

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 Krishna, 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 |

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| 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 Baha'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 |

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|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| 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 (Phillipino 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 |

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|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---|
| 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 |
|---|--|------------------------------|--|
| 4/6/2023 - 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 |
| 4/20/2024 - 5/1/2024 (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 |
| 4/22/2023- 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 | Dia 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 |

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|----------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 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 |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------|
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|---------------|----------------------|--------|---|
| 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
[NCCI 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