



Major Religious Holidays to Avoid During 2016-17 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
June 7, 2016 - July 5, 2016 begins sundown on June 6th and will continue 30 days until July 5th evening	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.
July 7-9, 2016 begins sundown on July 4th	Eid al-Fitr (Muslim)	Eid is a three day Muslim holiday that marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting.
September 11-14, 2016 begins sundown September 10th	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.
October 3-4, 2016 begins sundown on October 2nd	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 Teruah, a day of sounding [the Shofar]).
October 12, 2016 begins at sundown on October 11th	Yom Kippur (Jewish)	Yom Kippur (Hebrew: יום הכיפורים 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").
October 17-23, 2016 begins sundown on October 16th	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.
January 28, 2017	Chinese New Year	Though not a religious holiday, this is the longest and most important of the traditional Chinese holidays in the Chinese Lunar Calendar. 2016 is the Year of the Monkey.
March 1, 2017	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 14, 2017	Good Friday (Christian)	This day is observed by Christians commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary. Easter Sunday is April 16th , when Christians celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead, third day from Good Friday.
April 11-18, 2017 begins sundown April 10th	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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