

2020-2021 Religious and Cultural Observances

Chart One: Religious Days of Highest Impact During the School Week

(Dates to avoid scheduling events or activities on. Pay special attention to dates marked SD because events and activities should also not be scheduled the night before the date listed. Expect some student observers to be out of school.)

Representational of the Christian/Catholic, Orthodox Christian/Catholic, Hindu, Jewish, Islamic, Baha'i, Buddhist, Sikh, Non-Denominational Christian, and Neo Pagan religions.

Date	Name of Observance	Religion	Notes SD = Starts at sun down the night before the date listed, ends at sun down on the date listed.
9/19/2020	Rosh Hashanah	Jewish	SD
9/19/2020	Feast of Trumpets	Non-Denominational Christian	SD
9/28/2020	Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	Jewish	SD
8/30/2020	Ashura	Islamic	*Date not fixed, but often stays within 1 to 2 days of the date listed
10/3/2020 10/10/2020	Feast of Tabernacles (first and last days, and Sabbath)	Non-Denominational Christian	SD
11/14/2020	Diwali	Hindu	
10/19/2020	Birth of Baha'u'llah	Baha'i	SD
12/24/2020	Christmas Eve	Christian, Catholic	During Winter Break
12/25/2020	Christmas Day	Christian, Catholic	During Winter Break
2/12/2021	Chinese/Lunar New Year	Chinese	
3/20/2021	Naw-Ruz (Baha'i New Year)	Baha'i	SD
3/28/2021	Passover	Jewish	SD
4/3/2021	Feast of Unleavened Bread (Last Day)	Non-Denominational Christian	SD
5/13/2021	Eid al-Fitr (end of Ramadan)	Islamic	*Date not fixed, but often stays within 1 to 2 days of the date listed

Chart Two: Days of Fasting During the School Week

(Dates to acknowledge and be sensitive to student observers' needs due to fasting)

Representational of the Christian/Catholic, Orthodox Christian/Catholic, Hindu, Jewish, Islamic, Baha'i, Buddhist, Sikh, Non-Denominational Christian, and Neo Pagan religions.

Date	Name of Observance	Religion	Notes SD = Starts at sun down the night before the date listed, ends at sun down on the date listed.
8/11/2020	Janmashtami	Hindu	SD
8/22/2020	Ganesh Chaturthi	Hindu	SD

9/28/2020	Yom Kippur	Jewish	SD
9/28/2020	Day of Atonement	Non-Denominational Christian	SD
8/29/2020	Ashura	Islamic	SD
3/11/2021	Maha Shivaratri	Hindu	
3/1/2021- 3/19/2021	The Baha'i Fast	Baha'i	SD
2/17/2021- 4/3/2021	Lent	Christian, Catholic	
3/20/2021	Baha'i New Year	Baha'i	SD
4/30/2021	Orthodox Good Friday	Orthodox Christian/Catholic	
4/13/2021- 5/11/2021	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

(A working document for education and awareness)

Representational of the Christian/Catholic, Orthodox Christian/Catholic, Hindu, Jewish, Islamic, Baha'i, Buddhist, Sikh, Non-Denominational Christian, and Neo Pagan religions

(SD) for observances starting at sundown the night prior

Day of fasting for observers

Day of highest impact for observers

Date of Observance	Name of Observance	Religion/Culture	Impact
7/28/2020- 8/2/2020	Hajj	Islamic	Pilgrimage to Mecca
7/30/2020 (SD)	Day of Arafah	Islamic	Second day of the pilgrimage to Mecca
7/31/2020	Eid al-Adha *dates not fixed	Islamic	Marks the sacrifice feast, honors Ibrahim's sacrifice of his son on Allah's orders, festival takes place
8/11/2020	Janmashtami	Hindu	Celebrates the birth of Krishna, celebrated in evening, most observers fast the whole day and eat after midnight
8/21/2020	Muharram	Islamic	Day to mourn and remember Hussein ibn Ali
8/22/2020	Ganesh Chaturthi	Hindu	Honor Parvati, Shiva, and other Lords, observers fast for the day until the next morning

