DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

110 Tippett Court
Sunbury, Ohio 43074
740.965.3010
www.bwls.net

Religious Expression Days Annual Notice **July 29, 2026**

Big Walnut Local Schools recognizes the value and sense of belonging that comes from engaging in religious practices. Our goal is to ensure that all members of our learning community can observe important religious traditions without facing negative consequences.

In accordance with Board Policy 5200, the district allows up to three Religious Expression Days per school year for students to observe holidays or participate in faith-based activities. Students who use approved Religious Expression Days will not face academic penalties and will receive accommodations for missed exams, assignments, or other academic requirements.

Major Religious Holidays

Big Walnut Local Schools follows the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's list. This list includes many significant observances shared by community members and is meant for informational purposes. Due to differences in cultural and regional practices and the use of various calendars, some dates may vary.

Non-exhaustive List of Major Religious Holidays

Rosh Hashanah	Oct. 11-13, 2026	Oct. 1-3, 2027
Yom Kippur	Sep. 20 – 21, 2026	Oct. 10-11, 2027
Diwali	Oct. 20-21, 2025	Nov 8, 2026
Hanukkah	Dec. 21-29, 2025	Dec. 4-12, 2026
Ramadan	Feb. 17 - March 18, 2026	Feb. 7- March 8, 2027
Ash Wednesday	Feb. 18, 2026	Feb. 10, 2027
Eid al-Fitr	March 19-20, 2026	March 9-10, 2027
Pesach (Passover)	April 1-9, 2026	Apr. 21-29, 2027
Good Friday	April 3, 2026	March 26, 2027
Easter	April 5, 2026	March 28, 2027
Eid al-Adha	May 26-27, 2026	May 16-17, 2027

Pursuant to Ohio law, the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce developed and provided the above list to all school districts in Ohio. This list is nonexhaustive, and the list may not be used to deny accommodation to a student for a holiday or festival of the student's faith or religious or spiritual belief system that does not appear on the list.

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How to Request

Parents or guardians must submit written requests to the Principal within fourteen (14) days after the start of the school year or fourteen (14) days after a student is enrolled in the District. The requests must specify the religious expression day(s) to be approved. The Principal will approve the days without inquiring into the sincerity of a student's religious or spiritual belief system. The Principal may verify the authenticity of a request by contacting the parent or guardian to confirm they signed it.

Once the days have been approved, the Principal will ensure that each teacher schedules a time and date for alternative examinations or other academic requirements that conflict with the student's absence. Students may participate in interscholastic athletics or other extracurricular activities on days in which the student is absent for religious expression.

Questions regarding the policy may be directed to Superintendent Ryan McLane at 740-965-3010. For more information, refer to Board Policy 5200.