

CULTURAL & RELIGIOUS



CALENDAR GUIDE

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Department
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Cultural and Religious Calendar Guide

2026-2027

Welcome

Everett Public Schools is rich in culture with a diverse community that represents and speaks over 100 different languages. Our district is committed to creating a sense of belonging where each of our stakeholders' experiences, cultures, beliefs, and traditions are honored. This formal document serves as a tool to raise mutual understanding and sensitivity about the religious, ethnic, and cultural observances that may affect our students, families, colleagues, and community partners. As well as a planning resource when scheduling school exams, school-wide events, or when scheduling workplace or community events.



Please note that this is a living document that will be revised throughout the school year based on the feedback and input we receive from our students, community partners, families and staff members. To find the most updated calendar, please scan the QR code or visit www.everettsd.org/DEIcalendar.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Department

We uphold our core mission and value of creating and sustaining a safe, caring, and inclusive environment within our school district community so that all students, families, and staff feel welcomed, valued, and supported. To enhance and to cultivate deeper multicultural understanding among groups and to promote inclusivity, our department offers this Cultural and Religious Calendar Guide to raise awareness and respect for religious obligations and ethnic and cultural festivities that may affect students, colleagues, and neighbors in our community.

We are deeply committed to ensuring all students, families, and staff have access to resources that create and sustain an inclusive, equitable, and diverse environment for all. We recognize and advocate that equity is a shared responsibility and must be supported and guided by all levels of leadership.

Acknowledgements

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Department, the Communications Department, Federal Way Public Schools, and Cultures Connecting for their leadership and dedication to equity. This document would not have been possible without their partnership and commitment to fostering cultural awareness and celebrating the diversity within our community.

We also thank Superintendent Dr. Ian B. Saltzman, his senior leadership and academic teams, and our district stakeholders for their invaluable support in ensuring this tool reflects the rich and evolving diversity of our community.

Sources

- OSPI
- Federal Way Public Schools
- Cultures Connecting
- GLSEN
- The Skih Coalition
- ADL



Everett Public Schools does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Title IX/Civil Rights Compliance Officer and ADA Coordinator, Chad Golden, 425-385-4100, CGolden@everettsd.org; Section 504 Coordinator, Dave Peters, 425-385-4063, DPeters@everettsd.org; Gender-Inclusive Schools Coordinator, Joi Odom Grant, 425-385-4137, JGrant@everettsd.org.

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Translated versions of this statement can be accessed at:

<https://docushare.everett.k12.wa.us/docushare/dsweb/View/Collection-4736>

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About the Calendar Guide

The Cultural and Religious Calendar Guide is comprised of two calendars:

- **Impact calendar (English & Spanish):** A one-page calendar that provides an overview of high-impact observances broken into three categories - cultural days of significance recognition and or awareness.
- **Cultural and religious calendar:** A multi-faith calendar which includes significant religious, ethnic and cultural observances that reflect the diversity within our community.

Note that Bahà'i, Jewish and Islamic holidays begin at dusk or sundown on the first date listed. Muslim holiday dates may vary based on the interpretations of the lunar calendar.

Calendar System

The dates of secular holidays are based on the Gregorian calendar, which is commonly used for civil dating purposes. Many religions and cultures follow various traditional calendar systems that are often based on the phases of the moon with occasional adjustments for the solar cycle. Therefore, specific Gregorian calendar dates for these observances will differ from year to year and may vary by geographical location according to different sects within a given religion.

-Excerpt from Federal Way Public Schools

Days of Fasting

We want to acknowledge this list may not include all religions. We strive to grow our learning and will revise this document, as needed, throughout the year.

