



**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 (517-333-7424).

Holiday	Religion	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Krishna Janmashtami	Hindu	September 6, 2023	August 26, 2024	August 16, 2025
Muharram	Muslim	July 19, 2023	July 8, 2024	June 27, 2025
Rosh Hashanah	Jewish	September 15 - 17, 2023	October 2 - 4, 2024	September 22 - 24, 2025
Yom Kippur	Jewish	September 24 - 25, 2023	October 11 - 12, 2024	October 1 - 2, 2025
Navaratri	Hindu	October 15 - 24, 2023	October 3 - 12, 2024	September 22 - October 2, 2025
Dussehra	Hindu	October 24, 2023	October 12, 2024	October 2, 2025
Diwali	Hindu	November 12, 2023	November 1, 2024	October 20, 2025
Bodhi Day	Buddhist	December 8, 2023	January 18, 2024	January 7, 2025
Hanukkah	Jewish	December 7 - 15, 2023	December 25, 2024 - January 2, 2025	December 14 - 22, 2025
Christmas	Christian	December 25, 2023	December 25, 2024	December 25, 2025
Kwanzaa	African American	December 26, 2023 - January 1, 2024	December 26, 2024 - January 1, 2025	December 26, 2025 - January 1, 2026
Chinese New Year	Buddhist/East Asian	February 10, 2024	January 29, 2025	February 17, 2026
Ash Wednesday	Christian	February 14, 2024	March 5, 2025	February 18, 2026
*Magha Puja	Buddhist	February 4, 2024	February 13, 2025	March 4, 2026
Persian Nowruz	Iranian	March 20 - April 1, 2024	March 20 - April 1, 2025	March 21 - April 2, 2026
Holi	Hindu	March 25, 2024	March 14, 2025	March 4, 2026
Good Friday	Christian	March 29, 2024	April 18, 2025	April 3, 2026
Passover	Jewish	April 22 - 30, 2024	April 12 - 20, 2025	April 1 - 9, 2026
Easter	Christian	March 31, 2024	April 20, 2025	April 5, 2026
Orthodox Easter	Christian	May 5, 2024	April 20, 2025	April 12, 2026
Ramadan	Muslim	March 10 - April 9, 2024	February 28 - March 30, 2025	February 17 - March 28, 2026
Eid al-Fitr	Muslim	April 9 - 10, 2024	March 30 - 31, 2025	March 19 - 20, 2026
Vesak	Buddhist	May 23, 2024	May 12, 2025	April 8, 2026
Eid al-Adha	Muslim	June 16 - 17, 2024	June 6 - 7, 2025	May 26-27, 2026

**Jewish and Muslim holy days begin at sundown on the first day indicated.
*Observance of this day can vary based on region. Dates are based on the lunar calendar and should be checked every year.**



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.
- Persian Nowruz** - Nowruz means "new day". It is the Iranian new year celebrated by various nations. It is a festival based on the Iranian solar calendar that starts on the spring equinox and ends with a picnic day (to celebrate nature) on the 13th day of spring.
- 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/>

Adopted by the Board of Education January 9, 2023. Revised by the Board of Education October 9, 2023.

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