			after they have offered prayers, ten day festival takes place
8/30/2020 (SD) 8/30/2020 (SD)	Ashura	Islamic	Tenth day of Muharram, Sunni Muslims fast, some students will not go to school
9/7/2020	Labor Day	U.S. Culture	Dedication to working people across the U.S.
9/11/2020	Enkutatash	Ethiopian Culture	Celebrate the first day of the new year
9/19/2020 (SD)	Rosh Hashanah	Jewish	Celebrate the New Year, celebrate with family gatherings, non-work day for observers, some students do not go to school
9/19/2020 (SD)	Feast of Trumpets	Non-Denominational Christian	First of the Fall Holy Days, depicts the day Christ will return to this world, non-work day for observers, some students do not go to school
9/22/2020	Mabon	Neo Pagan	Celebrate the second harvest and the changing of seasons
9/28/2020 (SD) 9/28/2020 (SD)	Yom Kippur	Jewish	The Day of Atonement, special service in synagogue, 25 hour fast, non-work day for observers, majority of students will not be at school
9/28/2020 (SD)	Day of Atonement	Non-Denominational Christian	Day of fasting, portrays the human race finally becoming at one with God
9/30/2020	Tet Trung Thu	Vietnamese Culture	Celebrate the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival

9/30/2020- 10/2/2020	Chu Seok	Korean Culture	Celebrate Korean Thanksgiving Day
10/1/2020	Moon Festival	Chinese Culture	Celebrate harvest, gathering, giving, and praying
10/3/2020- 10/9/2020 (SD)	Sukkot	Jewish	Honor the time that Jewish people spent in the desert on their journey, celebrating God's protection, during this time some students will not go to school
10/3/2020- 10/10/2020 (SD) (High Days are first, last, and Sabbath)	Feast of Tabernacles	Non-Denominational Christian	Pictures the future 1,000-year rule of Jesus Christ on earth, non-work days for observers, some students do not go to school
10/4/2020	Feast of St. Francis of Assisi	Christian/Catholic	Practice gratitude, spend time with an animal, pray, church service
10/12/2020	Dia de la Raza	Latin American Culture	Celebrate Latina/o/x heritage and culture
10/12/2020	Indigenous Peoples' Day	U.S. Culture	Honor Indigenous people, histories, and cultures
10/17/2020- 10/24/2020	Navaratri/Dussehra	Hindu	Honor Goddess Durga over a span of nine nights
10/17/2020- 10/29/2020	Dashain Festival	Nepalese Culture	Celebrate the Gods' victory over demons, fifteen day festival
10/18/2021 (SD)	Birth of Bab	Baha'i	Celebrate and honor Bab, students may not go to school
10/19/2020 (SD)	Birth of Bahu'u'llah	Baha'i	Celebrate and honor Baha'u'llah, students may not go to school
10/20/2021	Birth of the Guru Granth	Sikh	Celebrate the birth of Guru Granth Sahib
10/29/2020 (SD)	Mawlid-al-Nabi	Islamic	Celebrate the birth of the Prophet Muhammad

10/31/2020	Halloween	U.S. Culture	Cultural observance with activities
10/31/2020	Samhain	Neo Pagan	Celebrate the year's third and last harvest festival
10/31/2020- 11/2/2020	Dia de los Muertos	Mexican Culture	Celebrate the Day of the Dead, honor those who have passed
11/1/2020	All Saints' Day	Christian/Catholic	Celebrate all Saints, remember all those who have gone to heaven, church service
11/2/2020	All Souls' Day	Christian/Catholic	Day to honor the dead, church service
11/11/2020	Veteran's Day	U.S. Culture	Honor military veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces.
11/14/2020	Diwali	Hindu	Celebrates light and new beginnings, five day festival takes place, many will stay home from school
11/24/2020	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib	Sikh	Honor the passing of Guru Tegh Bahadur
11/26/2020	Thanksgiving	U.S. Culture	Honor family and friends, honor Indigenous histories
11/29/2020	First Sunday of Advent	Christian/Catholic	The beginning of the Christian year, celebrate the coming of Jesus for the four weeks to follow
12/8/2020	Feast of the Immaculate Conception	Christian/Catholic	Celebrate the immaculate conception of the Virgin Mary
12/8/2020	Buddhist Enlightenment Day	Buddhist	Day for observers to be reborn and find out the truth about life
12/11/2020- 12/18/2020 (SD)	Hanukkah (Chanukah)	Jewish	The Festival of Lights spanning across eight days