Religion	When they fast	How they fast	Why they fast
Bahà'i	The Bahà'i fast takes place during Ala, the 19th month of the Bahà'i year from March 1-20.	Abstain from food and drink from sunrise to sunset.	To focus on love of God and spiritual matters.
Buddhist	All the main branches of Buddhism practice some periods of fasting, usually on fullmoon days and other holidays.	Depending on the Buddhist tradition, fasting usually means abstaining from solid food, with some liquids permitted.	A method of purification. Theravadin and Tendai Buddhist monks fast as a means of freeing the mind. Some Tibetan Buddhist monks fast to aid yogic feats, like generating inner heat.
Catholic	Catholics fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent. For many centuries, Catholics were forbidden to eat meat on all Fridays, but since the mid-1960s, abstaining from meat on Fridays outside of Lent has been a matter of local discretion.	On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, two small meals and one regular meal are allowed; meat is forbidden. On Fridays in Lent, no meat is allowed. For the optional Friday fast, some people substitute a different penance or special prayer instead of fasting. Some also abstain from various activities including social media and etc.	Teaches control of fleshly desires, penance for sins and solidarity with the poor. The Lenten fast prepares the soul for a great feast by practicing austerity. The Good Friday fast commemorates the day Christ suffered.

Eastern Orthodox	There are several fast periods, including Lent, Apostles' Fast, Dormition Fast and the Nativity Fast, as well as several oneday fasts. Every Wednesday and Friday is considered a fast day, except those that fall during designated "fast-free weeks."	In general, meat, dairy products and eggs are prohibited. Fish is prohibited on some fast days and allowed on others.	Strengthens resistance to gluttony; helps open a person to God's grace.
Jewish	Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is the best-known fast day. The Jewish calendar has six other fast days as well, including Tisha B'Av, the day on which the destruction of the Jewish Temple took place.	On Yom Kippur and Tisha B'Av, eating and drinking are forbidden for a 24-hour period, from sundown to sundown. On the other fast days, eating and drinking are forbidden only from sunrise to sundown.	Atonement for sins and/or special requests to God.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	The first Sunday of each month is a fast day. Individuals, families or wards may hold other fasts at will.	Abstain from food and drink for two consecutive meals and donate food or money to the needy. After the fast, church members participate in a "fast and testimony meeting."	Closeness to God; concentration on God and religion. Individual or family fasts might be held to petition for a specific cause, such as healing for one who is sick or help with making a difficult decision.
Muslim	Ramadan, the ninth month of the Muslim calendar, is a mandatory fasting period that commemorates the period when the Qur'an was first revealed to Prophet Muhammad. Various Muslim customs recommend days and periods of fasting in addition to Ramadan.	Abstain from food, drink and various activities before the break of dawn until sunset for the entire month.	By abstaining from eating and drinking all day, Muslims who are able to fast come to understand and empathize with the less fortunate.

Pagan	No organized fast days, but some pagans choose to fast in preparation for Ostara (spring equinox).	At the discretion of the individual, some totally abstain from food, others reduce how much they eat.	Intended to purify a person energetically; often used to raise vibrational levels as preparation for magical work. Ostara fasting is used to cleanse oneself from heavier winter foods.
Protestant (Evangelical)	At the discretion of individuals, churches, organizations or communities.	Though some people abstain from food or drink entirely, others drink only water or juice, eat only certain foods, skip certain meals, or abstain from temptations, edible or not.	Evangelical fasts have become increasingly popular in recent years, with people fasting for spiritual nourishment, solidarity with impoverished people, a counterbalance to modern consumer culture or to petition God for special needs.
Protestant (Mainline)	Not a major part of the tradition, but fasts can be held at the discretion of communities, churches, other groups and individuals.	Discretion of those fasting.	For spiritual improvement or to advance a political or social justice agenda. One example: The ELCA's "Campaign of Prayer, Fasting and Vigils."

Acknowledgements to Federal Way Public Schools for the development of this resource.

Monthly Heritage and Recognition

This chart outlines key cultural observances, heritage months, and national awareness campaigns.

July	National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month Disability Pride Month
August	Back to School Month National Black Business Month
September	Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15- Oct. 15) Suicide Prevention Awareness Month DEI Sponsored District Observance: September 30 - Orange Shirt Day
October	Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15- Oct. 15) Filipino American History Month LGBTQIA+ History Month Global Diversity Awareness Month National Disability Employment Awareness Month National Bullying Prevention Month
November	Native American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month National Homeless Youth Awareness Month Trans Awareness Month DEI Sponsored District Observance: November 14 - Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day
January	Chinese American/Americans of Chinese Decent Month (Washington State)
February	African American/Black History Month
March	Women's History Month Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Monthly Heritage and Recognition

This chart outlines key cultural observances, heritage months, and national awareness campaigns.

