



TO: Principals  
 FROM: The Department of Equity, Culture, & Community Engagement  
 DATE: May 30, 2023  
 RE: Major Religious Holidays 2023-2024 SY

The table below outlines only **the major religious holidays, occurring on days when school is in session, including summer school offerings**, for Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, and Christianity as well as the holidays of Lunar New Year and Enkutatash. These holidays may affect student attendance and/or participation in school events. Please be mindful of the dates listed below as you plan and schedule events, meetings, and major exams during these times. For questions regarding CHSSA exceptions, please contact the Director of Athletics and Activities and/or your executive director.

For a comprehensive listing of important dates and other religious holidays, please access the Calendar of Observances through the Anti-defamation League at <https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/calendar-of-observances>.

**Please note:** The dates for the Islamic holidays are projected dates. Slight variations might occur to these dates depending on the lunar calendar.

August 2023-June 2024		
Date	Holiday	Brief Description
<b>September 12, 2023</b>	Enkutatash (Ethiopian and Eritrean)	<i>Enkutatash (አንታሽ) is the first day of the New Year in Ethiopia and Eritrea.</i>
<b>September 15-17, 2023</b> Begins sunset of Friday, September 15, 2023 Ends nightfall of Sunday, September 17, 2023 No work is permitted.	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.
<b>September 24-25, 2023</b> Begins sunset of Sunday, September 24, 2023 Ends nightfall of Monday, September 25, 2023 No work is permitted.	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.
<b>September 29-October 6, 2023</b> Begins sunset of Friday, September 29, 2023 Ends nightfall of Friday, October 6, 2023 No work permitted on September 30 - October 1. Work is permitted on October 2 - 6 with certain restrictions.	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.

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Jewish Holidays (2021) Retrieved from [https://www.chabad.org/holidays/default\\_cdo/jewish/holidays.htm](https://www.chabad.org/holidays/default_cdo/jewish/holidays.htm)



Date	Holiday	Brief Description
<b>November 12, 2023</b>	Diwali (Hindu)	Diwali (Festival of Lights), also called Deepvali, celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance.
<b>December 7, 2023-December 15, 2023</b> Begins sunset of Thursday, December 7, 2023 Ends nightfall of Friday, December 15, 2023 Work permitted, except Shabbat	Hanukkah (Jewish)	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.
<b>February 10, 2024</b>	Lunar New Year (Buddhist, Confucian, Daoist)	Lunar New Year or Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is an important 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. "It is the most solemn festival and tradition of the year for many Chinese people." ~CCSD Chinese Cultural Liaison
<b>February 14, 2024</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 forehead as a sign of mourning and repentance to God.
<b>March 10, 2024-April 8, 2024</b> Begins at sundown on March 10 <sup>th</sup> and ends at sundown on April 8 <sup>th</sup>	Ramadan (Islamic)	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>March 24, 2024-March 30, 2024</b>	La Semana Santa (Holy Week) (Christian)	Semana Santa, also known as Holy Week, which culminates in Easter, is an important Catholic holiday that is celebrated worldwide, especially in predominantly Catholic countries such as El Salvador, Spain, Colombia, Mexico, and more
<b>March 29, 2024</b>	Good Friday (Christian)	Good Friday, also known as Holy Friday, commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ on the Friday before Easter/Pascha.
<b>April 8-9, 2024</b> Begins at sundown on April 8 <sup>th</sup> and ends at sundown on April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Eid al-Fitr (Islamic)	Eid al-Fitr, also known as the "Feast of the Breaking of the Fast," marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting from dawn until dusk.
<b>April 22, 2024 - April 30, 2024</b> Begins sunset of Monday, April 22, 2024 Ends nightfall of Tuesday, April 30, 2024 No work permitted on April 23 - 24 and April 29 - 30. Work is permitted only on April 25 - 26 and April 28 with certain restrictions.	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.

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## Heritage Months – 2023-2024 School Year

<b>August 9, 2023</b>	INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD’S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES Celebrates the richness of Indigenous cultures and recognizes the challenges Indigenous peoples face today, ranging from poverty and disease to dispossession, discrimination and denial of basic human rights.
<b>September 15<sup>th</sup> - October 15th, 2023</b>	NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH Celebrates the contributions, heritage and culture of Hispanic and Latino Americans.
<b>September 16, 2023</b>	MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY Marks the anniversary of the Grito de Dolores, a speech and battle cry uttered by Roman Catholic priest Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla in 1810 that inspired the movement that ultimately freed Mexico from Spanish rule. <small style="text-align: right;">Is Cinco de Mayo Mexico’s Independence Day? (2023) Retrieved from <a href="https://www.britannica.com/">https://www.britannica.com/</a></small>
<b>October 2023</b>	LGBT HISTORY MONTH Marks and celebrates the lives and achievements of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the United States
<b>October 9, 2023</b>	INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ DAY (Native American Day) Celebrates and honors Native American history and culture. [The second Monday of October is also marked as a U.S. federal holiday, Columbus Day. Many people are opposed to the celebration of a man who led and committed atrocities against Indigenous people. Some states and cities in the U.S. have officially changed the day to Indigenous Peoples’ Day. Similarly, it is celebrated as Día de la Raza, “Day of the Race”, in Spanish-speaking countries and communities]. Additionally, the state of Colorado acknowledges this day as Cabrini Day.
<b>November 2023</b>	NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH Celebrates and honors the history and culture of Native Americans and indigenous people in the United States.
<b>February 2024</b>	BLACK HISTORY MONTH Celebrates Black History and African American culture in the United States.
<b>March 2024</b>	NATIONAL WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH Honors women as significant agents of historical change.
<b>April 2024</b>	National Arab American Heritage Month Recognizes the contributions and celebrates the culture of Arab Americans in the United States.
<b>May 2024</b>	ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH Recognizes the contributions and celebrates the culture of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States.  JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH Recognizes the history of Jewish contributions to American culture, acknowledging the diverse achievements of American Jews.
<b>May 5, 2024</b>	CINCO DE MAYO In 1862 Mexican forces defeated French occupational forces in the Battle of Puebla.
<b>June 2024</b>	LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH Commemorates the anniversary of the June 28, 1969 Stonewall riot in New York City, the incident that initiated the modern gay rights movement in the United States.
<b>June 19, 2024</b>	JUNETEENTH Originally commemorating the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas in 1865, it is now celebrated throughout the U.S. to honor African-American freedom and achievement.

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