12/12/2020	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexican Catholic)	Catholic	Celebrate when Juan Diego saw the Virgin Mary
12/16/2020- 12/24/2020	Simbang Gabi (Fillipino Catholic)	Catholic	Series of nine masses at dawn, celebrate the birth of Jesus
12/16/2020- 12/24/2020	Las Posadas	Mexican Culture	Celebrate Joseph & Mary's travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem
12/21/2020	Winter Solstice	Neo Pagan	Honor the new solar year
12/24/2020	Christmas Eve	Christian/Catholic	Midnight Mass, celebrate the birth of Jesus
12/25/2020	Christmas Day	Christian/Catholic	Celebrate the birth of Jesus
12/26/2020- 1/1/2021	Kwanzaa	African Culture	Celebrate African culture and history
1/1/2021	New Year's Day	U.S. Culture	Celebrate the first day of the new year
1/6/2021	Dia de los Reyes (Mexican Christian)	Christian	Honor the Three Wise Men, exchange gifts
1/6/2021	Epiphany	Christian/Catholic	Honor the Three Wise Men, exchange gifts
1/7/2021	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox Christian/Catholic	Celebrate the birth of Jesus
1/14/2021	Orthodox New Year	Orthodox Christian/Catholic	Celebrate the New Year
1/18/2021	Martin Luther King Day	U.S. Culture	Honor Dr. King's voice and legacy
1/20/2021	Guru Gobind Singh Birthday	Sikh	Celebrate the birthday of Guru Gobind Singh
1/28/2021 (SD)	Tu B'Shvat/Tu B'Shevat	Jewish	Celebrate connection to the earth and environment, trees often planted
2/2/2021	Imbolc	Neo Pagan	Celebrate the Winter Cross-Quarter

2/12/2021	Chinese Lunar New Year	Chinese Culture	Celebrate the new year
2/14/2021	Valentine's Day	U.S. Culture	Celebrate relationships and friendships
2/15/2021	Nirvana Day	Buddhist	Honors the passing of Buddha
2/17/2021	Ash Wednesday (Catholic)	Christian/Catholic	First day of Lent
2/17/2020- 4/3/2020	Lent	Christian/Catholic	Some observers fast through Lent
2/18/2021	Presidents' Day	U.S. Culture	Remember all U.S. presidents
2/19/2021	Day of Observance (Japanese Internment)	U.S. Culture	Commemorate the Internment of Japanese Americans during World War II
2/25/2021- 2/28/2021 (SD)	Ayyam-i-Ha	Baha'i	Celebrate God and devote themselves to charity and giving
2/26/2021	Purim	Jewish	Day of exchanging food and gifts
3/1/2021- 3/19/2021 (SD)	The Baha'i Fast	Baha'i	Observers fast during this time
3/11/2021	Maha Shivaratri	Hindu	Honors the Lord Shiva, fasting takes place for the whole day
3/11/2021 (SD)	Isra and Mi'raj	Islamic	Celebrate the night Allah took Muhammad to Jerusalem from Mecca
3/20/2021 (SD) 3/20/2021 (SD)	Feast of Naw-Ruz (Baha'i New Year)	Baha'i	Celebrate the first month in the Baha'i calendar, age 15+ fast sunrise to sunset the month leading up to the day, students may not be at school
3/21/2021	Nowruz	Iranian Culture	Marks the beginning of spring
3/28/2021	Ostara	Neo Pagan	Celebrate the arrival of spring

3/28/2021	Palm Sunday	Christian/Catholic	Honor the last days of Jesus' life
3/28/2021- 3/29/2021	Holi	Hindu	Celebrates the arrival of spring, love, fertility, and good over evil, spans over 2 days
3/28/2021- 4/4/2021 (SD)	Passover	Jewish	Celebrates journey to freedom
3/28/2021- 4/3/2021 (SD) (High Days are first and last)	Feast of Unleavened Bread	Non-Denominational Christian	Symbolizes striving to live a sin-free life, observers remove leavening (sin) from homes and eat unleavened breads to symbolize the righteousness of Christ, non-work day for observers, some students will not go to school
4/1/2021	Maundy Thursday	Christian/Catholic	Remember when Jesus celebrated his last Passover with Disciples
4/2/2021	Good Friday (Catholic)	Christian/Catholic	Honor Jesus' Passion, crucifixion, and passing
4/3/2021	Holy Saturday	Christian/Catholic	Honor the day that Jesus' body rest in the tomb after his passing
4/4/2021	Easter (Catholic)	Christian/Catholic	Celebrate Jesus' resurrection
4/8/2021	Holocaust Remembrance Day	Jewish	Commemoration of the Holocaust
4/13/2021	Gudi Padwa	Hindu	Celebrates the traditional New Year, Spring festival
4/13/2021	Vaisakhi	Sikh	Celebrate the founding of the Sikh community, known as Khalsa
4/13/2021- 5/11/2021 (SD)	Ramadan *dates are not fixed	Islamic	Honor the first Quran revelation to Muhammad, fast sunrise to sunset for the duration