April	Arab American Heritage Month Holocaust Remembrance Day Autism Awareness Month
May	Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Heritage Month Foster Youth Awareness Month Mental Health Awareness Month
June	LGBTQIA+ Pride Month

Cultural & Religious Calendar Key

*	Observance begins at dusk or sundown.
+	Observance occurs on the same day as a higher impact day, a weekend day, or scheduled school holiday break.
#	Some dates are not fixed to a calendar, but are based on the actual sighting of the moon and therefore may vary.
Dark Blue	Dates highlighted in dark blue are Cultural Days of Significance . All practices, events, and meetings will be optional and absences excused.
Orange	Dates highlighted in orange are Cultural Days of Recognition . All practices, events, and meetings are optional with absences excused and those who observe are provided learning accommodations.
Light Blue	Dates highlighted in light blue are Cultural Days of Awareness when before and after school activities may continue, but schools will be aware that some students may be impacted and request support.
Green	Dates highlighted in green are Federal Holidays or School Breaks .

July 2026

Date	Type/Cultural or Religious Group	Holiday or National Observance
7/4/2026	National	Independence Day
7/10/26	Bahá'í	Martyrdom of the Báb
7/12/26	International	International Day of Hope
7/26/26	National	Americans with Disabilities Day (ADA) Day
7/29/26	Buddhist	Dharma Day
7/30/26	International	International Day of Friendship

August 2026

Date	Type/Cultural or Religious Group	Holiday or National Observance
8/9/26	International	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
8/12/26	International	International Youth Day
8/26/26	International	International Day of the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
8/26/26	National	Women's Equality Day
8/27/26	Chinese	Hungry Ghost Festival
8/31/26	Islam - Shia	Mawlid al-Nabi

September 2026

Date	Type/Cultural or Religious Group	Holiday or National Observance
9/4/26	Hindu	# Janmashtami
9/4/26	Hindu	Krishna Janmashtami
9/6/26-9/12/26	National	National Suicide Prevention Week
9/7/26	National	+ Labor Day
9/8/26	Jain	Paryushana Parvarambha
9/8/26	International	International Literacy Day
9/9/26	International	International Day to Protect Education from Attack
9/11/26	National	Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance of September 11th
9/11/26-9/13/26	Jewish	Rosh Hashanah
9/12/26	Guru Granth Sahib Jayanti	Sikh
9/13/26	National	Grandparents Day
9/15/26	International	International Day of Democracy
9/16/26	Hispanic	Mexican Independence Day
9/16/26	National	Voter Registration Day

September 2026 Continued...

Date	Type/Cultural or Religious Group	Holiday or National Observance
9/17/26	National	Constitution Day and Citizenship Day
9/18/26	International	International Equal Pay Day
9/20/26-9/21/26	Jewish	* Yom Kippur
9/21/26	International	International Day of Peace
9/23/26	International	International Day of Sign Languages
9/30/26	Native American	Orange Shirt Day - Canada's National Holiday for Truth and Reconciliation ** Note: DEI Sponsored District Observance

October 2026

Date	Type/Cultural or Religious Group	Holiday or National Observance
9/25/26-10/2/26	Jewish	* Sukkot
10/2/26	Jewish	* Shemini Atzeret
10/2/26	Persian	Mehregan
10/3/26	Jewish	* Simchat Torah
10/5/26	International	World Teacher's Day
10/8/26	Latinx	Latina Equal Pay Day
10/10/26	International	World Mental Health Day
10/10/26-10/12/26	Cambodian	Pchum Ben Day
10/11/26	National	National Coming Out Day
10/12/26-10/20/26	Jain	Ashwina Navapada Oli
10/14/26	National	Indigenous Peoples Day
10/16/26	International	International Pronouns Day
10/18/26	Chinese	Chongyang
10/20/26	Hindu	Dussehra/Vijayadashami
10/26/26	National	Intersex Awareness Day

