

2007-2008 Holiday Calendar

This calendar of religious, national and community holidays has been prepared to assist you in planning activities. Educators are reminded that students **must** be given excused absences to meet religious obligations and that reasonable accommodations **must** be made for students to make up missed work. Please be sensitive about scheduling events so that students and employees do not miss significant activities and opportunities due to religious observance. **No person should be penalized for their religious observances.**

Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath, commemorates the day of rest on the 7th day of creation. Shabbat begins prior to sunset each Friday and concludes approximately one hour after sundown on Saturday. Holidays, like Shabbat, begin at sundown on their given day and end after sunset the following day. On Shabbat and Jewish Holy Days, it is traditional to refrain from many types of work, including writing and driving.

September 2007

National Hispanic Heritage Month
September 15-October 15

September 2007						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Monday September 3, Labor Day

Observed in honor of the American Labor Movement. Legal holiday; all schools closed.

Tuesday September 4, Krishna Janmashtami

Hindu commemoration of the birth of Krishna.

♦ **Thursday September 13-Friday September 14, Rosh Hashanah:** Jewish New Year 5768. Begins sunset September 12.

Thursday September 13-Saturday October 13, Ramadan: Ninth month of the Islamic calendar, during which Muslims fast daily from dawn to sunset for thirty days in honor of the first revelations to the Prophet Muhammad.

♦ **Saturday September 22, Yom Kippur:** Jewish Day of Atonement. Most solemn day in the Jewish year devoted to prayer and fasting. Begins sunset September 21.

♦ **Thursday September 27-Friday September 28, Sukkot:** Eight day Jewish festival of thanksgiving, harvest and remembrance of Jews wandering in the desert after Exodus from Egypt. Begins sunset September 26.

October 2007

♦ **Thursday October 4, Shemini Atzeret:** Final day of Sukkot. Begins sunset October 3.

♦ **Friday October 5, Simchat Torah:** Reading of the Torah is completed and begun anew in the synagogue. Begins sunset October 4.

Monday October 8, Columbus Day observed: Marks Columbus' discovery of America. Legal holiday; some schools closed.

Saturday October 13, Eid al-Fitr: Islamic festival which concludes the fast of Ramadan.

Wednesday October 31, Halloween

October 2007						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

♦ Denotes Jewish High Holy Days and major Biblical festivals when Jews may be absent from school or work. Please note that all Jewish holidays begin at sunset of the preceding evening.

November 2007

National American Indian Heritage Month

Thursday November 1, All Saints Day

Christian celebration of the lives of all saints.

Friday November 9, Diwali: Hindu New Year

Monday November 12, Veterans Day (observed)

Honors those who served in the United States Armed Services. Legal Holiday; some schools closed.

Monday November 12, Birth of Baha'ullah: Commemorates the 1817 birth of the founder of the Baha'i faith.

Thursday November 22, Thanksgiving: Commemorates Pilgrims' observance of the harvest in the New World. Legal holiday; all schools closed.

Saturday November 24, Guru Nanak Dev's Birthday: Observes the birth of the founder of the Sikh religion in 1469.

Sunday November 25, Religious Liberty Day: Anniversary of the 1981 United Nations declaration of religious liberty as a fundamental human right.

November 2007						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2007

Sunday December 2, First Sunday of Advent

First of 4 Sundays before Christmas marked by special church services.

Wednesday December 5, Chanukah (Festival of Lights)

First day of eight day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the second Temple by the Maccabees and their victory over the Seleucid Empire in 165 B.C.E. Begins sunset December 4.

Saturday December 8, Feast of Immaculate Conception: Celebrates the Roman Catholic belief that Mary was conceived without sin.

Thursday December 20, Eid al-Adha: Commemorates the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his son Ishmael in response to a command from God.

Tuesday December 25, Christmas Day: Christian holy day marking the birth of Jesus. Legal holiday; all schools closed.

Wednesday December 26, Kwanzaa: Beginning of 7-day celebration of African-American values and traditions.

December 2007						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

January 2008

Tuesday January 1, New Year's Day: First day of the new year. Legal holiday, all schools closed.

Sunday January 6, Epiphany: End of the 12 days of Christmas. Especially important to Eastern Orthodox Christians and in Latino cultures.

Thursday January 10, Islamic New Year

Monday January 21, Martin Luther King Day: Commemorates the birth of the African-American civil rights leader and winner of the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize. Legal holiday; some schools closed.

