



HOW CAN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS USE THESE CALENDARS?

The attached **2017-2018 Holiday Calendar** of religious, national and community holidays has been prepared by the **Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Greater Washington** to assist schools and community institutions in planning their own annual calendars, events and activities. Considering the increasing diversity of population, it is essential that all schools and school districts be increasingly knowledgeable and sensitive regarding the holidays of all its students and staff, especially those of minority faiths and cultures. We hope that these calendars help teachers, administrators, and managers to promote a school climate that respects and promotes religious and cultural diversity.

Please keep the following points in mind when using the calendars:

- **Students should be given excused absences** to meet religious obligations, and **reasonable accommodations** must be made for students to make up missed work.
- **Students' cultural and religious needs should be taken into consideration** when scheduling instructional and extracurricular activities. Major tests and other significant events should be publicized well in advance to allow time for community comment. Rescheduling, if possible, may be necessary if it appears that the proposed date(s) will result in a significant number of student absences. In this way, schools can honor and respect the cultural and religious diversity of the entire school community.
- **Schools should show sensitivity** regarding the scheduling of other academic and school events so that all students and employees do not miss significant activities and opportunities due to their religious observances.
- Jewish and Baha'i religious observances **begin at sunset** of the day preceding the date given on the calendar.
- Some days of religious significance in **Buddhism** may be celebrated on different dates in different countries. Because of this, dates chosen by individual students or employees for such observances may be influenced by their national origin and, thus, can vary from person to person.
- **Orthodox Christian Churches (Russian, Greek, Coptic, and others)** observe some holy days on dates that are different from those observed by the Roman Catholic Church or many Protestant denominations.
- When days of religious celebrations are calculated on a lunar calendar, e.g. **Jewish and Muslim Holidays**, the dates change from year to year on the standard western Gregorian calendar.

Please contact [Steve Adleberg](#), Director of Education Outreach, if you require more information.

2017-2018 Holiday Calendar

This calendar of religious, national and community holidays has been prepared by the JCRC to assist community institutions in planning their activities. Educators are reminded that students must be given excused absences to meet religious obligations and that reasonable accommodations must be made for students to make up missed work. Please be sensitive about scheduling events so that students and employees do not miss significant activities and opportunities due to religious observance. For a more comprehensive list of Jewish holidays, please consult Hebcad Jewish Calendar at www.hebcad.com. Electronic copies of this calendar can be found at www.jcouncil.org/2017-2018HolidayCalendar

All Jewish holidays begin shortly BEFORE SUNSET on the eve of the day indicated on this calendar and end approximately one hour after sunset. Baha'i and Islamic festivals are also observed sunset to sunset. Similarly, SHABBAT, the Jewish Sabbath, which commemorates the day God rested after the creation of the universe, begins shortly before sunset on Friday. On Shabbat, Jews have a traditional obligation to refrain from "creating," such as writing, driving,

September 2017

National Hispanic Heritage Month

September 1-4, Eid al-Adha: A four day Muslim commemoration of Ibrahim's willingness to offer up his son as an act of obedience to Allah. Begins sunset August 30.

September 4, Labor Day: National tribute to the contributions of workers. Legal holiday; all schools closed.

September 21, Navaratri: The first day of a 10 day Hindu festival celebrating the feminine form of the divine.

♦ **September 21-22, Rosh Ha'Shanah:** The Jewish New Year, 5778, ushers in a ten day period of reflection and reconciliation. Begins sunset September 20.

September 22, First Day of Muharram: The Muslim New Year and beginning of a month of mourning and peace.

♦ **September 30, Yom Kippur:** The most solemn day on the Jewish calendar, this Day of Atonement is a time for Jews to repair their relationships with God and their fellow human beings. Begins sunset September 29.

October 2017

♦ **October 5-6, Sukkot:** First two days of a week long festival commemorating the Israelites' 40 year period in the wilderness and the fall harvest. Many Jews today eat and sometimes sleep in temporary dwellings called sukkot in observance of the biblical ordinance. Begins sunset October 4.

October 9, Columbus Day: Remembers Columbus' arrival in the Americas. Legal holiday; some schools closed.

♦ **October 12, Shmini Atzeret:** A biblically ordained gathering following and celebrating the end of the Jewish holiday of Sukkot. Begins sunset October 11.

