



April 6, 2018

**TO:** Cabinet  
Principals  
Curriculum Directors  
Athletic Department

**FROM:** Communications Department

**SUBJECT: Religious/Holy Days Calendar**

The attached list includes holidays of importance to members representing various religious and ethnic groups at our schools. This information is updated annually and an effort is made to be inclusive though the list is not exhaustive and any omissions of particular holidays is not intentional. Please note, some holy days vary slightly based on local custom. It is difficult to pinpoint exact dates in the case of some holy days that are based on the lunar calendar. If you learn of holy days that are not listed here or if information is incorrect as published, please inform the communications department at 469-752-8150. Additional information will be considered as an edit to the calendar.

As you plan for next year, please be reminded of the need to schedule activities, games, events and testing with sensitivity. While the district may not have the ability to stop school operations, the district makes an effort, within reasonable limitations and as the district can reasonably accommodate, to avoid planning activities that would exclude students who must miss school or events because of religious beliefs and/or practices. Faith Acknowledgements are indicated on the district's calendar to assist you in scheduling. The District discourages scheduling any meetings or activities that are optional/flexible on the days designated as holy on the religious calendar. Not all of the holidays on the attached calendar will entail students missing school. Some may involve fasting for several days, which will also require sensitivity and reasonable accommodations, when appropriate. Whether a student is required to miss school and/or requires accommodations is based upon the student's individual beliefs and is determined on an individual basis. Please refer to Plano ISD Board of Trustees' Policies FEA, FEB, FNA, and FNAB in this regard.

It is recommended that you and your school office personnel print this communication/letter and use it as a guide throughout the year and that the entire calendar is shared with teachers.

The Interfaith Calendar found at <http://www.interfaith-calendar.org/> was used in compiling this information. And we appreciate the assistance of the PISD Diversity Advisory Committee and various community members in compiling this listing.

# Religious/Holy Days 2018-2019

Some days may require absence from school or fasting or other specific observance. All absences will be reviewed on an individual case-by-case basis in accordance with Plano ISD Board of Trustees' Policies FEA, FEB, FNA, and FNAB. If questions arise, it is suggested that the campus administration work with Central Administration regarding such absences. Also note that some holidays may vary slightly based on local custom, group preference or moon sightings.

## BAHA'I HOLIDAYS

July 9, 2018	*Martyrdom of the Bab
October 20, 2018	*Birth of the Báb
November 21, 2018	*Birth of Baha'u'llah
November 26, 2018	*Day of the Covenant
March 21, 2019	*Naw-Rúz (New Year)
April 21, 2019	*First Day of Ridvan
April 29, 2019	Ninth Day of Ridvan
May 2, 2019	*Last Day of Ridvan
<b>May 24, 2019</b>	<b>*Declaration of the Bab</b>
<b>May 29, 2019</b>	<b>*Ascension of Baha'u'llah</b>

## BUDDHIST OBSERVANCES

December 8, 2018	**Bodhi Day (Rohatsu)
February 8, 2019	Nirvana Day
March 21, 2019	**Magha Puja Day
May 18, 2019	**Visakha Puja - Buddha Day

## CHRISTIAN HOLIDAYS

August 15, 2018	Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary
November 1, 2018	All Saints Day
December 8, 2018	Immaculate Conception of Mary
December 16-25, 2018	Posadas Navidenas
<b>December 25, 2018</b>	<b>*Christmas</b>
January 1, 2019	Mary, Mother of God
January 6, 2019	Epiphany
March 6, 2019	Ash Wednesday – Lent begins
April 14, 2019	Palm Sunday
<b>April 19, 2019</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>
<b>April 21, 2019</b>	<b>Easter</b>
May 30, 2019	Ascension of Jesus
June 9, 2019	Pentecost

**NOTES: BOLD** titles are primary holy days of a tradition.

\*Holy days usually begin at sundown the day before this date.

\*\*Local or regional customs may use a variation of this date.

## HINDU FESTIVALS

August 29, 2018	**Raksha Bandhan
September 2, 2018	**Krishna Janmashtami
<b>September 13, 2018</b>	**Ganesh Chaturthi
October 9-16, 2018	**Navaratri
<b>October 19, 2018</b>	**Dasara
<b>November 7, 2018</b>	**Diwali - Deepavali
March 4, 2019	**Maha Shivaratri
March 21, 2019	**Holi
April 14, 2019	**Rama Navami

## JEWISH HOLIDAYS

July 22, 2018	*Tish'a B'av
<b>September 10-11, 2018</b>	*Rosh Hashanah
<b>September 19, 2018</b>	*Yom Kippur
September 24-30, 2018	*Sukkot
October 1, 2018	*Shemini Atzeret
October 2, 2018	*Simchat Torah
December 3-10, 2018	*Hanukkah
January 21, 2019	*Tu BiShvat
March 21, 2019	*Purim
<b>April 20-27, 2019</b>	*Passover
<b>June 9-10, 2019</b>	*Shavuot

## MUSLIM HOLIDAYS

<b>August 22-25, 2018</b>	*Eid al Adha
September 12, 2018	*New Year - Hijra
September 21, 2018	*Ashura
November 21, 2018	*Mawlid an Nabi
April 3, 2019	*Lailat al Miraj
April 21, 2019	*Lailat al Bara'ah
<b>May 6 – June 4, 2019</b>	* **Ramadan
June 1, 2019	*Laylat al Kadr
June 4-6, 2019	*Eid al Fitr – Ramadan ends

## SIKH HOLIDAYS

<b>November 23, 2018</b>	<b>Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib</b>
January 5, 2019	Guru Gobindh Singh Birthday
April 14, 2019	Baisakhi (Vaisakhi)

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## WICCAN HOLIDAYS

August 2, 2018	*Lughnasadh (Lammas)
September 22, 2018	* Autumnal Equinox (Mabon)
<b>November 1, 2018</b>	<b>*Samhain</b>
December 21, 2018	*Winter Solstice (Yule)
February 2, 2019	* Imbolc
March 20, 2019	*Vernal/Spring Equinox (Ostara)
May 1, 2019	*Beltane (May Eve/Day)
June 21, 2019	*Summer Solstice (Litha/Midsummer)

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