



COUNTRY DAY Cultural Awareness CALENDAR 2026-27

FAQS

WHAT IS THIS CALENDAR, AND WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?

The Cultural Awareness Calendar is a living document developed in alignment with Country Day's Mission and Affirmation of Community, with belonging at its center.

- **For students and classrooms:** The calendar helps teachers and advisors recognize cultural observances in developmentally appropriate ways. This creates both mirrors that affirm students' own identities and windows that broaden awareness of others' traditions—strengthening belonging and understanding across our community.
- **For faculty:** It serves as a planning tool, supported by the Offices of Diversity Planning and International Studies, and our Directors of Studies, to guide curriculum, co-curricular activities, and community engagement.
- **For families:** Resources and information about key observances are shared through DEIB Every Day, including examples of how students experience them.

HOW WAS THIS CALENDAR DEVELOPED?

The calendar was created after a comprehensive review of Country Day's current holiday and celebration practices, including school closures, homework policies, communications, events, and classroom traditions.

A committee—led by the Diversity Planning Office and Marketing/Communications, with participation from Directors of Studies, International Studies, Admissions, and Advancement—met over the course of a year to refine the calendar and its applications.

The final draft was reviewed and approved by the Administrative Council and the Culture and Community Committee of the Board of Trustees.

HOW ARE RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS ADDRESSED?

Religious holidays are presented factually and in age-appropriate ways, focusing on their historical and cultural significance. The school does not teach or promote one religion over another but ensures students understand the broader cultural context.

WHAT THIS CALENDAR IS NOT?

The inclusion of a date does not mean it will be formally taught in every classroom. For example, LGBTQ Day of Silence is not part of Lower School instruction, but Upper School students have historically chosen to observe it. Inclusion on the calendar ensures awareness and recognition at the community level.

WHERE DO I GO WITH QUESTIONS?

Faculty questions regarding curriculum: Division director of studies:

(JK-1) Rebecca Paterson, rebecca.patterson@charlottecountryday.org

(2-4) Lori Townsend Mahaffey, lori.townsend-mahaffey@charlottecountryday.org

(5-8) Kasey Short, kasey.short@charlottecountryday.org

(9-12) Tanya Andrysiak, tanya.andrysiak@charlottecountryday.org

If you have a question about a date or want to add a date, please share it with Brian Wise (brian.wise@charlottecountryday.org).



CCDS Cultural Awareness Calendar 2026-27

* Indicates School Closed

AUG

2026

International Day of The World's Indigenous Peoples	8/10/2026
International Youth Day	8/12/2026
Women's Equality Day	8/26/2026

SEP

2026

Labor Day*	9/7/2026
Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)*	9/11-13/2026
National Hispanic Heritage Month	9/15-10/15/2026
Yom Kippur (Jewish Day of Atonement)	9/20-21/2026
International Day of Sign Languages	9/23/2026
Sukkot	9/25-10/2/2026

OCT

2026

Filipino American Heritage Month Global Diversity Awareness Month LGBTQ History Month	
National Disability Awareness Month	
Indigenous People's Day	10/13/2026
Halloween	10/31/2026

NOV

2026

National American Indian Heritage Month	
Dia de los Muertos	11/1-2/2026
Diwali*	11/8/2026
Veteran's Day	11/11/2026
International Education Week	11/16-20/2026
Thanksgiving*	11/27/2025

DEC

2026

International Day of Persons with Disabilities	12/3/2026
International Human Rights Day	12/10/2026
Hanukkah	12/4-13/2026
Christmas*	12/25/2026
Kwanzaa	12/26/2026-1/1/2027
New Year's Eve*	12/31/2026

JAN

2027

New Year's Day	1/1/2027
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day*	1/19/2027

FEB

2027

Black History Month	
Lunar New Year	2/6/2027
Ramadan	2/7-3/8/2027
President's Day (Winter Break*)	2/15/2027
World Day of Social Justice	2/20/2027

MAR

2027

National Women's History Month	
International Women's Day	3/8/2027
Eid Al-Fitr	3/9-10/2027
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	3/21/2027
Holi	3/22/2027
Holy Thursday	3/25/2027
Good Friday*	3/26/2027
Easter*	3/28/2027

APR

2027

Arab American Heritage Month, National Autism Awareness & Acceptance Month	
World Autism Awareness Day	4/2/2027
LGBTQ+ Day of Silence	4/9/2027
Passover	4/21-29/2027
Earth Day	4/22/2027

MAY

2027

Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month Jewish American Heritage Month	
Cinco de Mayo	5/5/2027
Global Accessibility Awareness Day	4/20/2027
World Day for Cultural Diversity	5/21/2027
Memorial Day*	5/31/2027

JUN

2027

Caribbean American Heritage Month LGBTQ+ Pride Month Immigrant Heritage Month	
Juneteenth*	6/19/2027

JULY

2027

French-American Heritage Month	
Independence Day*	7/4/2027