			of the holiday for those who have reached puberty
4/14/2021-4/16/2021	Bun Pi Mai	Laotian Culture	Laos New Year
4/18/2021	Birthday of Guru Angad Dev	Sikh	Celebrate the birthday of Guru Angad Dev
4/20/2021 (SD)	First Day of the Ridvan Festival	Baha'i	Celebrates Baha'u'llah's time in the Rivdan garden, and the declaration of his prophecy, students may not go to school
4/21/2021	Rama Navami	Hindu	Celebrates God Rama's birthday
4/26/2021	Buddha's Birthday	Buddhist	Celebrate the birth of Buddha
4/28/2021 (SD)	Ninth Day of the Ridvan Festival	Baha'i	Celebrates Baha'u'llah's time in the Rivdan garden, and the declaration of his prophecy, students may not go to school
4/30/2021 (SD)	Lag BaOmer	Jewish	Small holiday known for weddings, getting haircuts, having bonfires
4/30/2021	Orthodox Good Friday	Orthodox Christian/Catholic	Events that honor and lead up to the crucifixion of Jesus, many observe with fasting
4/30/2021	Dia de los Ninos	Mexican Culture	Celebrate children, family, and learning
5/1/2020	Beltane	Neo Pagan	Celebrate the May Lord, May Lady and fertility, do maypole dancing
5/1/2021 (SD)	Twelfth Day of the Ridvan Festival	Baha'i	Celebrates Baha'u'llah's time in the Rivdan garden, and the declaration of his prophecy, students may not go to school

5/1/2021	Orthodox Holy Saturday	Orthodox Christian/Catholic	Honor the time between the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus
5/2/2021	Orthodox Easter	Orthodox Christian/Catholic	Honor the resurrection of Jesus
5/8/2021 (SD)	Laylat al Qadr *date not fixed	Islamic	Honor the holiest night of Ramadan on the 27 th day
5/13/2021 (SD)	Eid al-Fitr (end of Ramadan) *date not fixed	Islamic	Marks the end of Ramadan, feast of breaking the fast, students often do not go to school
5/13/2021	Ascension Day	Christian/Catholic	Honors Jesus' ascension into Heaven
5/16/2021 (SD)	Pentecost	Non-Denominational Christian	Feast of First Fruits, also known as Feast of Weeks, celebrate His Spirit
5/17/2021- 5/18/2021 (SD)	Shavuot	Jewish	Celebrates the Five Books of the Torah, many observers stay up all night to study the Torah and celebrate
5/23/2021 (SD)	Declaration of the Bab	Baha'i	Celebrate Bab's declaration as a Messenger of God, students may not go to school
5/23/2021	Pentecost	Christian/Catholic	Celebrate the Holy Spirit
5/24/2021	Whit Monday	Christian/Catholic	Continuation of celebrating the Holy Spirit
5/28/2021 (SD)	Ascension of Baha'u'llah	Baha'i	Honors the passing of Baha'u'llah, students may not go to school
5/30/2021	Trinity Sunday	Christian/Catholic	Celebrate the Trinity

5/31/2021	Memorial Day	U.S. Culture	Honor military personnel who have passed while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces
6/3/2021	Corpus Christi	Christian/Catholic	Celebrate Jesus' body and blood
6/16/2021	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib	Sikh	Honor the passing of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib
6/19/2021	Juneteenth	African-American Culture	Celebrate the abolition of slavery in the state of Texas
6/21/2021	Summer Solstice	Neo Pagan	Celebrate the longest day of the year
7/9/2021 (SD)	Martyrdom of the Bab	Baha'i	Honors the passing of the Bab, some students may not go to school
7/17/2021	Hajj	Islamic	Pilgrimage to Mecca
7/18/2021 (SD)	Day of Arafah	Islamic	Second day of the pilgrimage to Mecca
7/19/2021 (SD)	Eid al-Adha *date not fixed	Islamic	Marks the sacrifice feast, honors Ibrahim's sacrifice of his son on Allah's orders, festival takes place
8/15/2021	Assumption of Mary	Christian/Catholic	Celebrate Mary's assumption into Heaven by God
8/22/2021	Raksha Bandhan	Hindu	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

Sources:

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

