



Department of Equity, Culture, & Community Engagement  
 Cherry Creek School District  
 4700 South Yosemite  
 Greenwood Village, CO 80111

TO: Principals

FROM: The Department of Equity, Culture, & Community Engagement

DATE: May 31, 2022

RE: Major Religious Holidays 2022-2023 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.

Date	Holiday	Brief Description
<b>July 9, 2022 – July 10, 2022</b> Begins at sundown July 9 <sup>th</sup> and ends at sundown on July 10 <sup>th</sup>	Eid al-Adha (Islamic)	Eid al-Adha, the Muslim Festival of Sacrifice, is the commemoration of Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience of a command from God. Marks the end of the annual Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca).
<b>September 11, 2022</b>	Enkutatash (Ethiopian and Eritrean)	<i>Enkutatash (አገልግሎት) is the first day of the New Year in Ethiopia and Eritrea.</i>
<b>September 25-27, 2022</b> Begins sunset of September 25 <sup>th</sup> and ends nightfall of September 27 <sup>th</sup>	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 Nora'im ("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>October 4-5, 2022</b> Begins sunset of October 4 <sup>th</sup> and ends nightfall of October 5 <sup>th</sup>	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>October 9-16, 2022</b> Begins sunset October 9 <sup>th</sup> and ends nightfall of October 16 <sup>th</sup>	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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Date	Holiday	Brief Description
<b>October 24, 2022</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 18, 2022-December 26, 2022</b> Begins sunset of December 18 <sup>th</sup> and ends nightfall of December 26 <sup>th</sup>	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>January 22, 2023</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.
<b>February 22, 2023</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 22, 2023-April 21, 2023</b> Begins at sundown on March 22 <sup>nd</sup> and ends at sundown on April 21 <sup>st</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>April 5, 2023 - April 13, 2023</b> Begins sunset of April 5 <sup>th</sup> and ends nightfall of April 13 <sup>th</sup>	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.
<b>April 7, 2023</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 21-22, 2023</b> Begins at sundown on April 21 <sup>st</sup> and ends at sundown on April 22 <sup>nd</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.



The table below outlines the major **heritage months** celebrated during the 2022-2023 school year. Heritage months are **designated times throughout the year to celebrate and acknowledge** the contributions of various ethnic and marginalized groups to the history, culture, and society in the United States.

Heritage Months – 2022-2023 School Year	
August 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	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.
September 15 <sup>th</sup> - October 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH Celebrates the contributions, heritage, and culture of Hispanic and Latino Americans.
October 2022	LGBT HISTORY MONTH Marks and celebrates the lives and achievements of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the United States
October 10, 2022	INDIGENOUS PEOPLE’S 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 People’s Day. Similarly, it is celebrated as Día de la Raza, “Day of the Race”, in Spanish-speaking countries and communities.]
November 2022	NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH Celebrates and honors the history and culture of Native Americans and indigenous people in the United States.
February 2023	BLACK HISTORY MONTH Celebrates Black History and African American culture in the United States.
March 2023	NATIONAL WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH Honors women as significant agents of historical change.
April 2023	NATIONAL ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH Recognizes the contributions and celebrates the culture of Arab Americans in the United States.
May 2023	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.
June 2023	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.