

2019-2020 Religious and Cultural Observances Chart
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Chart One: Days of Highest Impact

*(Please avoid scheduling events or activities on the **dates in bold and the evening prior to the date in bold if it is marked as SD (sun down)**. The rest of the dates are listed to acknowledge additional days of importance for Northshore student, staff, family, and community members. Expect some student observers to be out of school on all of the below dates.)*

This chart is representative of the Christian, Orthodox, Hindu, Jewish, Islamic, Baha'i, Buddhist, Sikh, and Neo Pagan religions.

Date	Observance Name	Religion	Notes
			SD = Starts at sun down the night before the date listed, ends at sun down on the date listed.
9/10/19 (Tues)	Ashura	Islamic	SD *Date not fixed, but often stays within 1 to 2 days of the date listed.
9/30/19 (Mon) - 10/1/19 (Tues)	Rosh Hashanah	Jewish	SD
10/9/19 (Wed)	Yom Kippur	Jewish	SD
10/27/19 (Sun)	Diwali	Hindu	
10/29/19 (Tues)	Birth of the Bab	Baha'i	SD
12/23/19 (Mon)- 12/30/19 (Mon)	Hanukkah	Jewish	SD During Winter Break.
12/24/19 (Tues)	Christmas Eve	Christian	During Winter Break.
12/25/19 (Wed)	Christmas Day	Christian	During Winter Break.
3/20/20 (Fri)	Naw-Ruz (Baha'i New Year)	Baha'i	SD
4/12/20 (Sun)	Easter	Christian	
4/23/20 (Thurs) to 5/23/20 (Sat)	Ramadan	Islamic	*Dates not fixed, but often stay within 1 to 2 days of the dates listed.
4/28/20 (Tues)	Ninth Day of the Rivdan Festival	Baha'i	SD
5/1/20 (Fri)	Twelfth Day of the Rivdan Festival	Baha'i	SD
5/24/20 (Sun)	Eid al-Fitr (end of Ramadan)	Islamic	SD *Date not fixed, but often stays within 1 to 2 days of the date

			listed.
5/23/20 (Sat)	Declaration of the Bab	Baha'i	SD
5/28/20 (Thurs)	Ascension of Baha'u'llah	Baha'i	SD

Chart Two: Days of Fasting

(Please be sensitive to and accommodate student observers' needs due to fasting on all of the dates and the evening prior to the date listed if it is marked as SD.)

This chart is representative of the Christian, Orthodox, Hindu, Jewish, Islamic, Baha'i, Buddhist, Sikh, and Neo Pagan religions.

Date	Observance Name	Religion	Notes
			SD = Starts at sun down the night before the date listed, ends at sun down on the date listed.
9/2/19 (Mon)	Ganesh Chaturthi	Hindu	SD
9/10/19 (Tues)	Ashura	Islamic	SD
10/9/19 (Wed)	Yom Kippur	Jewish	SD
2/21/20 (Fri)	Maha Shivaratri	Hindu	
3/1/20 (Sun) to 3/19/20 (Thurs)	The Baha'i Fast	Baha'i	SD
3/20/20 (Fri)	Naw-Ruz (Baha'i New Year)	Baha'i	SD
4/23/20 (Thurs) to 5/23/20 (Sat)	Ramadan	Islamic	*Dates not fixed, but often stay within 1 to 2 days of the dates listed.

Chart Three: Full Religious and Cultural Observances Calendar

(This is a working document to increase education and awareness around days that are observed by our students and families.)

This chart is representative of the Christian, Orthodox, Hindu, Jewish, Islamic, Baha'i, Buddhist, Sikh, and Neo Pagan religions.

Day of fasting for observers

Day of highest impact for observers

Religion	Date of Observance	Name of Observance	Short Description
Christian	10/4/19 (Fri)	Feast of St Francis of Assisi	Practice gratitude, spend time with an animal, pray, church service
	11/1/19 (Fri)	All Saints' Day (Catholic)	Celebrate all Saints, remember all those who have gone to heaven, church service
	11/2/19 (Sat)	All Souls' Day	Day to honor the dead, church service
	12/1/19 (Sun)	First Sunday of Advent	The beginning of the Christian year, celebrate the coming of Jesus for the four weeks to follow
	12/8/19 (Sun)	Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Catholic)	Celebrate the immaculate conception of the Virgin Mary
	12/12/19 (Thurs)	Feast of Our Lady Guadalupe (Mexican Catholic)	Celebrate when Juan Diego saw the Virgin Mary
	12/16/19 (Mon) to 12/24/19 (Tues)	Simbang Gabi (Filipino Catholic)	Series of nine masses at dawn,