November 2026

Date	Type/Cultural or Religious Group	Holiday or National Observance
11/1/26	Christian	+ All Saints Day
11/1/26-11/2/26	Hispanic	+ Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead)
11/2/26	LGBTQIA+	+ Transgender Parents Day
11/5/26	National	Election Day
11/8/26	Hindu	Diwali
11/8/26	LGBTQIA+	+ Intersex Day of Solidarity
11/10/26	Bahá'í	Birth of the Báb
11/11/26	Bahá'í	+ Birth of Bahá'u'lláh
11/11/26	National	Veteran's Day

November 2026 Continued ...

Date	Type/Cultural or Religious Group	Holiday or National Observance
11/13/26-11/19/26	LGBTQIA+	Transgender Awareness Week
11/14/26	National	Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day ** Note: DEI Sponsored District Observance
11/18/26	International	International Men's Day
11/19/26	Native American	Native Women's Equal Pay Day
11/20/26	LGBTQIA+	Transgender Day of Remembrance
11/23/26-11/25/26	Cambodian	Bon Om Touk (Water Festival)
11/24/26	Sikh	Guru Nanak Dev Jayanti
11/26/26	Bahá'í	Day of the Covenant
11/26/26	National	Thanksgiving
11/27/26	National	Native American Heritage Day
11/28/26	Bahá'í	Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá
11/20/26	LGBTQIA+	Transgender Day of Remembrance
11/23/26-11/25/26	Cambodian	Bon Om Touk (Water Festival)

December 2026

Date	Type/Cultural or Religious Group	Holiday or National Observance
12/1/26	International	World AIDS Day
12/2/26	International	International Day for the Abolition with Disabilities
12/2/26	National	Special Education Day
12/3/26	International	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
12/4/26-12/12/26	Jewish	+ Hanukkah
12/7/23	National	+ Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
12/8/26	Buddhism	Bodhi Day
12/8/26	LGBTQIA+	Pansexual and Panromantic Visibility Day
12/8/26	Catholic	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
12/9/26	International	International Anti-Corruption Day
12/10/26	International	Human Rights Day
12/12/26	Mexican Catholic	+ Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe
12/12/26	International	International Day of Neutrality

December 2026 Continued ...

Date	Type/Cultural or Religious Group	Holiday or National Observance
12/16/26-12/24/26	Mexican Catholic	+ Las Posadas
12/18/26	International	International Migrants Day
12/20/26	International	International Human Solidarity
12/21/26	Wicca	Yule (Winter Solstice)
12/21/26	Persian	Yalda Night
12/24/26	Christian	+ Christmas Eve
12/25/26	Christian	+ Christmas Day
12/25/26 or 1/7/27	Orthodox Christian	Nativity of Christ
12/26/26-01/01/27	Pan African	+ Kwanzaa

January 2027

Date	Type/Cultural or Religious Group	Holiday or National Observance
1/1/27	National	New Year's Day
1/4/27	International	World Braille Day
1/6/27	Christian	Epiphany
1/6/27	Mexican Christian	Dia De Los Reyes (Three Kings Day/Epiphany)
1/7/27	Orthodox Christian	Orthodox Christmas
1/13/27	Sikh	Lohri (Maghi)
1/14/27	Hindu	Makar Sankranti
1/15/27	Sikh	Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti
1/15/27	Washington State	Temperance and Good Citizenship Day
1/18/27	National	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
1/18/27-1/22/27	LGBTQIA+	+ No Name Calling Week
1/22/27	Buddhism	Mahayana New Year
1/24/27	International	International Day of Education

January 2027 Continued ...

