

2023-2024 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, 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.
7/28/2023	Ashura	Islamic	SD *Date not fixed, but often stays within 1 to 2 days of the date listed
9/15/2023-9/17/2023	Rosh Hashanah	Jewish	SD
9/15/2023-9/17/2023	Feast of Trumpets	Non-Denominational Christian	SD
9/25/2023	Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	Jewish	SD
9/29/2023-10/6/2023 (High Days are first, last, and Sabbath)	Feast of Tabernacles (first and last days, and Sabbath)	Non-Denominational Christian	SD
10/17/2023	Birth of Baha'u'llah	Baha'i	SD
11/12/2023	Diwali	Hindu	
12/7/2023-12/15/2023	Hanukkah (Chanukah)	Jewish	SD
12/24/2023	Christmas Eve	Christian	During Winter Break
12/25/2023	Christmas Day	Christian	During Winter Break
2/10/2024	Lunar New Year	East and South Asian Culture	
3/19/2024	Nowruz (Persian New Year)	Zoroastrian, Iranian	
3/25/2024	Holi	Hindu	SD
3/31/2024	Easter	Christian	
4/9/2024	Ugadi/Yugadi New Year	Telugu/Kannada	
4/10/2024	Eid al-Fitr (end of Ramadan)	Islamic	SD *Date not fixed, but often stays within 1 to 2 days of the date listed
4/13/2024	Vaisakhi/ Vishu New Year	Sikh/Tamil	
4/22/2023-4/30/2023	Passover	Jewish	SD
4/22/2024-4/30/2024	Feast of Unleavened Bread (Last Day)	Non-Denominational Christian	SD

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, 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.
7/28/2023	Ashura	Islamic	SD
9/6/2023-9/7/2023	Janmashtami	Hindu	SD
9/19/2023	Ganesh Chaturthi	Hindu	SD
9/25/2023	Yom Kippur	Jewish	SD
9/25/2023	Day of Atonement	Non-Denominational Christian	SD
2/14/2024-3/28/2024	Lent	Christian	
2/29/2024-3/19/2024	The Baha'i Fast	Baha'i	SD
3/8/2024	Maha Shivaratri	Hindu	
3/10/2024-4/9/2024	Ramadan	Islamic	*Dates not fixed, but often stay within 1 to 2 days of the dates listed.
5/3/2024	Orthodox Good Friday	Christian	

Chart Three: Full Religious and Cultural Observances Calendar

(A working document for education and awareness)

Representational of the Christian, 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

June 2023

Date of Observance	Name of Observance	Religion/Culture	Impact
6/26/2023- 7/1/2023 (SD)	Hajj	Islamic	Pilgrimage to Mecca
6/28/2023 (SD)	Day of Arafat	Islamic	Second day of the pilgrimage to Mecca
6/28/2023	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

July 2023

Date of Observance	Name of Observance	Religion/Culture	Impact
7/19/2023	Muharram	Islamic	Day to mourn and remember Hussein ibn Ali
7/28/2023 (SD) 7/28/2023 (SD)	Ashura	Islamic	Tenth day of Muharram, Sunni Muslims fast, some students will not go to school

September 2023

Date of Observance	Name of Observance	Religion/Culture	Impact
9/4/2023	Labor Day	U.S. Culture	Dedication to working people across the U.S.
9/6/2023-9/7/2023	Janmashtami	Hindu	Celebrates the birth of Krishma, celebrated in evening, most observers fast the whole day and eat after midnight
9/9/2023	Chuseok	Korean Culture	Celebrate Korean Thanksgiving Day
9/12/2023	Enkutatash	Ethiopian Culture	Celebrate the first day of the new year
9/15/2023 - 9/17/2023 (SD)	Rosh Hashanah	Jewish	Celebrate the New Year, celebrate with family gatherings, non-work day for observers, some students do not go to school
9/15/2023 - 9/17/2023 (SD)	Feast of Trumpets	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
9/18/2023 (SD)	Ganesh Chaturthi	Hindu	Honor Ganapathi. Observers fast for the day until the next morning after they have offered prayers, ten day festival takes place
9/21/2023 - 9/29/2023	Mabon	Neo Pagan	Celebrate the second harvest and the changing of seasons
9/25/2023 (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
9/25/2023 (SD)	Day of Atonement	Non-Denominational Christian	Day of fasting, portrays the human race finally becoming at one with God
9/26/2023-9/27/2023 (SD)	Mawlid-al-Nabi	Islamic	Celebrate the birth of the Prophet Muhammad

