



Major Religious Holidays 2018-2019 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 as you plan and schedule events, meetings, and major exams during these times.**

Date	Holiday	Brief Description
May 16, 2018 - June 15, 2018 Begins at sundown on May 15th and will continue 30 days until the evening of June 15th	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.
June 15-17, 2018 Begins at sundown on June 14th and ends at sundown on June 17th	Eid al-Fitr (Muslim)	Eid is a three day Muslim holiday that marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting.
August 22-25, 2018 Begins at sundown August 21st and ends at sundown on August 25th	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.
September 10-11, 2018 Begins at sundown on September 9th and ends at sundown on September 11	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]). For those two days work is not permitted for observant Jews.
September 19, 2018 Begins at sundown on September 18th and ends at sundown on September 19th	Yom Kippur (Jewish)	Yom Kippur (Hebrew: יום כיפור or יום הכיפורים), 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"). For observant Jews, work is not permitted on this day.
September 24-30, 2018 Begins sundown on September 23rd and ends at sundown September 30th	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. For observant Jews, work is restricted on the first two days of this holiday.
December 3-10, 2018 Begins sundown on December 2nd and ends at sundown on December 10th	Hanukkah	Hanukkah is the Jewish Festival of Lights. It commemorates the Maccabean recapture and rededication of the Jerusalem Temple in 165-164 b.c.e. Special readings and praise songs focus on liberty and freedom. The eight candle Menorah is lighted.

February 5, 2019	Chinese New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)	Chinese New Year in 2019 is on Tuesday, the 5th of February (5/2/2019). According to the Chinese 12-year animal zodiac cycle, the Chinese year beginning in 2019 is the year of the Pig . Each Chinese zodiac year begins on Chinese New Year's Day. Pig years are believed to be the most unlucky for people born in previous years of the Pig. 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 Spring Festival public holiday starts on the Chinese New Year, and lasts for 7 days.
March 6, 2019	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.
April 19, 2019	Good Friday (Christian)	This day is observed by Christians commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary. Easter Sunday is April 21st , when Christians celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead, third day from Good Friday.
April 20-27, 2019 Begins sundown April 19 and ends at sundown April 27	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.

Links to Calendar of Observances 2018 & 2019 <https://www.adl.org/media/10043/download>
https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/documents/calendar-of-observances-2019_0.pdf

Diversity Heritage Months

September 15 th - October 15, 2018	Hispanic Heritage Month
October 2018	LGBTQ+ History Month
November 2018	Indigenous Heritage Month
February 2019	Black History Month
March 2019	Women's History Month
May 2019	Asian American/ Pacific Islander Heritage Jewish American Heritage Month