			celebrate the birth of Jesus
	12/24/19 (Tues)	Christmas Eve	Midnight Mass, celebrate the birth of Jesus
	12/25/19 (Wed)	Christmas Day	Celebrate the birth of Jesus
	1/6/20 (Mon)	Dia de los Reyes (Mexican Christian)	Honor the Three Wise Men, exchange gifts
	1/6/20 (Mon)	Epiphany	Honor the Three Wise Men, exchange gifts
	2/26/20 (Wed)	Ash Wednesday (Catholic)	Day of abstinence from meat
	2/26/20 (Wed) to 4/9/20 (Thurs)	Lent	Some observers fast through Lent
	4/5/20 (Sun)	Palm Sunday	Honor the last days of Jesus' life
	4/9/20 (Thurs)	Maundy Thursday	Remember when Jesus celebrated his last Passover with Disciples
	4/10/20 (Fri)	Good Friday (Catholic)	Honor Jesus' Passion, crucifixion, and passing
	4/11/20 (Sat)	Holy Saturday	Honor the day that Jesus' body rest in the tomb after his passing
	4/12/20 (Sun)	Easter (Catholic)	Celebrate Jesus' resurrection

	5/21/20 (Thurs)	Ascension Day	Honors Jesus' ascension into Heaven
	5/31/20 (Sun)	Pentecost	Celebrate the Holy Spirit
	6/1/20 (Mon)	Whit Monday	Continuation of celebrating the Holy Spirit
	6/7/20 (Sun)	Trinity Sunday	Celebrate the Trinity
	6/11/20 (Thurs)	Corpus Christi	Celebrate Jesus' body and blood
	8/15/20 (Sat)	Assumption of Mary	Celebrate Mary's assumption into Heaven by God
Orthodox	1/7/20 (Tues)	Orthodox Christmas Day	Celebrate the birth of Jesus
	1/14/20 (Tues)	Orthodox New Year	Celebrate the New Year
	4/14/20 (Fri)	Orthodox Good Friday	Events that honor and lead up to the crucifixion of Jesus, many observe the day by fasting
	4/18/20 (Sat)	Orthodox Holy Saturday	Honor the time between the crucifixion and

	4/19/20 (Sun)	Orthodox Easter	resurrection of Jesus Honor the resurrection of Jesus
Hindu	8/24/19 (Sat)	Janmashtami	Celebrates the birth of Krishna, celebrated in evening, most observers fast the whole day and eat after midnight
	9/2/19 (Mon)	Ganesh Chaturthi	Honor Parvati, Shiva, and other Lords, observers fast for the day and until the next morning after they have offered prayers, ten day festival takes place
	9/29/19 (Sun) to 10/8/19 (Tues)	Navaratri/Dussehra	Honor Goddess Durga over a span of nine nights
	10/27/19 (Sun)	Diwali	Celebrates light and new beginnings, five day festival takes place, many will stay home from school
	2/21/20 (Fri)	Maha Shivaratri	Honors the Lord Shiva, fasting takes place for the whole day
	3/10/20 (Tues) to	Holi	Celebrates the

	3/11/20 (Wed)		arrival of spring, love, fertility, ad good over evil, spans over two days
	3/25/20 (Wed)	Gudi Padwa	Celebrates the traditional New Year, Spring festival
	4/2/20 (Thurs)	Rama Navami	Celebrates God Rama's birthday
	8/3/20 (Mon)	Raksha Bandhan	Celebrates the unity and bond between brothers and sisters, sisters tie a thread around their brothers' wrists, brothers declare that they will protect their sister
Jewish (Note: all holidays start at sun down the night before the date listed, and end at sun down on the date listed)	9/30/19 (Mon) (and 10/1/19 for some)	Rosh Hashanah	Celebrate the New Year, celebrate with family gatherings, non-work day for observers, some students do not go to school
	10/19/19 (Wed)	Yom Kippur	The Day of Atonement, eat with family, special service in synagogue, 25-hour fast, non-work day for observers,

	10/14/19 (Mon) to 10/20/19 (Sun)	Sukkot	majority of students will not be at school Honor the time that Jewish people spent on their journey to the Promised Land, celebrates God's protection during this time, primary observance days are 10/14 and 10/15, a few students will not go to school
	10/21/19 (Mon)	Shmini Atzeret	Connected to themes of Sukkot
	10/22/19 (Tues)	Simchat Torah	Celebrates new cycle of reading Torah
	12/23/19 (Mon) to 12/30/19 (Mon)	Hanukkah (Chanukah)	Celebrate defeating Greeks and rededicating the Temple of Jerusalem, spans eight days
	2/10/20 (Mon)	Tu B'shevat/ Tu B'Shevat	Celebrate connection to the earth and environment, trees often planted
	3/10/20 (Tues)	Purim	Celebrate deliverance of Jewish people from plot to

