

TAHOMA
SCHOOL DISTRICT 409

2026-27 CULTURAL CALENDAR & GUIDE

The purpose of this calendar and guide is to highlight the intersectionality of our schools and significant days of celebration in cultures in our local community. The Tahoma School District serves a growing, diverse community, and we recognize some of our students and staff may participate in different cultural celebrations. We aim to create an inclusive and respectful environment in our schools. It is also important to note that this calendar may not cover every holiday observed by our community, and we recognize that individuals may celebrate the same faith in unique ways. We hope each student feels they belong here.







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The Tahoma School District 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 and their offices are located at 25720 Maple Valley Highway, Maple Valley, WA 98038: Civil Rights Compliance/Title IX/ADA /Gender Inclusive Schools Coordinator Scott Mitchell, Exec. Director of Human Resources, 425-413-3400, smitchel@tahomasd.us. Section 504 Coordinator Stacey Zachau, Asst. Director of Health & Wellness, 425-413-3400, szachau@tahomasd.us. Information about the nondiscrimination and sex-based discrimination policies and grievance procedures, and how to report a concern or complaint can be accessed here. Title IX inquiries may also be directed toward the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

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Holidays in red are dates when students and/or staff may be fasting.

September

September 7: Labor Day
(SCHOOLS CLOSED)
Labor Day has been a national holiday since 1894, when President Grover Cleveland signed into law designating the first Monday in September a holiday for workers.

September 11-13: Rosh Hashanah
Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, is one of Judaism's holiest days. Meaning "head of the year" or "first of the year," the festival begins on the first day of Tishrei, the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar, which falls during September or October. Work is prohibited, and religious Jews spend much of the holiday attending synagogues.

September 15-October 15: National Hispanic Heritage Month
National Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the cultural contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans. These specific dates were chosen to align with many Latin American countries' dates of independence, which occur in mid-September.

September 20-21: Yom Kippur
Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is considered the most important holiday in the Jewish faith. It marks the culmination of the 10 Days of Awe, a period of introspection and repentance that follows Rosh Hashanah. Staff and students that celebrate might participate in fasting between sundown in the evening before Yom Kippur and nightfall the next day.

October

October 12: Indigenous Peoples' Day
Indigenous Peoples' Day is a time to reflect on and acknowledge the role that Native Americans have played in U.S. history. This holiday was first federally recognized in 2021.

November

All November: Native American Heritage Month
National Native American Heritage Month celebrates the traditions, languages, and stories of Native Americans and Alaskan/Hawaiian Natives, including their important contributions to our country's past, present, and future. November 27 is also recognized as Native American Heritage Day.

November 1-2: Día de los Muertos
Día de los Muertos is a Mexican holiday where families welcome back the souls of their deceased relatives for a brief reunion that includes foods and celebration.

November 8: Diwali
Diwali, or Deepavali, is one of Hinduism's most celebrated holidays. The festival gets its name from the row (avali) of clay lamps (deepa) that Hindus light outside their homes signify the return of Prince Rama to Ayodhya after 14 years of exile, when residents lit the path to welcome him back. Today, the festival celebrates the triumph of good over evil.

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November (cont.)

November 11: Veterans Day
(SCHOOLS CLOSED)
November 11 is Veterans Day, a federal holiday that is meant to honor all veterans of uniformed service or still serving during times of peace as well as war. Veterans Day has its origins at the end of WWI when, at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the fighting ended with the signing of an armistice.

November 26: Thanksgiving Day
(SCHOOLS CLOSED)
The third Thursday of November is known as Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is believed to be modeled after a feast between the Native Americans and the Pilgrims. However, the jury is still out on whether the feast at Plymouth really constituted the first Thanksgiving.

December

December 4-12: Hanukkah
The eight-day Jewish celebration known as Hanukkah or Chanukah commemorates the re-dedication during the second century B.C. of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. The holiday is celebrated with the lighting of the menorah, food, games, gifts and more.