♦ **October 13, Simchat Torah:** Marks the conclusion of the annual cycle of reading the Hebrew Bible (or "Torah") and the start of a new cycle. Begins sunset October 12.

October 19, Diwali: A festival of lights observed by Hindus, Sikhs and Jains.

♦ **October 20, Birth of the Bab:** Commemorates the 1819 birth of the Bab, the herald of the Baha'i faith; work is suspended.

November 2017

Native American Heritage Month

November 1, All Saints' Day: A solemn Christian holiday honoring all the saints.

November 4, Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Birthday: Celebrates the birth of the first Sikh teacher in 1469 CE.

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

November 11, Veterans Day: A celebration of America's veterans.

November 23, Thanksgiving Day: A national day of gratitude.

Legal holiday; all schools closed.

November 24, Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahdur Sahib: Martyrdom day of Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib, ninth guru of the Sikhs.

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

December 2017

December 1, The Prophet's Birthday: Muslim holiday marking Muhammed's birthday

December 3, First Sunday of Advent: Marked by church services of joyful anticipation, first of four Sundays before Christmas.

December 13-20, Hanukkah: Jewish celebration of the rededication of the Temple in 164 BCE. Begins sunset December 12.

December 25, Christmas: Christian holy day marking the birth of Jesus. Legal holiday; all schools closed.

December 26, Kwanzaa: Marks the beginning of a week long celebration emphasizing basic values of African culture, including family and community.

January 2018

January 1, New Years Day and Shinto New Year (Gantan-sai): Celebrates secular and Shinto New Year. Legal holiday; all schools closed.

January 6, Epiphany: A Christian commemoration of the day the three wise men visited infant Jesus and Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist.

January 7, Nativity of Christ/Feast of Nativity: Orthodox Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus.

January 15, Martin Luther King Jr. Day: A holiday devoted to national and community service, in memory of the African-American civil rights leader. Legal holiday; some schools closed.

January 27, International Holocaust Remembrance Day in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust: Established by the UN in addition to the spring Holocaust Remembrance set by the Jewish calendar.

January 31, Tu B'Shvat: Jewish Arbor Day, New Year for trees. Begins sunset January 30.

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 2018

Black History Month

February 3, Setsubun: Shinto celebration of the change of seasons.

February 14, Valentine's Day: Created to honor the martyred St. Valentine; evolved into a day to celebrate love and romance.

February 14, Ash Wednesday: First day of Lent on the Christian calendar. Name derives from symbolic use of ashes to signify penitence.

February 16, Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist New Year: Year of the

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

♦ Denotes a holiday on which there is a traditional obligation to refrain from many activities. In addition, Jews may be fasting on the following minor holiday dates: Sept. 24, Dec. 28, 2017 and Feb. 28, Mar. 30, Jul. 1, 2018.

March 2018

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Women's History Month

Irish-American Heritage Month

March 1, Holi Festival: Holi is a Hindu festival celebrated in India and Nepal, also known as the "festival of colours" or the "festival of love".

♦**March 2-20, Nineteen Day Fast:** The last month of the Baha'i calendar is recognized with a 19 day fast.

March 11, Purim: The day the Jewish people were saved from a massacre in ancient Persia; traditionally celebrated with giving money to the poor, gifts to friends, and reading the book of Esther. Begins sunset March 10.

March 17, St. Patrick's Day: Feast day for the saint who brought Christianity to Ireland.

♦**March 21, Naw Ruz/Norouz:** New Year on the Baha'i, Zoroastrian, and Persian calendars.

March 25, Palm Sunday: Commemorates Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem and ushers in Holy Week.

March 29, Maundy Thursday: The day of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and established the ceremony known as the Eucharist.

March 30, Good Friday: A solemn observance of the crucifixion of Jesus.

March 31, Magha Puja Day: Celebrates a gathering of holy men to hear Buddha's teachings.

♦**March 31-April 7, Passover:** An eight day celebration of the Jews' Exodus from Egypt. Many Jews adhere to strict dietary guidelines and refrain from work on the first two and last two days. Begins sunset March 30.

April 2018

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Arab-American History Month

April 1, Easter Sunday/Orthodox Easter Sunday: Christian holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus.

