



OFFICE OF

Diversity and Equity

2023-2025 Calendar of Selected Cultural Holidays

Please note, students may not be able to participate in activities on the days marked with an asterisk() due to fasting or cultural celebrations. Consider having an open dialogue with your students about the holidays they celebrate.*

| HOLIDAY | 2023-24 | 2024-25 |
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| PARYUSHANA (JAINISM) Is the 'Festival of Forgiveness,' a significant holy event for Jains coming together to reflect on friendship and forgiveness. | September 11-18** | August 31-September 7** |
| ROSH HASHANAH (JUDAISM) Is the Jewish New Year; start of the Ten Days of Penitence. The first two days are observed as full holidays. | September 15-17 | October 2-4 |
| YOM KIPPUR (JUDAISM) Is the day of Atonement; the most solemn day of the year devoted to fasting, prayer and repentance. | September 24-25** <i>There are dietary restrictions</i> | October 11-12** <i>There are dietary restrictions</i> |
| SUKKOT (JUDAISM) Is the first two days of Tabernacles, commemorating the dwelling of Israelites in booths in the wilderness. | September 29- October 1 | October 16-18 |
| SIMCHAT TORAH (JUDAISM) Is the celebration of the new cycle of annual scriptural readings. | October 8 | October 24 |
| NAVARATRI (HINDUISM) Is the festival representing 'Nine Nights' honoring the Devi, the great Goddess and divine Mother, the all-pervading Shakti. | October 15-24 | October 3 -12 |
| DIWALI (HINDUISM/JAINISM/SIKHISM/ BUDDHISM) Is the 'Festival of Lights', a major festival lasting five days, celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar month Kartika. | November 12 | November 1 |
| TWIN HOLY BIRTHDAYS (BAHA'I) Is the festival to celebrate the births of two central figures of the Bahá'í faith, 'Báb' on the first day and 'Bahá'u'lláh' on the second day. | October 16-17 | February 26-29 |
| DAY OF THE COVENANT (BAHA'I) Is the festival commemorating Bahá'u'lláh's appointment of his eldest son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, as the center of His | November 26 | November 25 |

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| Covenant. | | |
| ASCENSION OF 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ (BAHA'I) This Holy Day marks the passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the appointed successor of the Baha'i faith in Haifa. | November 27 | November 28 |
| HANUKKAH (JUDAISM) Is the 'Festival of Lights', celebrating the victory of the Maccabees and rededication of the Ancient temple in Jerusalem. | December 7-15 | December 25-January 2 |

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| CHRISTMAS (CHRISTIANITY) Is the annual religious and cultural commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ. The Feast of the Nativity Christmas is celebrated in January. | December 25 (Orthodox) January 7 | December 25 (Orthodox) January 7 |
| KWANZAA Is the annual celebration of African-American culture culminating in a communal feast called Karamu, held on the 6th day. | December 26-January 1 | December 26-January 1 |
| LUNAR NEW YEAR (BUDDHISM) is the festival that celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar. | January 22 <i>There are dietary restrictions against meat and hygiene limitations.*</i> | February 24 <i>There are dietary restrictions against meat and hygiene limitations.*</i> |
| SHIVRATRI (HINDUISM) Is a festival celebrated annually in honor of the god Shiva. The name also refers to the night when Shiva performs the heavenly dance. | March 8** <i>Prayer may last late into evening*</i> | February 26** <i>Prayer may last late into evening*</i> |
| LENT (CHRISTIANITY) Is the six week period beginning Ash Wednesday leading to Easter Sunday, where some Christians fast or give something up in solemn observance of the death and resurrection of Jesus. Period includes Palm Sunday and Good Friday. | February 14-March 28 <i>There are dietary restrictions against meat for some denominations during Ash Wednesday and all Fridays.*</i> | March 5-April 17 <i>There are dietary restrictions against meat for some denominations during Ash Wednesday and all Fridays.*</i> |
| PURIM (JUDAISM) Is the Jewish festival commemorating the saving of the Jewish people and the defeat of Haman as recounted in the Book of Esther. | March 23-24 | March 13-14 |
| HOLI (HINDUISM) Is a popular ancient festival, signifying the triumph of good over evil, as it celebrates the victory of Lord Vishnu as Narasimha Narayana over Hiranyakashipu. | March 25 | March 14 |