9/29/2023	Tet Trung Thu	Vietnamese Culture	Celebrate the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival
9/29/2023	Moon Festival	Celebrated in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, and Vietnam Cultures	Celebrate harvest, gathering, giving, and praying
9/29/2023-10/6/2023	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
9/29/2023-10/6/2023 (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

October 2023

Date of Observance	Name of Observance	Religion/Culture	Impact
10/4/2023	Feast of St. Francis of Assisi	Christian	Practice gratitude, spend time with an animal, pray, church service
10/9/2023	Indigenous Peoples' Day	U.S. Culture	Honor Indigenous people, histories, and cultures
10/15/2023-10/23/2023	Navratri/Dussehra	Hindu	Honor Goddess Durga over a span of nine nights
10/12/2023	Dia de la Raza	Latin American Culture	Celebrate Latina/o/x heritage and culture
10/16/2023 (SD)	Birth of Bab	Baha'i	Celebrate and honor Bab, students may not go to school
10/17/2023 (SD)	Birth of Bahu'u'llah	Baha'i	Celebrate and honor Baha'u'llah, students may not go to school
10/20/2023	Birth of the Guru Granth	Sikh	Celebrate the birth of Guru Granth Sahib
10/24/2023	Dashain Festival	Nepalese Culture	Celebrate the Gods' victory over demons, fifteen day festival
10/31/2023	Halloween	U.S. Culture	Cultural observance with activities

November 2023

Date of Observance	Name of Observance	Religion/Culture	Impact
11/1/2023 (SD)	Samhain	Neo Pagan	Celebrate the year's third and last harvest festival

11/1/2023-11/2/2023	Dia de los Muertos	Mexican Culture	Celebrate the Day of the Dead, honor those who have passed
11/1/2023	All Saints' Day	Christian	Celebrate all Saints, remember all those who have gone to heaven, church service
11/2/2023	All Souls' Day	Christian	Day to honor the dead, church service
11/11/2023	Veteran's Day	U.S. Culture	Honor military veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces
11/12/2023	Diwali	Hindu	Celebrates light and new beginnings, five day festival takes place
11/24/2023	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib	Sikh	Honor the passing of Guru Tegh Bahadur
11/23/2023	Thanksgiving	U.S. Culture	Honor family and friends, honor Indigenous histories

December 2023

Date of Observance	Name of Observance	Religion/Culture	Impact
12/3/2023	First Sunday of Advent	Christian	The beginning of the Christian year, celebrate the coming of Jesus for the four weeks to follow
12/7/2023-12/15/2023 (SD)	Hanukkah (Chanukah)	Jewish	The Festival of Lights spanning across eight days
12/8/2023	Feast of the Immaculate Conception	Christian	Celebrate the immaculate conception of the Virgin Mary
12/8/2023	Buddhist Enlightenment Day	Buddhist	Day for observers to be reborn and find out the truth about life
12/12/2023	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexican Christian)	Christian	Celebrate when Juan Diego saw the Virgin Mary
12/16/2023- 12/24/2023	Simbang Gabi (Filipino Christian)	Christian	Series of nine masses at dawn, celebrate the birth of Jesus
12/16/2023- 12/24/2023	Las Posadas	Mexican Culture	Celebrate Joseph & Mary's travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem
12/21/2023	Winter Solstice	Neo Pagan	Honor the new solar year
12/24/2023	Christmas Eve	Christian	Midnight Mass, celebrate the birth of Jesus
12/25/2023	Christmas Day	Christian	Celebrate the birth of Jesus
12/26/2023- 1/1/2024	Kwanzaa	African Culture	Celebrate African culture and history