			destroy them as recorded in Book of Esther
	4/9/20 (Thurs) to 4/16/20 (Thurs)	Passover	Celebrates freedom from slavery, primary obligation days are 4/9, 4/10, 4/15, and 4/16
	4/21/20 (Tues)	Yom HaShoah	Holocaust Remembrance Day
	4/29/20 (Wed)	Yom Ha'atzmaut	Celebrate Israel Independence Day
	5/12/20 (Tues)	Lag BaOmer	Customary to celebrate with bonfires and weddings
	5/29/20 (Fri) to 5/30/20 (Sat)	Shavuot	Celebrate the receiving of the Torah, many observers stay up all night to study the Torah and celebrate
	7/9/20 (Thurs)	17 th of Tammuz	Commemorate breach of Jerusalem walls before the Second Temple was destroyed, some fast all day
	7/30/20 (Thurs)	Tisha B'Av	Day of mourning both Temples being destroyed

<p>Islamic</p> <p>(Note: all holidays start at sun down the night before the date listed, and end at sun down on the date listed)</p>	8/31/19 (Sat)	Muharram	Day to mourn and remember Hussein ibn Ali
	9/10/19 (Tues)	Ashura	Tenth day of Muharram, Sunni Muslims fast, some students will not go to school
	11/10/19 (Sun)	Mawlid-al-Nabi	Celebrate the birth of the Prophet Muhammad
	3/22/20 (Sun)	Isra and Mi'raj	Celebrate the night Allah took Muhammad to Jerusalem from Mecca
	4/23/20 (Thurs) to 5/23/20 (Sat)	Ramadan *dates not fixed	Honor the first Quran revelation to Muhammad, fast sunrise to sunset for the duration of the holiday for those who have reached puberty
	5/19/20 (Tues)	Laylat al Qadr *date not fixed	Honor the holiest night of Ramadan, on the 27 th day of Ramadan
	5/24/20 Sun)	Eid al-Fitr (end of Ramadan) *date not fixed	Marks the end of Ramadan, feast of breaking the fast, students often do not go to school
7/29/20 (Wed) to 8/2/20 (Sun)	Hajj	Pilgrimage to Mecca, students	

	7/30/20 (Thurs)	Day of Arafah	may not be at school Second day of the pilgrimage to Mecca, students may not be at school
	7/31/20 (Sun)	Eid al-Adha *date not fixed	Marks the sacrifice feast, honors Ibrahim's sacrifice of his son on Allah's orders, festival takes place
Baha'i (Note: all holidays start at sun down the night before the date listed, and end at sun down on the date listed)	10/29/19 (Tues)	Birth of the Bab	Celebrate and honor Bab, students may not go to school
	10/30/19 (Wed)	Birth of Baha'u'llah	Celebrate and honor Baha'u'llah, students may not go to school
	3/1/20 (Sun) to 3/19/20 (Thurs)	The Baha'i Fast	Observers fast during this time
	3/20/20 (Fri)	Feast of Naw-Ruz (Baha'i New Year)	Celebrate the first month in the Bahai calendar, age 15+ fast sunrise to sunset the month leading up to the day (3/1 to 3/21), students may not go to school
	4/20/20 (Mon)	First Day of the Ridvan Festival	Celebrates Baha'u'llah's time in the Ridvan garden, and the

			<p>declaration of his prophecy, students may not go to school</p> <p>Celebrates Baha'u'llah's time in the Ridvan garden, and the declaration of his prophecy, students may not go to school</p>
	4/28/20 (Tues)	Ninth Day of the Ridvan Festival	Celebrates Baha'u'llah's time in the Ridvan garden, and the declaration of his prophecy, students may not go to school
	5/1/20 (Fri)	Twelfth Day of the Ridvan Festival	Celebrates Baha'u'llah's time in the Ridvan garden, and the declaration of his prophecy, students may not go to school
	5/23/20 (Sat)	Declaration of the Bab	Celebrate Bab's declaration as a Messenger of God, students may not go to school
	5/28/20 (Thurs)	Ascension of Baha'u'llah	Honors the passing of Baha'u'llah, students may not go to school
	7/9/20 (Thurs)	Martyrdom of the Bab	Honors the passing of the Bab, some students may not go to school
Buddhist	12/8/19 (Sun)	Buddhist Enlightenment Day	Day for observers to be reborn and find out the truth

