

Religious Holidays and Observances

Clark Pleasant Community Schools Corporation

2022-2023 Academic Year

Clark Pleasant Community Schools Corporation includes students and employees of different religions, faiths, and beliefs. This guiding document lists major religious observances that are representative of CPCSC students and staff as well as considerations to think about in efforts to promote identity safe and inclusive schools.

BUDDHISM

Buddhism focuses on personal spiritual development. It was founded by the Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama. Practitioners follow many different forms of Buddhism, but all traditions are characterized by the tenets of nonviolence, lack of dogma, and tolerance of differences.

- ❖ **Dec. 8, 2022: Bodhi Day** - the celebration of when Prince Gautama took his place under the Bodhi tree, vowing to remain there until he attained supreme enlightenment.
- ❖ **January 22, 2023: Lunar New Year**
- ❖ **May 5, June 5, 2023: Visakha Puja (Buddha Day)** - The most significant holiday in Buddhism. This holiday celebrates the birth, enlightenment, and death of the Buddha.

Considerations:

Students who practice Buddhism may be absent during major holidays.

CHRISTIANITY

Christianity is the world's largest religion and emphasizes the teachings of Jesus Christ.

- ❖ **December 25, 2023: Christmas** – commemorates the birth of Jesus
- ❖ **February 22, 2023: Ash Wednesday** – The first of the 40-day season of **Lent** (**February 2- April 6, 2022**) during which time observers reflect, worship, and prepare for the Holy Week and Easter.
- ❖ **April 7, 2023: Good Friday** – commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus
- ❖ **Apr. 9, 2023: Easter** – celebrates the resurrection of Jesus
- ❖ **April 14, 2023: Good Friday (Christian Orthodox)** – commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus
- ❖ **Apr. 16, 2023: Easter (Christiain Orthodox)** – celebrates the resurrection of Jesus

Considerations:

Students who practice Christianity may be absent on major holidays and evenings for worship. They may have a cross made of ashes on their forehead in observance of Ash Wednesday and observe dietary restrictions during Lent.

HINDUISM

Hinduism is a religion originating from India with nearly one billion adherents. It has been called the oldest religion in the world and is referred to as a dharma, or a way of life. Hinduism encompasses beliefs pertaining to karma and Vedas, which form the earliest records of Hindu scripture.

- ❖ **September 27- October 5, 2022: Navaratri/Dussehra** – A celebration of the victory of good over evil and begins the seasonal preparation for Diwali.
- ❖ **October 24, 2022: Diwali** – Known as the Festival of Light, Diwali is a five day celebration with largest observances typically held on the 3 day. Diwali celebrates a spiritual victory of light over darkness.
- ❖ **February 18, 2023: Maha Shivaratri**
- ❖ **March 8, 2023: Holi Day** – A spring celebration also known as the festival of love or the festival of colors.
- ❖ **April 4, 2023: Mahavira Jayanti** - A festival honoring Lord Mahavira on the founder's birthday.

Considerations:

If planning school activities, assignments, or assessments, keep in mind that students who practice Hinduism may be absent on major holidays.

ISLAM

Islam means submission to the will of God, Allah. Muslims are individuals who are faithful to Islam.

- ❖ **July 30, 2022:** First of Muharram/Islamic New Year
- ❖ **August 7-8, 2022:** Ashura – Observed by both Shia and Sunni Muslims. Sunni Muslims commemorate God saving Moses from the Egyptians and Shia Muslims may fast to observe a day of mourning.
- ❖ **Oct. 8, 2022:** Mawlid al-Nabi - Celebration of the Prophet Muhammad's birthday.
- ❖ **March 22-April 21, 2023:** Ramadan – A holy month of contemplation, self-restraint, devotion, and spiritual rejuvenation which includes daily fasting from dawn to sunset.
 - Work with students to determine the best plan for their success during the instructional day (i.e., alternative lunch destination, activity requirements in physical education, etc.)
 - Think about activities, celebrations, or events and how to be inclusive if food or beverages are involved
 - Talk to your students and gain of pulse of how they are feeling
 - Fasting across all religions demonstrates a profound commitment, which is hard work. Students may appreciate your encouragement.
- ❖ **May 2-3, 2023: Eid al-Fitr** – Celebration and culmination of the Ramadan fast.
- ❖ **June 26-July1, 2023: Haji** – Dates of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.
- ❖ **June 28-29, 2023: Eid al-Adha** – Marks the culmination of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca and commemorates God's test of Ibrahim to sacrifice his son.

Considerations:

Keep in mind that students who practice Islam may be absent on Eid ul-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. However, Ashura, Mawlid al-Nabi, and the Islamic New Year are more regional and community-wide morning prayers are not tied to those holidays, therefore they may not warrant an absence from school or work. An exception should be accommodated for Shia students specifically who request to take Ashura off. Don't forget to consider students who may be fasting also...keep time of day tasks that are required in mind when planning. Muslim holidays begin at sunset on day prior to the date provided above.

JAINISM

Jainism is a religion from India that emphasizes the concern for the welfare of every being and the health of the universe itself. Jains believe that animals and plants, as well as human beings, contain a living soul. Thus, all souls should be valued and viewed with the utmost respect.

- ❖ **August 23-30, 2022: Paryushan Parva** - The holiest period of the year for the Shvetambara sect and signifies human emergence into a new world of spiritual refinement.
- ❖ **October 24, 2022: Diwali** – Known as the Festival of Light, Diwali is a five day celebration with largest observances typically held on the 3 day. Diwali celebrates a spiritual victory of light over darkness.
- ❖ **April 4, 2023: Mahavira Jayanti** - A festival honoring Lord Mahavira on the founder's birthday.

