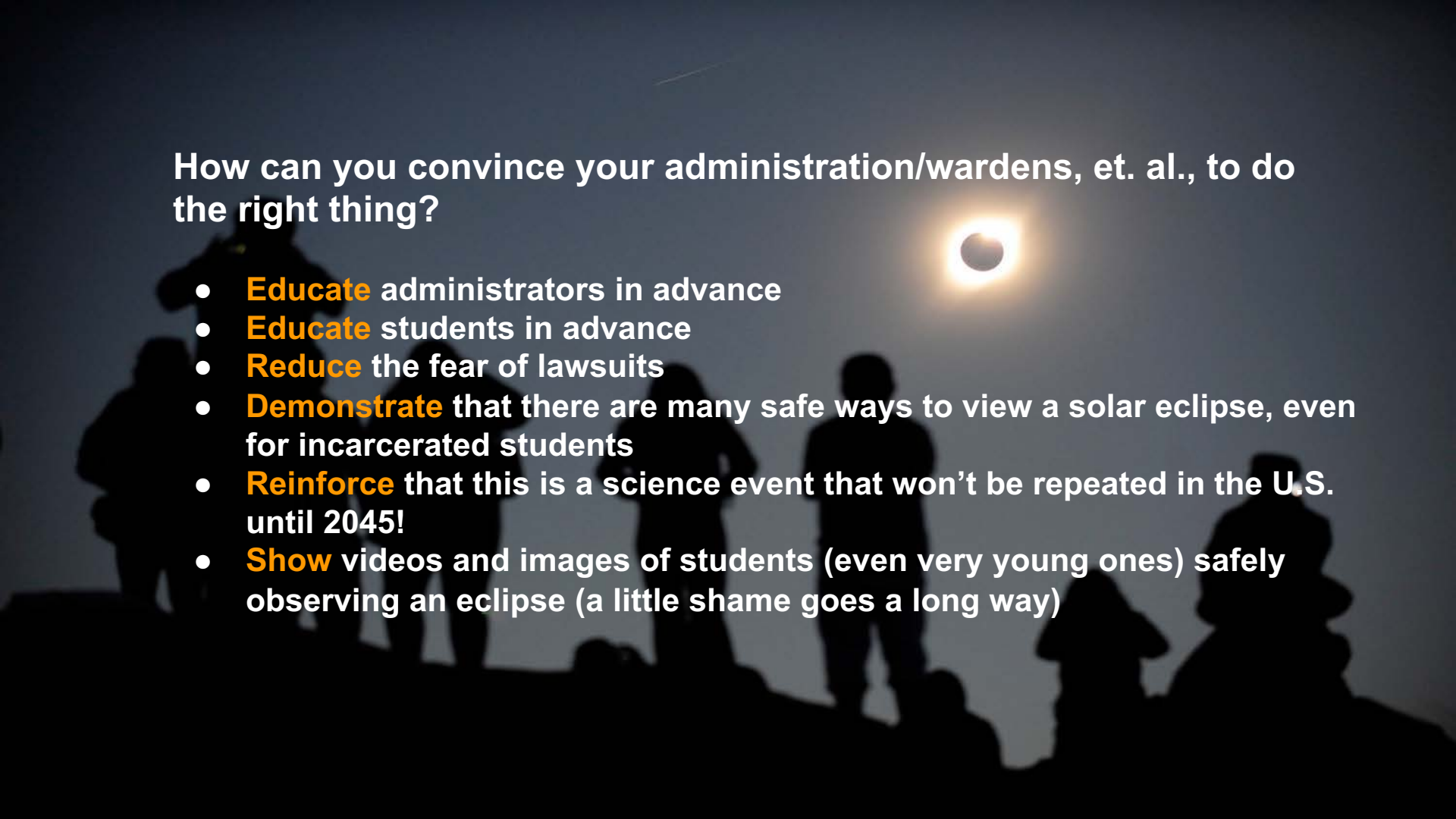


1. As both formal and informal educators, we need to be aware that many inmates are literally starving for science; my casual surveys of prison instructors reveal that many incarcerated students do not receive much instruction in that content area—this is in large part due to lack of subject knowledge of the teachers, as well as a higher focus on Math and ELA (gee, that sounds familiar)
1. We also need to be aware that inmates feel and experience many of the same emotions that we do. Just because they are in a removed and isolated setting does not mean their feelings are to be ignored or marginalized

# Why is it Important for Incarcerated Students (and Their Teachers) to be Allowed Outdoors During an Eclipse?

- A once in a lifetime opportunity for most; the average wait for a total eclipse to come to your doorstep is about 375 years
- No technology on a screen can replicate the experience of being within the Moon's umbra
- A huge scientific and educational opportunity will be wasted if inmates are not allowed outdoors





## How can you convince your administration/wardens, et. al., to do the right thing?

- **Educate** administrators in advance
- **Educate** students in advance
- **Reduce** the fear of lawsuits
- **Demonstrate** that there are many safe ways to view a solar eclipse, even for incarcerated students
- **Reinforce** that this is a science event that won't be repeated in the U.S. until 2045!
- **Show** videos and images of students (even very young ones) safely observing an eclipse (a little shame goes a long way)

**Thank you so much for your time and enthusiasm, and  
for wanting to be involved in this once-in-a-lifetime event!**

**Email:**

[totality2024@gmail.com](mailto:totality2024@gmail.com)

**NCLI website:  
Coming in October!**

**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/totality2017>

<https://www.facebook.com/totality24>

**Remember—it's up to YOU to promote *real* science**