

2008-2009 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 2008

National Hispanic Heritage Month
September 15–October 15

September 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				

Monday September 1, Labor Day

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

Monday September 2-Tuesday September 30, 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.

♦ Tuesday September 30-Wednesday October 1, Rosh Hashanah:

Jewish New Year 5769. Begins sunset September 29.

October 2008

Wednesday October 1, Eid al-Fitr:

Islamic festival which concludes the fast of Ramadan.

♦ Thursday October 9, Yom Kippur:

Jewish Day of Atonement. Most solemn day in the Jewish year devoted to prayer and fasting. Begins sunset October 8.

Monday October 13, Columbus Day observed: Marks Columbus' discovery of America. Legal holiday; some schools closed.

♦ Tuesday October 14-Wednesday October 15, Sukkot:

Eight day Jewish festival of thanksgiving, harvest and remembrance of Jews wandering in the desert after Exodus from Egypt. Begins sunset October 13.

♦ Tuesday October 21, Shemini Atzeret: Final day of Sukkot. Begins sunset October 20.

♦ Wednesday October 22, Simchat Torah: Reading of the Torah is completed and begun anew in the synagogue. Begins sunset October 21.

Tuesday October 28, Diwali: Hindu New Year

Friday October 31, Halloween

October 2008						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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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 2008

National American Indian Heritage Month

Saturday November 1, All Saints Day:

Christian celebration of the lives of all saints.

Tuesday November 11, Veterans Day (observed):

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

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

Thursday November 13, Guru Nanak Dev's Birthday:

Observes the birth of the founder of the Sikh religion in 1469.

Thursday November 27, Thanksgiving: Commemorates Pilgrims' observance of the harvest in the New World. Legal holiday; all schools closed.

Sunday November 30, First Sunday of Advent: First of 4 Sundays before Christmas marked by special church services.

November 2008						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2008

Monday December 9, Eid al-Adha:

Commemorates the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his son Ishmael in response to a command from God.

Monday December 8, Feast of Immaculate Conception:

Celebrates the Roman Catholic belief that Mary was conceived without sin.

Monday December 22, 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 21.

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

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

Monday December 29, Islamic New Year

December 2008						
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28	29	30	3			

January 2009

Thursday January 1, New Year's Day:

First day of the new year. Legal holiday, all schools closed.

Tuesday January 6, Epiphany:

End of the 12 days of Christmas. Especially important to Eastern Orthodox Christians and in Latino cultures.

Monday January 19, 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.

Monday January 26, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese New Year:

Year of the ox.

January 2009						
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