January 2024

Date of Observance	Name of Observance	Religion/Culture	Impact
1/1/2024	New Year's Day	U.S. Culture	Celebrate the first day of the new year
1/6/2024	Dia de los Reyes (Hispanic Christian)	Christian	Honor the Three Wise Men, exchange gifts
1/6/2024	Epiphany	Christian	Honor the Three Wise Men, exchange gifts
1/7/2024	Orthodox Christmas Day	Christian	Celebrate the birth of Jesus
1/13/2024	Lohri	Hindu	Lohri is a New Year celebrated by Punjabi and people from many other North Indian regions. The festival is celebrated mid-wintertime with new harvest and bonfires
1/14/2024	Orthodox New Year	Christian	Celebrate the New Year
1/15/2024	Martin Luther King Day	U.S. Culture	Honor Dr. King's voice and legacy
1/15/2024-1/18/2024	Makar Sankranti/ Pongal	Hindu	Makar Sankranti/Pongal is a harvest festival celebrated by South Indian States
1/20/2024	Birth of Guru Gobind Singh	Sikh	Celebrate the birthday of Guru Gobind Singh
1/25/2024 (SD)	Tu B'Shvat/Tu B'Shevat	Jewish	Celebrate connection to the earth and environment, trees often planted
1/27/2024	International Holocaust Remembrance Day	Jewish	Commemoration of the Holocaust

February 2024

Date of Observance	Name of Observance	Religion/Culture	Impact
2/1/2024 (SD)	Imbolc	Neo Pagan	Celebrate the Winter Cross-Quarter
2/7/2024 (SD)	Isra and Mi'raj	Islamic	Celebrate the night Allah took Muhammad to Jerusalem from Mecca
2/10/2024	Lunar New Year	East and South Asian Culture	Celebrate the new year
2/14/2024	Ash Wednesday (Christian)	Christian	First day of Lent
2/14/2024-3/28/2024	Lent	Christian	Some observers fast through Lent
2/14/2024	Valentine's Day	U.S. Culture	Celebrate relationships and friendships
2/15/2024	Nirvana Day	Buddhist	Honors the passing of Buddha
2/19/2024	Day of Remembrance (Japanese Internment)	U.S. Culture	Commemorate the Internment of Japanese Americans during World War II

2/19/2024	Presidents' Day	U.S. Culture	Remember all U.S. presidents
2/26/2024- 2/29/2024 (SD)	Ayyam-i-Ha	Baha'i	Celebrate God and devote themselves to charity and giving
2/29/2024-3/19/2024	The Baha'i Fast	Baha'i	Observers fast during this time

March 2024

Date of Observance	Name of Observance	Religion/Culture	Impact
3/8/2024	Maha Shivaratri	Hindu	Honors the Lord Shiva, fasting takes place for the whole day and night
3/10/2024- 4/9/2024 (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
3/19/2024	Nowruz (Persian New Year)	Zoroastrian, Iranian Culture	Marks the beginning of spring
3/19/2024	Ostara	Neo Pagan	Celebrate the arrival of spring
3/24/2024	Palm Sunday	Christian	Honor the last days of Jesus' life
3/24/2024 (SD)	Purim	Jewish	Day of exchanging food and gifts
3/25/2024	Holi	Hindu	Celebrates the arrival of spring, love, fertility, and good over evil, spans over 2 days
3/25/24	International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade	International observance	Offers the opportunity to honor and remember the individuals who suffered and died at the hands of the brutal system of enslavement.
3/28/2024	Maundy Thursday	Christian	Remember when Jesus celebrated his last Passover with Disciples
3/29/2024	Good Friday (Christian)	Christian	Honor Jesus' Passion, crucifixion, and passing
3/30/2024	Holy Saturday	Christian	Honor the day that Jesus' body rest in the tomb after his passing
3/30/2024	Orthodox Holy Saturday	Christian	Honor the time between the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus
3/31/2024	Easter (Christian)	Christian	Celebrate Jesus' resurrection

