

Franklin Pierce Schools is home to a wonderfully diverse community, representing an array of cultures, perspectives, and traditions. We also have a history of celebrating the contributions of those among us based on identity and profession.

The following guidelines are an attempt to support the planning of school activities to celebrate the contributions of those among us and to be mindful of the ways that our scheduling and planning intersect with students, families, and staff ability to participate based on their recognition of holidays and cultural dates of significance.

### National observances and commemorative months:

Commemorative months afford us the opportunity to honor the traditions and experiences of students, families, and staff. Recognizing these months provides an opportunity for learning while helping to create a sense of belonging and connection.

| Date/Month              | Holiday or Observance                                                                                          |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September               | Attendance Awareness Month<br>Deaf Awareness Month                                                             |
| September 15-October 15 | Hispanic Heritage Month                                                                                        |
| September 17            | Constitution Day and Citizenship Day                                                                           |
| October                 | Disability History and Awareness Month<br>National Bullying Prevention Month                                   |
| October 12              | Indigenous Peoples' Day                                                                                        |
| November                | Native American Heritage Month                                                                                 |
| December 10             | Human Rights Day                                                                                               |
| February                | Black History Month<br>Career & Technical Education Month                                                      |
| March                   | Irish American Heritage Month<br>Music in Our Schools Month<br>Women's History Month<br>Youth Art Month        |
| April                   | Arab American Heritage Month<br>Autism Acceptance Month<br>Child Abuse Awareness Month<br>School Library Month |
| May 1                   | Law Day                                                                                                        |

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| May  | Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month<br>Jewish American Heritage Month<br>Mental Health Awareness Month |
| June | Immigrant Heritage Month<br>LGBTQ+ Pride Month                                                                                          |

## Employee group appreciation:

Franklin Pierce Schools has a long-standing tradition of recognizing the dedicated employees who make a difference in the lives of our students every day. These recognitions are intended to express our appreciation for the essential contributions of staff across the district and the vital role they play in supporting student success. The calendar below highlights nationally recognized appreciation weeks and observances commonly celebrated in public schools across the country.

| Employee Group                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Date/Month                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Custodians and Maintenance Staff                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | September 28-October 2, 2026 |
| Nutrition Services – National School Lunch Week                                                                                                                                                                                                          | October 12-16, 2026          |
| Transportation Staff – National Bus Safety Week                                                                                                                                                                                                          | October 19-23, 2026          |
| Substitutes – American Education Week                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | November 16-20, 2026         |
| School Board Recognition Month                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | January 1-31, 2027           |
| National School Counseling Week<br><i>School Counselors and ESAs (Psychologists, Counselors, Physical Therapists, Speech Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Social Workers)</i>                                                             | February 1-5, 2027           |
| Classified Instructional Support<br><i>Paraeducators, Job Coaches, Interpreters/Tutors, Security Officers, Family Engagement &amp; Drug-Free Coordinators, Preschool Instructors and Family Support Specialists</i>                                      | March 1-5, 2027              |
| Professional Technical Staff<br><i>Information Technology, Purchasing Manager, Construction Project Manager, Assessment Coordinators, Facilities Manager, Recreation Manager, Farm Manager, Supt and PK-12 Staff, HR/Payroll/Business Services staff</i> | March 15-19, 2027            |
| Volunteers – Public School Volunteer Week                                                                                                                                                                                                                | April 19-23, 2027            |
| Administrative Professionals Week<br><i>Secretarial and Clerical support staff</i>                                                                                                                                                                       | April 19-23, 2027            |
| Certificated Staff - National Teacher Appreciation Week<br><i>May 4 is National Teacher Appreciation Day</i>                                                                                                                                             | May 3-7, 2027                |

|                                                                    |                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Health Professionals<br><i>May 6 is National School Nurses Day</i> | May 3-7, 2027   |
| National Educational Bosses Week                                   | May 17-21, 2027 |

## Holidays, Observances, and Traditions:

The calendar below highlights holidays, cultural observances and traditions, and major religious dates. Please consider these dates when planning events and programs that encourage student and family participation to help avoid scheduling conflicts and ensure families are not asked to choose between school involvement and their cultural or religious observances.

**\*Indicates observance begins at dusk or sundown**

| Holiday or tradition                            | Category    | Date(s)                    | Additional information                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mawlid al-Nabi<br><i>Birthday of Muhammad</i>   | Islamic     | August 25                  |                                                                                                         |
| Raksha Bandhan                                  | Hindu       | August 28                  |                                                                                                         |
| Janmashtami                                     | Hindu       | September 4                |                                                                                                         |
| Labor Day                                       | Civic       | September 7                | Class not in session                                                                                    |
| Rosh Hashanah Begins*<br><i>Jewish New Year</i> | Jewish      | September 11               | No work or school on second day                                                                         |
| Mexican Independence Day                        | Cultural    | September 16               |                                                                                                         |
| Constitution Day and<br>Citizenship Day         | Recognition | September 17               |                                                                                                         |
| Yom Kippur*<br><i>Day of Atonement</i>          | Jewish      | September 20               | Designated non-workday for observers                                                                    |
| International Day of Peace                      | Recognition | September 21               |                                                                                                         |
| Fall Equinox                                    | Seasonal    | September 22               |                                                                                                         |
| Sukkot*<br><i>Feast of Tabernacles</i>          | Seasonal    | September 25-<br>October 2 | First day begins at sundown and concludes last night at nightfall; Designated non-workday for observers |
| Shemini Atzeret and Simchat<br>Torah*           | Jewish      | October 2-4                | First day begins at sundown and concludes at nightfall on last day. No work or school on second day.    |
| Navratri and Dussehra                           | Hindu       | October 11-20              |                                                                                                         |

