



The Navajo Nation **DR. BUU NYGREN** *PRESIDENT*

Yideeskáądi Nitsáhákees | *Think for the Future*

OFFICE OF STANDARDS, CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT DEVELOPMENT

Department of Diné Education (DODE), Navajo Nation

ANNOUNCEMENT ON TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE

March 4, 2025

Yá'át'ééh t'áá 'ánóltso shi ke'i' dóó shidine'é,

A total lunar eclipse will be arising on March 13, 2025 beginning approx. @ 9:50pm and ending until March 14, 2025 @ 4:00am. We may be affected within the boundaries of the four sacred mountains. Out of respect, all activities are paused to reverence this occurrence. Some students may not be present at school for this purpose. We request they are not to be marked absent as is applies to the natural law.

According to our Diné cultural beliefs and according to our elders or knowledge holders, we all must remain reverent, and any activities are discouraged. Eating during the eclipse can cause eating disorders, sleeping during the eclipse will create sleep deprivation, and viewing the eclipse will lead to blindness. Being conscious of the lunar eclipse has always been in practice for many generations. Generally, our people would be quiet sitting down and praying until it is over. This is a time known to the Navajo Culture as sacred time for reflection and renewal. The sun and moon are considered holy beings in Navajo culture, with the sun representing a male being and the moon a female being. During an eclipse, when the moon is blocked, it is believed that monsters return and roam the Earth in a spiritual sense.

Currently, as Diné, we are kindly requesting everyone to show respect for the atmosphere, the earth, and the cosmos. Specifically, an unusual effect of the moon is considered a priority, as it is the source of all life. This is no great mystery but quite logical. For example, we go through changes in our own life, we set a time for ourselves, for self-reflection, peacefulness, cognition and tranquility. Again, to exhibit our respect for the sun, moon, earth, and the atmosphere, it is a great time to pray for everything and everyone.

Teachers, this may be a great teaching lesson in the classroom on respect for nature. Ahxéhéé'.

From OSCAD/DODE Department

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