



Major Religious Observances during the 2016-17 School Year

The dates below only include several major Hindu, Islamic, Jewish, and Christian holidays that occur **when school is in session and that may affect student attendance/participation**. For more detailed and comprehensive listing of important dates of these religions, please use the links below. **Please be aware of the dates listed below and do not schedule events, meetings, and major exams during these times.** Pay close attention to the religious communities present in your building to make these decisions.

Date	Holiday	Brief Description
September 5	Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)	Celebrates the birth of Ganesh, the elephant- deity.
September 12-14 (begins at sundown on the 11 th)	Eid Al-Adha (Islamic)	The “Feast of Sacrifice” concludes the Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca), and is a three-day festival recalling Ibrahim’s willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to God.
October 1-10	Navaratri (Hindu)	Nine-day festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil. It worships God in the form of the universal mother commonly referred to as Durga, Devi, or Shakti, and marks the start of fall. The first three days are the most critical to avoid scheduling school events.
October 3-4 (begins at sundown on the 2 nd)	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)	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 11	Dasseri/Durga Puja (Hindu)	Anniversary of the day when Rama killed the evil demon Ravana. Also known as <i>Durga Puja</i> , which celebrates the goddess Durga.
October 12 (begins at sundown on the 11 th)	Yom Kippur (Jewish)	The “Day of Atonement” marks the end of the Ten Days of Penitence that begin with Rosh Hashanah. Kol Nidre service held evening of Oct. 11 th
October 20 (begins at sundown on the 19 th)	Birth of Báb (Bahá’i)	Bahá’i observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1819 of Siyyid, “the Báb,” the prophet-herald of the Bahá’i Faith, in Shíráz, Persia.
February 25	Shivaratri (Hindu)	Also called <i>Shiva Ratri</i> , it is the Great Festival of Shiva.
March 1	Ash Wednesday (Western Christian)	The first day of Lent for Western Christian churches, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter, not counting Sundays.
April 11- April 18 (begins at sundown on the 10 th)	Passover (Jewish)	The eight-day “Feast of Unleavened Bread” celebrates Israel’s deliverance from Egyptian bondage. Seders are held evenings of April 10 & 11.
April 14	Good Friday (Christian)	Known as <i>Holy Friday</i> in Eastern Christianity, in commemorates the Crucifixion of Jesus on the Friday before Easter/Pascha.