Considerations:

If planning after school activities, you may want to keep the major holidays in mind for students who practice Jainism.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Jehovah's Witnesses are members of a Christian based religious movement. They reject the sinful values of the secular world. Jehovah Witnesses do not celebrate Christmas or Easter with the belief that Jesus did not ask his followers to mark his birthday.

Considerations:

Children are instructed to withdraw from secular, school celebrations including birthday festivities, patriotic activities, and holiday celebrations.

JUDAISM

Judaism is an ancient monotheistic religion. The Torah, Midrash, and Talmud are the central texts of the Jewish faith. Jewish holidays begin at sundown of the previous day. In addition to an abstinence from work, people of the Jewish faith may observe some of these holidays with fasting, family gatherings, prayer, and attendance at synagogues.

- ❖ **Sept. 25-27, 2022: Rosh Hashanah** – The beginning of the Jewish New Year and first of the High Holy Days, which marks the beginning of a ten-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal.

- ❖ **October 4-5 2022: Yom Kippur** – The second of the High Holy Days, known as the Day of Atonement, is a time of introspection and prayer and ends the ten-day period of penitence. Observers fast and once ended often break the fast with family and friends.
- ❖ **October 18, 2022: Simchat Torah**
- ❖ **December 18-26 2022: Hanukkah**- the Festival of Lights commemorates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem.
- ❖ **March 6-7, 2023: Purim**
- ❖ **Apr. 5-13, 2023: Pesach (Passover)** – An eight-day observance celebrating Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage.
- ❖ **May 25-27, 2023: Shavuot**
- ❖ **July 26-27, 2023: Tish B'av**

Considerations:

If planning school activities, assignments, or assessments, keep in mind that students and staff who practice Judaism may be absent on major holidays. Consider NOT scheduling big assignments or tests to be those days. Students and staff are typically present during Hanukkah.

SIKHISM

Sikhism was founded by Guru Nanak in the 15th century and is a monotheistic religion. There are 20 million Sikhs in the world, most of whom live in the Punjab province of India. Sikhism emphasizes the importance of leading a good life: living honestly and working hard, treating everyone equally, serving others, generosity, and making God a priority.

- ❖ **October 24, 2022: Diwali** – Known as the Festival of Light, Diwali is a five day celebration with largest observances typically held on the 3 day. Diwali celebrates a spiritual victory of light over darkness
- ❖ **November 8, 2022** -Marks the birth of Guru Nanak, founder of the Sikh faith
- ❖ **March 18-20, 2023: Hola Mohalla**- A festival that includes prayer as well as mock battles and martial arts competitions.
- ❖ **April 4, 2023: Mahavira Jayanti** - A festival honoring Lord Mahavira on the founder's birthday.

Considerations:

If planning school activities, assignments, or assessments, keep in mind that students and staff who practice Sikhism may be absent on major holidays.

Note: This is a working, resourceful document. We recognize that needs continuously change with our growing diversity. Thus, if you have any questions or further considerations, please contact Ruby Butler, Diversity Equity and Inclusion Coordinator at rbutler@cpcsc.k12.in.us.

Please see next page for a chronological listing of holidays for the 2020-21 school year.

2022-2023 Holidays/Observances

*August 7-8	Ashura	Islam
*August 23-20	Paryushana Parva	Jainism
September 5	Labor Day	United States
*Sept. 25-27	Rosh Hashanah	Judaism
September 27-October 5	Navarati/Dussehra	Hinduism
October 4-5	Yom Kippur	Judaism
*Oct. 8	Mawlid al-Nabi	Islam
October 11	Indigenous People Day	United States
October 18	Simchat Torah	Judaism
October 24	Diwali	Hinduism
October 25	Birth of the Báb	Baha'i
October 26	Birth of Baha'u'llah	Baha'i
November 8	Birth of Guru Nanak Dev Ji	Sikhism
November 11	Veterans Day	United States
November 24	Thanksgiving	United States
November 26	Day of the Covenant	Baha'i
November 28	Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha	Baha'i
Dec. 8	Bodhi Day	Buddhism
December 18-26	Hanukkah	Judaism
December 25	Christmas	Christianity
December 25- January 1	Kwanza	African American
January 1, 2023	New Year's Day	International
January 16	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day	United States
January 22	Lunar New Year	Buddhism
February 18	Maha Shivaratri	Hinduism
February 20	President's Day	United States
February 22	Ash Wednesday	Christianity
Mar. 2-20	Nineteen Day Fast	Baha'i
March 8	Holi Day	Hinduism
March 18-19	Hola Mohalla	Sikhism
March 21	Naw-Rúz	Baha'i
*March 22-April 21	Ramadan	Islam
April 4	Sikh New Year	Sikhism

April 4	Mahavira Jayanti	Jainism/Sikhism/Hinduism
*April 5-13	Pesach/Passover	Judaism
April 7	Good Friday	Christianity
April 9	Easter	Christianity
April 14	Good Friday (Orthodox)	Christianity
April 16	Easter (Orthodox)	Christianity
April 21	Ridvan Day 1	Baha'i
April 29	Ridvan Day 9	Baha'i
May 2	Ridvan Day 12	Baha'i
May 2-3	Eid-Al-Fitr	Islam
May 5	Visakha Bucha	Buddhism
May 24	Declaration of the Bab	Baha'i
May 25-27	Shavuot	Jewish
May 29	Ascension of the Baha'u'llah	Baha'i
May 29	Memorial Day	United States
June 5	Visakha Bucha (2)	Buddhism
June 19	Juneteenth	African American
June 26-July 1	Hajj	Islam
June 28-29	Eid Al-Adha	Islam
July 4	Independence Day	United States
July 10	Martyrdom of the Bab	Baha'i
July 26-27	Tish B'av	Judaism
July 30	Muharram	Islam

***Observances begin the preceding day at sunset**