December 24-25: Christmas Eve/Christmas Day
(SCHOOLS CLOSED)
Christmas is celebrated on December 25 and is both a sacred religious Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus, and a worldwide cultural and commercial phenomenon. People who celebrate typically start the day before. Popular customs include exchanging gifts, decorating Christmas trees, and attending church.

December 26-January 1: Kwanzaa
Kwanzaa was founded in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga after researching the African "first fruit" (harvest celebrations). This holiday celebrates African American culture.

January

January 1: New Year's Day
(SCHOOLS CLOSED)
Today, most New Year's festivities begin on December 31 (New Year's Eve), the last day of the Gregorian calendar and continue into the early hours of January 1 (New Year's Day). Common traditions include attending parties, watching the Rose Bowl, making new year resolutions, and lighting fireworks.

January 18: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
(SCHOOLS CLOSED)
Martin Luther King Day honors the life and legacy of Martin Luther King (MLK) on his birthday. Dr. King was a fierce leader of the social justice movement, a pastor, and was the youngest man to have received the Nobel Peace Prize at the age of 35.

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February

All February: Black History Month
Black History Month honors Black Americans' contributions to our history and culture. February was chosen because the birthdays of two important abolitionist figures (Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln) fall in this month.

February 6: Lunar New Year
Lunar New Year is an important annual celebration among East and Southeast Asian cultures. The New Year celebration is usually celebrated for multiple days.

February 7: Ramadan begins
Ramadan is a holy month of fasting, introspection, and prayer for Muslims, the followers of Islam. Fasting is one of the five fundamental principles of Islam. Each day of Ramadan, Muslims do not eat or drink from dawn to sunset.

February 10: Ash Wednesday
Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day period of fasting and repentance for many Christian sects. The ashes represent both death and repentance.

February 15: Presidents' Day
(SCHOOLS CLOSED)
President's Day is celebrated on the third Monday in February. Today, the holiday is popularly viewed as a day to honor all U.S. presidents, past and present.

March

All March: Women's History Month
Women's History Month honors and recognizes womens' contributions and achievements across history. March 8 is also International Women's Day.

March 10 (tentative): Eid al-Fitr
Eid al-Adha marks the end of Ramadan, a period of month-long fasting for Muslims around the world, and the start of Shawwal, the tenth month in the Islamic (Hijri) calendar.

March 26: Good Friday
Good Friday, the Friday before Easter, the day which Christians annually observe the commemoration of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. From the early days of Christianity, Good Friday was observed as a day of sorrow, penance, and fasting.

March 28: Easter Sunday
Easter is a Christian holiday that celebrates the belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. For some Christians, this holiday concludes Lent, a 40-day period of fasting, prayer and sacrifice, and ends with Holy Week.



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April

All April: Arab American History Month
April is designated as Arab American Heritage Month, a time to recognize the millions of Arab Americans that contribute to the fabric of American society. This honor was first recognized in 2021.

April 21-29: Passover
Passover, or Pesach in Hebrew, is one of the Jewish religion's most sacred and widely observed holidays. Jews observe the week-long festival with a number of important rituals, including the traditional Passover meal known as seder.

May

All May: Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month
May is Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month when the historic contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are honored. May was chosen to mark two key dates: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the U.S. (May 7) and the completion of the transcontinental railroad (May 10), which Chinese builders helped complete.

May 16-17 (tentative): Eid al-Adha
Eid al-Adha, or the Feast of Sacrifice, is a major holiday celebrated by Muslims worldwide for three to four days. Most Muslims will attend the special prayers held at major mosques and Islamic centers in the United States and throughout the world. Muslims usually wear new clothes and some exchange gifts.

May 31: Memorial Day
(SCHOOLS CLOSED)
Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings, and participating in parades.