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| NAW-RUZ (BAHA'I) Is an ancient Persian festival celebrating the New Year and for Baha'is it marks the end of the annual 19-Day Fast and coincides with the spring equinox. | March 20** | March 21 ** |
| RAMADAN (ISLAM) Is the ninth most sacred month in Islamic culture that Muslims observe to mark when Allah sent an angel to Prophet Muhammad to reveal the Quran, the Islamic holy book. | March 10-April 9** <i>Medication may also be abstained during this month of fasting*</i> | February 28-March 30** <i>Medication may also be abstained during this month of fasting*</i> |
| MAHAVIRA-JAYANTI (JAINISM/SIKHISM/HINDUISM) Is one of the most important religious festivals in Jainism, celebrating the birth of Mahavir, the twenty-fourth and last Tirthankara of present Avasarpiṇī. | April 21 | April 10 |
| PASSOVER/PESACH (JUDAISM) Is the deliverance of the Jewish people from Egypt. The first and last two days are observed as full holidays. Includes a | April 22-30 <i>There are dietary restrictions</i> | April 12-20 <i>There are dietary restrictions</i> |

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| ceremonial meal called the Seder comprising food of symbolic significance, traditions and prayers. | <i>against leavened products (bread, pastries, pasta, etc.) during all 8 days of the holiday.*</i> | <i>against leavened products (bread, pastries, pasta, etc.) during all 8 days of the holiday.*</i> |
| EASTER/PASCHA (CHRISTIANITY) Is the Christian festival and cultural holiday commemorating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, on the third day of his burial following his crucifixion. | March 31 (Orthodox) May 5 | April 20 (Orthodox) April 20 |
| RIDVAN (BAHA'I) The festival commemorates the 12 days when Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Baha'i faith, publicly proclaimed His mission as God's messenger for this age. Elections for local, national and international Baha'i institutions are generally held. | April 21, 29, and May 2 <i>*1st, 9th and 12th days are celebrated as holy days</i> | April 20, 28, and May 1 <i>*1st, 9th and 12th days are celebrated as holy days</i> |
| EID AL-FITR (ISLAM) Is the "Festival of Breaking the Fast" may be called Lesser Eid or Eid, is celebrated by Muslims worldwide to mark the end of the month-long dawn-to-sunset fasting of Ramadan. | May 9-10 | March 29-30 |
| DECLARATION OF THE BÁB (BAHA'I) This Holy Day commemorates when the Báb, announced that He was the Herald of a new Messenger of God. | May 22 | May 23 |

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| ASCENSION OF THE BAHÁ'U'LLAH (BAHA'I) This Holy Day marks the passing of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Baha'i Faith. | May 29 | May 28 |
| SHAVUOT (JUDAISM) Is the 'Feast of Weeks', which marks the giving of the Law (Torah) at Mt. Sinai, and is often linked with the Confirmation of teenagers. | June 11-13 <i>Prayer may last late into evening*</i> | June 1-3 <i>Prayer may last late into evening*</i> |
| EID AL-ADHA (ISLAM) Is the latter of the two Islamic holidays honoring the willingness of Ibrahim to sacrifice his son Ismail as an act of obedience to God's command. Before Ibrahim could sacrifice his son however, Allah provided a lamb to sacrifice instead. | June 16-17** <i>May fast the day before holiday*</i> | June 6-7** <i>May fast the day before holiday*</i> |
| MARTYRDOM OF THE BÁB (BAHA'I) The Holy Day commemorates the anniversary of the execution of the Báb, Herald of the Bahai Faith, in Persia. | July 9 | July 9 |
| TISHA B'AV (JUDAISM) Is an annual fast day and intense day of mourning on which a number of disasters in Jewish history occurred. | August 12-13** | August 2-3** |
| AL-HIJRA (ISLAM) Is the first day of the month of Muharram representing the Islamic New Year. | July 7** | June 26** |
| SRI KRISHNA JAYANTI (HINDUISM) Is the annual Hindu festival that celebrates the birth of Krishna, the eighth avatar of Vishnu. | August 26** | August 16** |

Additional Footnotes:

**Buddhists may practice fasting during times of the full moon and on other holidays, which may include only having one meal. *Mormons may honor the first Sunday of every month as a day to fast.*