Tuesday January 22, Tu B'Shvat: Jewish Arbor Day, New Year for trees. Begins sunset January 21.

January 2008						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February 2008

Black History Month

February 2008						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

Wednesday February 6, Ash

Wednesday: The first day of Lent. Name derives from symbolic use of ashes to signify penitence.

Thursday February 7, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese New Year:

Year of the rat.

Monday February 18, Washington's Birthday/ President's Day:

Legal holiday; some schools closed.

March 2008

Women's History Month

March 2008						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Sunday March 16, Palm Sunday:

Begins Christian Holy Week.

Monday March 17, St. Patrick's Day:

Irish celebration of the life of St. Patrick.

Friday March 21, Purim: Celebrates the deliverance of the Jews of ancient Persia from a plot to exterminate them. Begins sunset March 20.

Friday March 21, Naw-Ruz: Persian and Baha'i New Year.

Friday March 21, Good Friday: Christian holy day that commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus.

Sunday March 23, Easter: Christian holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus.

April 2008

♦ Sunday April 20-Monday April 21, Passover (first two days):

Eight-day Jewish festival marking deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. Begins sunset April 19.

Friday April 25, Holy Friday:

Orthodox Christian holy day that commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus.

♦ **Saturday April 26-Sunday April 27, Passover (concluding two days):** Begins at sunset April 25.

Saturday April 27, Easter/Pascha: Orthodox Christian holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus.

April 2008						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2008

Asian-Pacific Heritage Month

Thursday May 1, Ascension

Day: Christian holy day, 40 days after Easter, which commemorates Jesus' ascent into heaven.

Friday May 2, Yom HaShoah v'HaGvurah (Holocaust Remembrance Day):

Honors the memory of six million Jewish martyrs and heroes who perished in the Nazi Holocaust. Begins sunset May 1.

Monday May 5, Cinco de Mayo: Celebrated in Mexico and by Mexican-Americans; marks the victory in 1862 of a small Mexican force that routed a French army three times its size.

May 2008						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

May 2008 Observances Continued

Wednesday May 7, Yom

HaZikaron (Israeli Memorial Day):

Jewish holiday to remember individuals and soldiers who have fallen for the State of Israel. Begins sunset May 6.

Thursday May 8, Yom HaAtzma'ut (Israeli Independence Day):

Jewish holiday marking the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. Begins sunset May 7.

Sunday May 11, Mother's Day

Monday May 20, Wesak: Birth of the Buddha. Commemoration of Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and death.

Friday May 23, Lag B'Omer: 33rd day of the Omer, the 49-day period between the Jewish holidays of Passover and Shavuot. As the Omer is a period of semi-mourning, this is the only day when prohibitions (such as cutting hair) are lifted, and celebrations are permitted. Begins sunset May 22.

Monday May 26, Memorial Day: Honors those who died in defense of the United States. Legal holiday; all schools closed.

May 2008						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2008							July 2008							August 2008							
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5							1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
														31							

SUMMER 2008: June, July, August

Monday June 2, Yom Yerushalayim: Jewish and Israeli holiday commemorating the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967.

Wednesday June 4, Pentacost: Christian holiday commemorating the descent of the Holy Ghost upon the Apostles 50 days after Easter.

♦ **Monday June 9-Tuesday June 10, Shavuot (Festival of Weeks):** Jewish festival commemorating the giving of the Torah (Law) on Mount Sinai. Begins sunset June 8.

Sunday June 16, Father's Day

Friday July 4, American Independence Day

♦ **Sunday August 10, Tisha B'Av:** One of two major fast days in Judaism, this holiday commemorates the destruction of the Temples in Jerusalem as well as a number of other tragedies throughout Jewish history. Begins sunset August 9.

Two-Year Calendar of Major Jewish Holidays

	2008-2009	2009-2010
Rosh Hashanah	Sept. 30-Oct. 1	Sept. 19-20
Yom Kippur	Oct. 9	Sept. 28
Sukkot	Oct. 14-15	Oct. 3-4
Shemini Atzeret	Oct. 21	Oct. 10
Simchat Torah	Oct. 22	Oct. 11
Passover	April 9-10	March 30-31
Passover	April 15-16	April 5-6
(concluding days)		
Shavuot	May 29-30	May 19-20