Date	Type/Cultural or Religious Group	Holiday or National Observance
1/27/27	International	International Holocaust Remembrance Day
1/28/27	International	International Day of Peaceful Coexistence

February 2027

Date	Type/Cultural or Religious Group	Holiday or National Observance
2/6/27	Chinese	+ Chinese New Year
2/6/27	East/South Asian Cultures	+ Lunar New Year
2/6/27	Vietnamese	Tet
2/7/27-3/8/27	Islamic	*+ # Ramadan
2/10/27	Christian	+ Ash Wednesday
2/14/27	National	+ Valentines Day
2/15/27	Buddhism	Parinirvana Day
2/15/27-2/21/27	LGBTQIA+	+ Aromantic Awareness Week
2/16/27	National	President's Day
2/17/27	Vietnamese	Tet Trung Thu
2/19/27	National	Japanese American Day of Remembrance
2/20/27	International	World Day of Social Justice
2/22/27	Buddhism	Magha Puja Day
2/26/27-3/1/27	Bahá'í	Ayyám-i-Há

March 2027

Date	Type/Cultural or Religious Group	Holiday or National Observance
3/1/27	International	Zero Discrimination Day
3/2/27-3/20/27	Bahá'í	Bahá'í Fast
3/6/27	Islamic	# Laylat al-Qadr
3/8/27	International	International Women's Day
3/9/27-3/10/27	Islamic	*+ # Eid al-Fitr (end of Ramadan)
3/15/27-3/19/27	LGBTQIA+	LGBTQIA+ Health Awareness Week
3/16/27-3/17/27	Persian	* Chaharshanbe Suri
3/17/26	Irish	St. Patrick's Day
3/20/27	International	+ International Day of Happiness
3/20/27	Persian	Nowruz (Persian New Year)
3/21/27	Bahá'í	+ Naw Ruz (New Year)
3/21/27	Christian	Palm Sunday
3/21/27	International	World Down Syndrome Day
3/22/27-3/23/27	Hindu	+ Holi or Festivals of Colors
3/22/27-3/23/27	Jewish	Purim

March 2027 Continued ...

Date	Type/Cultural or Religious Group	Holiday or National Observance
3/23/27-3/25/27	Sikh	Hola Mohalla
3/26/27	Christian	+ Good Friday
3/28/27	Christian	+ Easter

April 2027

Date	Type/Cultural or Religious Group	Holiday or National Observance
4/2/27	International	World Autism Awareness Day
4/14/27	Sikh	Vaisakhi (Sikh New Year)
4/21/27-4/29/27	Jewish	* Passover
4/25/27	Orthodox Christian	Orthodox Palm Sunday

May 2027

Date	Type/Cultural or Religious Group	Holiday or National Observance
5/2/27	Orthodox Christian	Orthodox Easter (Pascha)
5/6/27	Christian	Ascension Day
5/15/27	International	International Day of Families
5/15/27	Orthodox Christian	Beginning of Great Lent
5/16/27-5/17/27	Islamic	*# Eid al-Adha
5/19/27	Buddhism	Vesak (Buddha's Birthday)
5/24/27	Bahá'í	Declaration of the Báb
5/29/27	Bahá'í	Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh
5/31/27	National	Memorial Day

June 2027

Date	Type/Cultural or Religious Group	Holiday or National Observance
6/6/27	Islamic	1st of Muharram (New Year)
6/10/27-6/12/27	Jewish	*# Shavuot
6/15/27	Islamic	Ashura
6/16/27	Sikh	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan
6/19/27	National	Juneteenth
6/20/27	Orthodox Christianity	Pentecost
6/20/27	International	World Refugee Day
6/27/27	International	International Day of Deafblindness

How are observances chosen?

Due to the extensive number of cultural and religious observances, dates for this calendar were determined by the following criteria.



Absences

A student or a staff member may be absent as a result of this identified day.



Engagement

A student or staff member may be disengaged as a result of this identified day.



School Activities/Events

A student, family or staff member may not be able to participate in a school activity during or after school as a result of this identified day.



Teachable Moments

Identified day presents an opportunity for a teachable moment regarding ethnic or cultural diversity that might not otherwise be discussed, particularly dates associated with a continued history of oppressions, discrimination or racism.

***Acknowledgements to Cultures Connecting for
the development of the criteria used.***