♦**April 3, Maharir Jayanti:** Celebrates the birth of the last Jain Tirthankara (or most holy), may fall on different days in different Jain traditions.

April 12, Yom Ha'Shoah: A day of Holocaust remembrance. Begins sunset April 11.

April 13, Isra and Mi'raj: Commemorates Muhammed's journey from Mecca to Jerusalem.

April 14, Baisakhi: Hindu/Sikh New Year for North India.

April 18, Yom Ha'Zikaron: A memorial day for those who lost their lives fighting for Israel. Begins sunset April 17.

April 19, Yom Ha'Atzmaut: A celebration of the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. Begins sunset April 18.

♦**April 21-May 2 Festival of Ridvan:** Marks the 12 days Baha'i founder Baha'u'llah resided in the garden "Ridvan" and declared his mission for God. Work is suspended on April 21, April 29 and May 2.

April 29, Vesak/Visakha Puja: A commemoration of the birth, enlightenment, and death of Buddha. Also known as "Buddha Day," may fall on different days in different Buddhist traditions.

May 2018

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month

Jewish American Heritage Month

May 3, Lag B'Omer: On this day, practices traditionally banned between Passover and Shavuot are permitted.

Begins sunset May 2.

May 5, Cinco de Mayo: Celebrates the victory of Mexican forces over a much larger French army at the Battle of Puebla.

May 10, Ascension Day: A Christian holiday marking Jesus' ascent to heaven 40 days after his Easter resurrection. In the U.S. it is often recognized on the Sunday following its Thursday date.

May 13, Mother's Day: A celebration of motherhood, maternal bonds

and the influence of mothers in society.

May 13, Yom Yerushalayim: Israeli commemoration of the 1967 reunification of Jerusalem. Begins sunset May 12.

♦**May 16-June 15, Ramadan:** A month long commemoration of Muhammed's divine revelation, observed with fasting during daylight hours. Begins sundown May 15.

May 20, Pentecost: Christian holiday commemorating the descent of the Holy Ghost upon the apostles 50 days after Easter.

♦**May 20-21, Shavuot:** Celebration of the spring harvest and the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai. Begins sunset May 19.

♦**May 23, Declaration of the Bab:** Commemorates the date in 1844 when the Bab announced his role as messenger of God. Work is suspended.

May 28, Memorial Day: Day of remembrance for those who died in service to the United States. Legal holiday; all schools closed.

June 2018

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

LGBTQIA+ Pride Month

June 11, Lailat al-Qadr: Commemorates when the Qu'ran was revealed to Muhammed.

June 14, Flag Day: Celebrates adoption of the U.S. national flag.

June 15-17, Eid al-Fitr: A three day Islamic celebration marking the end of Ramadan.

June 17, Father's Day: A celebration of fatherhood, paternal bonds and the influence of fathers in society.

June 19, Juneteenth: A celebration of African-American contributions and the end of slavery in the United States.

July 2018

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

July 4, Independence Day: Celebrates the adoption in 1776 of the United States' Declaration of Independence. Legal holiday; all schools closed.

♦**July 9, Martyrdom of the Bab:** A Baha'i remembrance of the execution of Savvid Ali Mohammed in 1850; work is suspended.

July 13-15, Obon: A three day Japanese Buddhist festival to honor deceased ancestors.

♦**July 22, Tisha B'Av:** A twenty-five hour Jewish fast day marking the date on which both the First and Second Temples were destroyed. Begins sunset July 21.

July 24, Pioneer Day: Celebrates the arrival of the first Mormon pioneer settlers into the Salt Lake Valley.

August 2018

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 22-25, Eid al-Adha: A four day Muslim commemoration of Ibrahim's willingness to offer up his son as an act of obedience to Allah. Begins sunset August 21.

Two-Year Calendar of Major Jewish Holidays

	2018-2019	2019-2020
Rosh Hashanah	Sept. 10-11	Sept. 30-Oct. 1
Yom Kippur	Sept. 19	Oct. 9
Sukkot	Sept. 24-25	Oct. 14-15
Shemini Atzeret	Oct. 1	Oct. 21
Simchat Torah	Oct. 2	Oct. 22
Passover	Apr. 20-21	Apr. 9-10
Passover (final days)	Apr. 26-27	Apr. 15-16
Shavuot	Jun. 9-10	May 29-30

