



## Major Religious Holidays to Avoid During 2017-18 SY For Scheduling Events, Meetings and Major Exams

The dates listed below only include several major Muslim, Jewish and Christian holidays (and Chinese New Year) that occur **when school is in session and that may affect student attendance/participation**. For more detailed and comprehensive listing of important dates of these and other religions, please use the link below to *Interfaith Calendar*. **Please be aware of the dates listed below and do not schedule events, meetings, and major exams during these times.**

Date	Holiday	Brief Description
<b>May 27, 2017 - June 24, 2017</b> <b>Begins at sundown on May 26<sup>th</sup></b> <b>and will continue 30 days until the evening of June 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Ramadan (Muslim)	Ramadan is the name of the ninth month in the Islamic calendar. During Ramadan, all observant Muslims observe the Fast of Ramadan between dawn (fajr), and sunset (maghrib). During Ramadan evenings, Muslims eat small meals and visit with friends and family. It is a time of worship and contemplation. A time to strengthen family and community ties.
<b>June 25, 2017</b> <b>Begins at sundown on June 24<sup>th</sup> and ends at sundown on June 27<sup>th</sup></b>	Eid al-Fitr (Muslim)	Eid is a three day Muslim holiday that marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting.
<b>September 1-5, 2017</b> <b>Begins at sundown September 1<sup>st</sup> and ends at sundown on September 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Eid al-Adha (Muslim)	Eid al-Adha, the Muslim Festival of Sacrifice, is celebrated for four days, after the Hajj which is the annual pilgrimage to Mecca by Muslims worldwide.
<b>September 21-22, 2017</b> <b>Begins at sundown on September 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)	Rosh Hashanah (Hebrew: ראש השנה), (literally "head of the year"), is the Jewish New Year. It is the first of the High Holidays or Yamim Noraim ("Days of Awe"), celebrated ten days before Yom Kippur. Rosh Hashanah is observed on the first two days of Tishrei, the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar. It is described in the Torah as יום תרועה (Yom Teru'ah, a day of sounding [the Shofar]).
<b>September 30, 2017</b> <b>Begins at sundown on September 29<sup>th</sup> and ends at sundown on September 30<sup>th</sup></b>	Yom Kippur (Jewish)	Yom Kippur (Hebrew: יום כיפורים or יום כפור), Also known as Day of Atonement, is the holiest day of the year for the Jews. Its central themes are atonement and repentance. Jews traditionally observe this holy day with a 25-hour period of fasting and intensive prayer, often spending most of the day in synagogue services. Yom Kippur completes the annual period known in Judaism as the High Holy Days (or sometimes "the Days of Awe").
<b>October 5-11, 2017</b> <b>Begins sundown on October 4<sup>th</sup> and ends at sundown October 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Sukkot (Jewish)	Sukkot (Hebrew: סוכות or סוכוֹת, sukkōt, or sukkos, Feast of Booths, Feast of Tabernacles) is a Biblical holiday celebrated on the 15th day of the month of Tishrei (late September to late October). It is one of the three biblically mandated festivals Shalosh regalim on which Jews were commanded to make a pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem.
<b>February 16, 2018</b>	Chinese New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)	Chinese New Year in 2018 is on Friday, the <b>16th of February</b> (16/2/2018). According to the Chinese 12-year animal zodiac cycle, the Chinese year beginning in 2018 is the year of the <b>Dog</b> . Each Chinese zodiac year begins on Chinese New Year's Day. Dog years are believed to be the most unlucky for people born in previous years of the Dog. Chinese New Year, also known as the "Spring Festival" in modern Mainland China, is China's most important traditional festival, celebrated at the turn of the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar, which consists of both Gregorian and lunar-solar

		calendar systems. Chinese New Year can begin anytime between late January and mid-February.  China's <b>Spring Festival public holiday</b> starts on the Chinese New Year, and lasts for 7 days.
<b>February 14, 2018</b>	Ash Wednesday (Christian)	Ash Wednesday is observed by some Christians as a day of repentance and marks the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads as a sign of mourning and repentance to God.
<b>March 30, 2018</b>	Good Friday (Christian)	This day is observed by Christians commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary. <b>Easter Sunday is April 1<sup>st</sup></b> , when Christians celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead, third day from Good Friday.
<b>March 31- April 7, 2018</b> <b>Begins sundown March 30<sup>th</sup></b>	Passover (Jewish)	Jewish Passover commemorates the story of Exodus when the Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt. For observant Jews, no work is permitted the first two and last two days of this holiday.

[Link to Interfaith Calendar: Calendar](#)

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