|                                     |                       |                            |                                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Indigenous Peoples' Day             | Cultural              | October 12                 |                                                   |
| Halloween                           | Cultural              | October 31                 |                                                   |
| Day of the Dead                     | Cultural              | November 1-2               |                                                   |
| Daylight Saving Time Ends           | Seasonal              | November 1                 | At 2:00 am, clocks move back one hour to 1:00 am. |
| Diwali                              | Hindu                 | November 8                 |                                                   |
| Veterans Day                        | Civic                 | November 11                | Class not in session                              |
| Thanksgiving Day                    | Cultural              | November 26                | Class not in session                              |
| Native American Heritage Day        | Cultural              | November 27                | Class not in session                              |
| Hanukkah Begins*<br><i>Chanukah</i> | Jewish                | December 4-<br>December 12 | Class not in session                              |
| Winter Solstice                     | Seasonal              | December 21                |                                                   |
| Christmas Day                       | Christian             | December 25                | Class not in session                              |
| Kwanzaa Begins                      | Cultural              | December 26-<br>January 1  | Class not in session                              |
| New Year's Day                      | Civic                 | January 1                  | Class not in session                              |
| Orthodox Christmas                  | Christian<br>Orthodox | January 7                  |                                                   |
| Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day      | Civic                 | January 18                 | Class not in session                              |
| Lunar New Year                      | Cultural              | February 6                 |                                                   |
| Ramadan Begins*                     | Islamic               | February 8                 |                                                   |
| Ash Wednesday                       | Christian             | February 10                |                                                   |
| Lent Begins                         | Christian<br>Orthodox | February 10-<br>March 25   |                                                   |
| Presidents Day                      | Civic                 | February 15                | Class not in session                              |

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|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Maha Shivaratri                                  | Hindu              | March 6     |                                                                                                                                |
| Laylat al-Qadr*                                  | Islamic            | March 5-6*  |                                                                                                                                |
| Eid al-Fitr<br><i>End of Ramadan</i>             | Islamic            | March 9     |                                                                                                                                |
| Daylight Saving Time Begins                      | Seasonal           | March 14    | At 2:00 am, clocks move forward one hour to 3:00 am.                                                                           |
| Spring Equinox                                   | Seasonal           | March 20    |                                                                                                                                |
| Holi                                             | Hindu              | March 22    |                                                                                                                                |
| Purim*<br>Celebration of the Esther Story        | Jewish             | March 22-23 |                                                                                                                                |
| Good Friday                                      | Christian          | March 26    |                                                                                                                                |
| Easter                                           | Christian          | March 28    | Class not in session                                                                                                           |
| Rama Navami                                      | Hindu              | April 14    |                                                                                                                                |
| Passover Begins*<br><i>Pesach</i>                | Jewish             | April 21-29 | First day begins at sundown and concludes at nightfall on last day. No work or school, second and third days or last two days. |
| Earth Day                                        | Recognition        | April 22    |                                                                                                                                |
| Orthodox Good Friday                             | Christian Orthodox | April 30    |                                                                                                                                |
| Orthodox Easter                                  | Christian Orthodox | May 2       |                                                                                                                                |
| Yom HaShoah*<br><i>Holocaust Remembrance Day</i> | Jewish             | May 3-4     |                                                                                                                                |
| Eid al-Adha                                      | Islamic            | May 16      |                                                                                                                                |
| Memorial Day                                     | Civic              | May 31      | Class not in session                                                                                                           |
| Muharram<br><i>Al-Hijrah New Year</i>            | Islamic            | June 6      |                                                                                                                                |
| Shavuot*<br><i>Festival of Weeks</i>             | Jewish             | June 10-12  | First day begins at sundown and concludes at nightfall on last day. No work or school, second and third days or last two days. |
| Ashura                                           | Islamic            | June 15     | A day of fasting                                                                                                               |

|                           |          |           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------|-----------|----------------------|
| Juneteenth Observed       | Civic    | June 18   | Class not in session |
| Juneteenth                | Civic    | June 19   |                      |
| Summer Solstice           | Seasonal | June 21   |                      |
| Independence Day          | Civic    | July 4    | Class not in session |
| Independence Day Observed | Civic    | July 5    |                      |
| Raksha Bandhan            | Hindu    | August 17 |                      |
| Janmashtami               | Hindu    | August 25 |                      |