	2/15/20 (Sat)	Nirvana Day	about life Honors the passing of Buddha
	4/8/20 (Wed)	Buddha's Birthday	Celebrate the birth of Buddha
Sikh	10/20/19 (Sun)	Birth of the Guru Granth	Celebrate the birth of Guru Granth Sahib
	11/24/19 (Sun)	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib	Honor the passing of Guru Tegh Bahadur
	1/2/20 (Thurs)	Guru Gobind Singh Birthday	Celebrate the birthday of Guru Gobind Singh
	4/13/20 (Mon)	Vaisakhi	Celebrate the founding of the Sikh community, known as Khalsa
	4/18/20 (Sat)	Birthday of Guru Angad Dev	Celebrate the birthday of Guru Angad Dev
	6/16/20 (Tues)	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib	Honor the passing of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib
Neo Pagan	9/23/19 (Mon)	Mabon	Celebrate the second harvest and the changing seasons
	11/1/19 (Fri)	Samhain	Celebrate the year's third and last harvest festival
	12/22/19 (Sun)	Winter Solstice	Honor the new

	2/1/20 (Sat)	Imbolc	solar year Celebrate the Winter Cross-Quarter
	3/20/20 (Fri)	Ostara	Celebrate the arrival of spring
	5/1/20 (Fri)	Beltane	Celebrate the May Lord and May Lady and fertility, and do maypole dancing
	6/20/20 (Sat)	Summer Solstice	Celebrate the longest day of the year

Cultural Observances

National non-work day

Culture	Date of Observance	Name of Observance	Impact
U.S.	9/2/19 (Mon)	Labor Day	* national non-work day
	10/14/19 (Mon)	Indigenous Peoples' Day	
	10/31/19 (Thurs)	Halloween	
	11/11/19 (Mon)	Veteran's Day	* national non-work day
	11/28/19 (Thurs) to 11/29/19 (Fri)	Thanksgiving/ Thanksgiving observed	* national non-work day 11/28 to 11/29
	12/24/19 (Tues)	Christmas Eve	* national non-work day

	12/25/19 (Wed)	Christmas	* national non-work day
	1/1/20 (Wed)	New Year's Day	* national non-work day
	1/20/20 (Mon)	Martin Luther King Day	*national non-work day
	2/14/20 (Fri)	Valentine's Day	
	2/17/20 (Mon)	Presidents' Day	* national non-work day
	2/19/20 (Wed)	Day of Remembrance (Japanese Internment)	
	5/25/20 (Mon)	Memorial Day	* national non-work day
	7/4/20 (Sat)	Independence Day	* national non-work day
Chinese	9/13/19 (Fri)	Moon Festival	Celebrate harvest, gathering, giving, and praying
	1/25/20 (Sat)	Chinese/ Lunar New Year	Celebrate the New Year
Ethiopian	9/12/19 (Thurs)	Enkutatash	Celebrate the first day of the New Year
Nepalese	10/5/19 (Sat) to 10/20/19 (Thurs)	Dashain Festival	Celebrates the Gods' victory over demons, fifteen day festival
Vietnamese	9/13/19 (Fri)	Tet Trung Thu	Celebrate the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival
Korean	9/12/19 (Thurs) to 9/14/19 (Sat)	Chu Seok	Celebrate Korean Thanksgiving Day
Latin American	10/14/19 (Mon)	Dia de la Raza	Celebrate Latinx

			heritage and culture
Mexican	10/31/19 (Thurs) to 11/2/19 (Sat)	Dia de los Muertos	Celebrate the Day of the Dead, honor those who have passed
	12/16/19 (Mon) to 12/24/19 (Tues)	Las Posadas	Celebrate Joseph and Mary's travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem
	5/5/20 (Tues)	Cinco de Mayo	Celebrate Mexican heritage, not commonly celebrated in Mexico, mostly celebrated in the U.S.
	6/14/20 (Sun)	Dia de los Ninos	Celebrate children, family, and learning
African	12/26/19 (Thurs) to 1/1/20 (Wed)	Kwanzaa	Celebrate African culture and history
	6/19/20 (Fri)	Juneteenth	Commemorate the ending of chattel slavery in the United States; celebrate African American freedom, independence, advancements, and culture.
Iranian	3/20/20 (Fri)	Nowruz	Marks the beginning of spring
Laotian	4/13/20 (Mon) to 4/15/20 (Thurs)	Bun Pi Mai	Laos New Year

Sources for All Charts:

Baha'i National Center representative

Caprice Hollins' Diversity Calendar

Congregation Kol Ami representative

Hindu Temple and Cultural Center representative

Islamic Center of Bothell representative

Lisa Hall's Cultural and Religious Observances Chart

OSPI Calendar

Sikh Center of Seattle representative

Seattle Buddhist Church representative

The University of Arizona Calendar of Religious Holidays

The University of Washington Calendar of Holidays and Religious Observances

University of Missouri Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Dept. Guide to Religions