2026-2028 Calendar of Selected Cultural Holidays

**Please note that 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	2026-27	2027-28
PARYUSHANA (JAINISM) Is the 'Festival of Forgiveness,' a significant holy event for Jains coming together to reflect on friendship and forgiveness.	**September 3-10 ****	**August 23- 30**
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH Is a time to appreciate and celebrate the colorful cultures, rich histories and diversity of the American Latino community	**September 15-October 15**	**September 15-October 15**
NAVARATRI (HINDUISM) Is the festival representing 'Nine Nights' honoring the Devi, the great Goddess and divine Mother, the all-pervading Shakti.	**October 10 -18**	**September 29-October 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 12-14**	**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 21-22**** *There are dietary restrictions*	**October 11-12** *There are dietary restrictions*
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY This day honors the cultures and histories of the Native American People	**October 12**	**October 11**
SUKKOT (JUDAISM) Is the first two days of Tabernacles, commemorating the dwelling of Israelites in booths in the wilderness.	**September 26-October 3**	**October 16-23**
SIMCHAT TORAH (JUDAISM) Is the celebration of the new cycle of annual scriptural readings.	**October 5-6**	**October 24-25**
UNITED NATIONS DAY This day is devoted to promoting global unity, international cooperation and the organization's work in advancing peace, human rights and sustainable development	**October 24**	**October 24**

DIWALI (HINDUISM/JAINISM/SIKHISM/ BUDDHISM) Is the 'Festival of Lights', a major festival lasting five days, celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar month Kartika.	**November 8**	**October 29**
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.	**November 12 & 13**	**November 1& 2**
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 Covenant.	**November 25**	**November 25**
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 28**	**November 27**
HANUKKAH (JUDAISM) Is the **'**Festival of Lights', celebrating the victory of the Maccabees and rededication of the Ancient temple in Jerusalem.	**December 13-21**	**December 3-11**

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.	**February 17** *There are dietary restrictions against meat and hygiene limitations.**	**February 6** *There are dietary restrictions against meat and hygiene limitations.**
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 3**** *Prayer may last late into evening**	**February 21**** *Prayer may last late into evening**

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 18-April 4** *There are dietary restrictions against meat for some denominations during Ash Wednesday and all Fridays.**	**February 10-March 26** *There are dietary restrictions against meat for some denominations during Ash Wednesday and all Fridays.**
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 4-5**	**February 23-24**
HOLI (HINDUISM) Is a popular ancient festival, signifying the triumph of good over evil, as it celebrates the vicRtory of Lord Vishnu as Narasimha Narayana over Hiranyakashipu.	**March 6**	**Febrary 24**
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 20 ****
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.	**February 18-March 19**** *Medication may also be abstained during this month of fasting**	**February 7-March 8**** *Medication may also be abstained during this month of fasting**
TRANS DAY OF VISIBILITY(LGBTQ+) is an annual event occurring every March 31 since 2009 dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, as well as a celebration of their contributions to society.	**March 31**	**March 31**
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 5**	**March 25**
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 1-9** *There are dietary restrictions*	**April 21-29** *There are dietary restrictions*

ceremonial meal called the Seder comprising food of symbolic significance, traditions and prayers.	*against leavened products (bread, pastries, pasta, etc.) during all 8 days of the holiday.**	*against leavened products (bread, pastries, pasta, etc.) during all 8 days of the holiday.**
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.	**April 5** **(Orthodox) April 12**	**March 28** **(Orthodox) April 16**
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** **1st, 9th and 12th days are celebrated as holy days*	**April 20, 28, and May 1** **1st, 9th and 12th days are celebrated as holy days*
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.	**March 20-21**	**March 9-10**
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**
ASCENSION OF THE BAHA'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.	**May 31-June 2** *Prayer may last late into evening**	**June 19-21** *Prayer may last late into evening**
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 26-27**** *May fast the day before holiday**	**June 15-16**** *May fast the day before holiday**
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 3-4****	**July 23-24****

AL-HIJRA (ISLAM) Is the first day of the month of Muharram representing the Islamic New Year.	**July 27****	**July 16****
SRI KRISHNA JAYANTI (HINDUISM) Is the annual Hindu festival that celebrates the birth of Krishna, the eighth avatar of Vishnu.	**September 4****	**August 25****

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.*