

East Lansing Public Schools

Religious and Cultural Calendar

The East Lansing Public Schools are committed to honoring the rich cultural diversity of our students and community. The calendar, adopted by the Board of Education, is designed to show respect for the cultural diversity in our district. The dates below are holidays of major significance to different religious and cultural groups in our community. To the extent possible, administrators, teachers, coaches and event planners will be respectful of these dates as schedules and events are planned within our school district. Examples include, but are not limited to, major exams, reviews for exams, tryouts for teams or plays, and major events such as prom, graduations, banquets or student elections.

If you are desirous of having a date or celebration considered for inclusion by the Board of Education, please contact the Superintendent's Office (333-7424).

<u>Holiday</u>		<u>2020-21 School Year</u>	<u>2021-22 School Year</u>	<u>2022-23 School Year</u>
Krishna Janmashtami	Hindu	August 11/12, 2020	August 30, 2021	August 18/19, 2022
Muharram	Muslim	Aug 20 – Sept 18, 2020	Aug 9 – Sept 7, 2021	July 29 – Aug 28, 2022
Rosh Hashanah	Jewish	Sept 18* - Sept 20, 2020	Sept 6* - Sept 8, 2021	Sept 25* - Sept 27, 2022
Yom Kippur	Jewish	Sept 27* - Sept 28, 2020	Sept 15* - Sept 16, 2021	Oct 4* - Oct 5, 2022
Navaratri	Hindu	Oct 17 – Oct 25, 2020	Oct 7 – Oct 14, 2021	Sept 26 – Oct 4, 2022
Dussehra	Hindu	October 25, 2020	October 15, 2021	October 5, 2022
Diwali	Hindu	November 14, 2020	November 4, 2021	October 24, 2022
Bodhi Day	Buddhist	December 8, 2020	December 8, 2021	December 8, 2022
Hanukkah	Jewish	Dec 10* - Dec 18, 2020	Nov 28* - Dec 6, 2021	Dec 18* - Dec 26, 2022
Christmas	Christian	December 25, 2020	December 25, 2021	December 25, 2022
Kwanzaa	African-American	December 26, 2020 – January 1, 2021	December 26, 2021 – January 1, 2022	December 26, 2022 – January 1, 2023
Chinese New Year	Buddhist/East Asian	February 12, 2021	February 1, 2022	January 22, 2023
Ash Wednesday	Christian	February 17, 2021	March 2, 2022	February 22, 2023
Magha Puja	Buddhist	March 28, 2021	March 30, 2022	March 30, 2023
Holi	Hindu	March 29, 2021	March 18, 2022	March 8, 2023
Good Friday	Christian	April 2, 2021	April 15, 2022	April 7, 2023
Passover	Jewish	March 27* - April 3, 2021	April 15* - April 23, 2022	April 5 – April 13, 2023
Easter	Christian	April 4, 2021	April 17, 2022	April 9, 2023
Orthodox Easter	Christian	May 2, 2021	April 24, 2022	April 16, 2023
Ramadan	Muslim	April 12* - May 11, 2021	April 2* - May 1, 2022	Mar 22* - Apr 20, 2023
Eid al-Fitr	Muslim	May 12* - May 13, 2021	May 2* - May 3, 2022	Apr 21* - Apr 22, 2023
Vesak	Buddhist	May 26, 2021	May 15, 2022	May 4, 2023
Eid al-Adha	Muslim	July 19* - July 20, 2021	July 9* - July 10, 2022	June 28* - June 29, 2023

*Note Jewish and Muslim holy days begin at sundown on the first day indicated.

Explanatory Notes

Ash Wednesday – Begins Christian Lent; name derives from symbolic use of ashes to signify penitence.

Bodhi Day – The day many Buddhist traditions celebrate the enlightenment of the Buddha. This is a full day meant for remembrance and meditation.

Chinese New Year – East Asian holiday commemorating the lunar New Year.

Christmas – Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

Diwali – Festival of Lights – This holiday is typically celebrated by families sharing various traditional rituals in their homes. It extends over 5 days and celebrates the victory of good over evil.

Easter – Christian holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Eid-al-Adha, follows and marks the end of the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca, also known as the Feast of Sacrifice, This festival commemorates Ibrahim's (Abraham) willingness to sacrifice his son to God.

Eid al-Fitr is the first day of Shawwal in the Islamic calendar. It marks the end of the month-long fast of Ramadan and the start of a feast that lasts up to three days in some countries.

Good Friday – Christian Holiday commemorating the day of Jesus' crucifixion.

Hanukkah – Jewish festival of lights, eight-day commemoration of the rededication of the Second Temple in 165 B.C.E. Jewish families celebrate this holiday every night for 8 consecutive nights.

Holi – Festival of Spring or Festival of Colors. This day is typically celebrated by families in India, Nepal, and other parts of Asia by partaking in various regional traditions.

Krishna Janmashtami – A two-day festival celebrating the birth of Lord Krishna.

Kwanzaa – Seven-day celebration of African-American values and traditions and their continued vitality. "Kwanzaa" in Kiswahili, means "first fruits of the harvest."

Magha Puja– Commemorates the date when the four disciples traveled to join the Buddha.

Muharram – Muslims observe the start of the Islamic New Year on the first day of **Muharram**, which is the first month in the Islamic calendar.

Navratri/Dussehra – The celebration and festival held in honor of the divine feminine. It occurs over 9 days and ends with Dussehra celebration on the tenth day.

Passover – Jewish Holiday - Seven day celebration marking the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt; "Seder" ceremonies emphasize concept of freedom. Jewish families usually have evening celebrations the first two nights of this holiday. Observant Jews follow a strict "Passover diet" during this time, abstaining from eating leavened breads. Please note that some Jews observe Passover for eight days.

Ramadan – The ninth month in the Islamic calendar; month of prayer, charitable giving, self-accountability, and strict fasting from all food and drink from sunup to sundown.

Rosh Hashanah – Jewish New Year beginning 10 days of penitence concluded on Yom Kippur. Jewish families observe the holiday starting in the evening before the first full day, and many Jewish children will miss school the first and second days of this holiday.

Vesak– There are a variety of cultural traditions celebrating Buddha's Birthday. Many Buddhist cultures celebrate the birth, Awakening, and death of the Buddha on Vesak.

Yom Kippur – The holiest day of the year; Jewish Day of Atonement; devoted to prayer, fasting and repentance. . This holiday is observed starting the evening before the first full day.

Hindu holidays were determined from <https://www.india.gov.in/calendar> with additional resources from <https://publicholidays.in/>

Note that the Islamic holidays follow the lunar calendar. They should be double checked every year to assure that they are still accurate.

Adopted by the Board of Education November 23, 2020.