June

All June: Pride Month
Pride Month recognizes the LGBTQ+ community's history, struggles, and achievements. June was chosen to commemorate the Stonewall Uprising, a pivotal moment in LGBTQ+ rights history, in June 1969.

June 19: Juneteenth
(SCHOOLS CLOSED)
Juneteenth is a holiday celebrated each year on June 19 to commemorate the day that news of emancipation reached the deepest parts of the Confederacy in Galveston, Texas. Today, Juneteenth is about celebrating Black history, freedom, and achievement.

July

July 4: U.S. Independence Day
(SCHOOLS CLOSED)
The Fourth of July has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. Since 1776, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities such as fireworks, parades, BBQ, etc.

RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION DATES

2026 – 27 School Year

September
Sept 7 - Labor Day
Sept 11 - Patriot Day
Sept 11-13 - Rosh Hashanah
Sept 14 –18 - National Arts in Education Week
Sept 15 – Oct 15 - Hispanic Heritage Month
Sept 15 - Nat'l IT Professionals Day
Sept 17 - Constitution & Citizenship Day
Sept 20-21 - Yom Kippur

October
October - Disability History Month
October - Nat'l Principals Month
Oct 1 - Nat'l Walk & Bike to School Day
Oct 2 - School Custodian Appreciation Day
Oct 6 - Nat'l Coaches Day
Oct 12 - Indigenous Peoples' Day
Oct 19-23 - Nat'l School Bus Safety Week

November
November - Native American Heritage Month
Nov 1-2 - Día de los Muertos
Nov 2-6 - National School Psychology Week
Nov 8 - National STEM/STEAM Day
Nov 8 - Diwali
Nov 11 - Veterans Day

December
Dec 2 - National Special Education Day
Dec 4-12 - Hanukkah
Dec 7-11 - Inclusive Schools Week
Dec 7-11 - Computer Science Education Week
Dec 24-25 - Christmas Eve/Day
Dec 26 - Jan 1 - Kwanzaa

January
January - School Board Appreciation Month
Jan 9 - Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (Sat)
Jan 15 - Temperance & Good Citizenship Day
Jan 18 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan 27 - Holocaust Remembrance Day

February
February - Black History Month
February - Career & Technical Education Month
Feb 1-5 - National School Counseling Week
Feb 6 - Lunar New Year
Feb 7 - Ramadan begins
Feb 10 - Ash Wednesday
Feb 15 - National School Resource Officer Day
Feb 15 - Presidents' Day

March
March - Educator Wellness Month
March - Women's History Month
March - Music in Our Schools Month
Mar 2 - Read Across America Day
Mar 5 - Maintenance Worker Appreciation Day
Mar 8-12 - National World Language Week
Mar 8-12 - National School Social Work Week
Mar 8-12 - Education Support Professionals Week
(formerly Classified Employees Week)
Mar 10 - Eid al-Fitr (tentative)
Mar 26 - Good Friday
Mar 28 - Easter Sunday

April
April - Arab American Appreciation Month
April - School Library Month
April - Occupational Therapy Month
Apr 4 - School Librarian Appreciation Day (Sat)
Apr 5-9 - National Asst. Principals Week
Apr 7 - Paraprofessionals Appreciation Day
Apr 19–23 - Volunteer Appreciation Week
April 21-29 - Passover
Apr 22 - Earth Day
Apr 26–30 - Administrative Professionals Week
>(Apr 21 is Administrative Professionals Day)
Apr 28 - School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

May
May - Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month
May - National Physical Fitness & Sports Month
May - National Mental Health Awareness Month
May 3-7 - Teacher Appreciation Week
May 7 - School Lunch Hero Day
May 9 - Mother's Day
May 12 - National School Nurses Day
May 14 - National School Communicators Day
May 16-17 - Eid al-Adha (tentative)
May 18 - National SLP Day
May 31 - Memorial Day

June
June - LGBTQ Pride Month
June 19 - Juneteenth
June 20 - Father's Day

July
July 4 - Independence Day