April 2024

Date of Observance	Name of Observance	Religion/Culture	Impact
4/2/2024 - 5/2/2024 (SD)	Ridvan	Baha'i	Celebrates Baha'u'llah's time in the Rivdan garden, and the declaration of his prophecy, students may not go to school for the first and last day
4/6/2023 - 4/13/2023 (SD)	Passover	Jewish	Celebrates journey to freedom
4/6/2024 (SD)	Laylat al Qadr *date not fixed	Islamic	Honor the holiest night of Ramadan on the 27th day
4/9/2024	Ugadi/Yugadi/Gudi Padwa	Hindu	Celebrates the traditional New Year, Spring festival
4/10/2024 (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
4/13/2024-4/16/2024	Bun Pi Mai	Laotian Culture	Laos New Year
4/13/2024	Vaisakhi	Sikh	Celebrate the founding of the Sikh community, known as Khalsa
4/14/2024	Vishu (Solar New Year)	Hindu	Vishu is a Solar New Year celebrated by people of Tamil Nadu and some North Indian regions
4/17/2024	Rama Navami	Hindu	Celebrates Lord Rama's birthday
4/18/2024	Birthday of Guru Angad Dev	Sikh	Celebrate the birthday of Guru Angad Dev
4/22/2023- 4/30/2023 (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
4/30/2024	Día de los Niños	Mexican Culture	Celebrate children, family, and learning

May 2024

Date of Observance	Name of Observance	Religion/Culture	Impact
5/1/2024	Beltane	Neo Pagan	Celebrate the May Lord, May Lady and fertility, do maypole dancing
5/3/2024	Orthodox Good Friday	Christian	Events that honor and lead up to the crucifixion of Jesus, many observe with fasting
5/5/2024	Orthodox Easter	Christian	Honor the resurrection of Jesus
5/9/2024	Ascension Day	Christian	Honors Jesus' ascension into Heaven
5/15/2024	Buddha's Birthday	Buddhist	Celebrate the birth of Buddha

5/19/2024 (SD)	Pentecost	Non-Denominational Christian	Feast of First Fruits, also known as Feast of Weeks, celebrate His Spirit
5/19/2024	Pentecost	Christian	Celebrate the Holy Spirit
5/20/2024	Whit Monday	Christian	Continuation of celebrating the Holy Spirit
5/23/2024 (SD)	Declaration of the Bab	Baha'i	Celebrate Bab's declaration as a Messenger of God, students may not go to school
5/26/2024 (SD)	Lag BaOmer	Jewish	Small holiday known for weddings, getting haircuts, having bonfires
5/26/2024	Trinity Sunday	Christian	Celebrate the Trinity
5/27/2024	Memorial Day	U.S. Culture	Honor military personnel who have passed while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces
5/28/2024 (SD)	Ascension of Baha'u'llah	Baha'i	Honors the passing of Baha'u'llah, students may not go to school
5/30/2024	Corpus Christi	Christian	Celebrate Jesus' body and blood

June 2024

Date of Observance	Name of Observance	Religion/Culture	Impact
6/11/2024-6/13/2024 (SD)	Shavuot	Jewish	Celebrates the Five Books of the Torah, many observers stay up all night to study the Torah and celebrate
6/14/2024-6/19/2024	Hajj	Islamic	Pilgrimage to Mecca
6/16/2024	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib	Sikh	Honor the passing of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib
6/16/2024 (SD)	Day of Arafah	Islamic	Second day of the pilgrimage to Mecca
6/17/2023 (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
6/19/2024	Juneteenth	African-American Culture	Celebrate the abolition of slavery in the state of Texas
6/20/2024	Summer Solstice	Neo Pagan	Celebrate the longest day of the year

July 2024

Date of Observance	Name of Observance	Religion/Culture	Impact
7/9/2024 (SD)	Martyrdom of the Bab	Baha'i	Honors the passing of the Bab, some students may not go to school

August 2024

Date of Observance	Name of Observance	Religion/Culture	Impact
8/19/2024	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
8/15/2024	Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary	Christian	Celebrate Mary's assumption into Heaven by God

Chart Three: Full Religious and Cultural Observances Calendar

(A working document for education and awareness)

Representational of the Christian, 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

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
[NCCJ Interfaith Calendar](#)
 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