

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS CALENDAR FOR SCHOOLS 2009-2010

Source: Interfaith Calendar, BBC Religion & Ethics,
For information about how the holidays are observed and how this might impact schools, see [An Educator's Classroom Guide to America's Religious Beliefs and Practices](#) by Benjamin Hubbard, John T. Hatfield, and Jams A. Santucci. The specific dates of some holidays, especially those of the Sikh faith, varied widely based on source and calendar tradition used to figure them. In those cases, administrators may choose to consult the religious leaders in the community before setting school calendars. For a more detailed description and definition of the holidays listed here, and for the dates for religious holidays not listed, please see <http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/index.htm>.

This calendar has been developed to assist schools in setting their academic calendars with regard to the religious needs of the families, students, and faculty they serve. Only some religious observances are listed, based on those religious communities most represented in the schools. When using the calendar, please keep the following in mind: some religious observances begin at sundown of the previous day; holidays calculated on the lunar calendar change each year on the Western calendar. Many holidays are celebrated on different days in different countries, so the days that students or employees choose to observe a particular holiday may vary. Employees may not adhere to a major world religion, or any of the holidays listed below, but may legally observe other religious holidays important to them with equal treatment in the workplace.

*Margaret Hill, Ph.D., Director
California Three Rs Project*

JULY 2009

- 7 Asalha Puja Day ** Buddhist
- 9 Martyrdom of the Bab * - Baha'i (work restrictions)
- 13 Ulambana (Obon) ** Buddhist (festival)
- 19 Lailat al Miraj * ** - Islam
- 30 Tisha B'Av * - Jewish (fasting)

AUGUST 2009

- 1 Fast Day in honor of Holy Mother of Jesus - Orthodox Christian
- 5 Raksha Bandhan ** - Hindu (festival)
Lailat al Bara'ah * - Islam (nightlong prayers)

* Usually begins at sundown the day before this date.

** Local customs may vary this date.

- 14 Krishna Janmashtami ** - Hindu (nightlong prayers)
- 15 Assumption of Virgin Mary – Catholic Christian
- 17 Paryushana ** - Jain (important 8-day festival, fasting)
- 22 Ramadan begins * ** - Islam (fasting daylight hours – one month)
- 23 Ganesha Chaturthi ** - Hindu (festival)

SEPTEMBER 2009

- 1 Religious New Year – Orthodox Christian
- 16 Lailat al Kadr (Qadr) * ** - Islam (last 10 days of Ramadan)
- 19-20 Rosh Hashanah (New Year) * - Jewish (major holiday – no work)
- 19-27 Navaratri ** - Hindu (festival)
- 20 Eid al Fitr * ** - Ramadan ends - Islam (major holiday)
- 28 Yom Kippur * - Jewish (major holiday – fasting, no work)
Dasera ** - Hindu

OCTOBER 2009

- 3-9 Sukkot * - Jewish (3-4 Primary Obligation Days)
- 4 St. Francis Day – Catholic Christian
- 17 Diwali (Deepavali) ** - Hindu, Jain, Sikh (major festival)
- 20 Installation of Scriptures as Guru Granth – Sikh (major holiday)
Birth of the Bab - Baha'i (work restrictions)
- 25 Reformation Day ** - Protestant Christian
- 31 All Hallows Eve - Christian

NOVEMBER 2009

- 1 All Saints' Day – Western Christian
- 2 All Souls' Day - Catholic Christian

* Usually begins at sundown the day before this date.

** Local customs may vary this date.

- 2 Day of the Dead or El Día de los Muertos
Guru Nanak Birthday – Sikh (major holiday, celebrated by some April 14)
- 12 Birth of Baha'u'llah - Baha'i (work restrictions)
- 25-28 Hajj * - Islam
- 26 Thanksgiving – Interfaith – USA
Day of Covenant - Baha'i
- 27 Eid al Adha * ** - Islam (feast)
- 28 Ascension of Abdu'l Baha- Baha'i (work restrictions)

DECEMBER 2009

- 8 Bodhi Day (Rohatsu) - Buddhist
Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary - Catholic Christian
- 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe feast - Catholic Christian (major holiday)
Advent Fast begins - Orthodox Christian
- 12-19 Hanukkah * - Jewish
- 16-25 Posadas Navidenas – Christian
- 18 Hijra – New Year - Islam
- 25 Christmas – Western Christian (major holiday, no work)
- 26 - January 1
Kwanzaa – Interfaith

JANUARY 2010

- 1 Feast of St Basil - Orthodox Christian
Gantan-sai (New Years) – Shinto (major festival)
- 5 Birthday Guru Gobind – Sikh
- 6 Epiphany – Western Christian
Día de los Reyes (Three King's Day) – Hispanic Christian (major holiday)
- 7 Nativity of Christ (Christmas) - Orthodox Christian (major holiday)

* Usually begins at sundown the day before this date.

** Local customs may vary this date.

14 Maghi – Sikh

17 World Religion Day - Baha'i

30-February 1

Mahayana New Year ** - Buddhist

FEBRUARY 2010

3 * Setsubun Sai – Shinto (major celebration)

12 Maha Shivaratri ** - Hindu

14 Chinese New Year - Confucian/Daoist/Buddhist (widely celebrated 15-day festival, family reunions, gift giving)

15 Nirvana Day ** - Buddhist

16 Shrove (Fat) Tuesday – Christian (carnival)

17 Ash Wednesday - Lent begins – Christian (no meat, fasting)

26 Mawlid an Nabi * ** - Islam

28 Purim * - Jewish

MARCH 2010

1 Holi ** - Hindu (festival)
Holla Mohalla - Sikh

16 Vaisaki - New Year ** - Hindu
Khalsa Order founded - Sikh

24 Ramanavami ** - Hindu

28 Palm Sunday - Christian/Orthodox Christian

29 Mahavir Jayanti – Jain (major festival)

30-31*

Pesach (Passover) First two days * - Jewish (work restrictions for some)

* Usually begins at sundown the day before this date.

** Local customs may vary this date.

APRIL 2010

- 1 Maundy Thursday – Christian
- 2 Good (Holy) Friday - All Christians (church attendance, no meat or fasting)
- 4 Easter - All Christians (major holiday)
- 5-6 Pesach (Passover) final two days * - Jewish (major holiday, work restrictions for some)
- 11 Yom Hashoah* (Holocaust Remembrance) – Jewish and others
- 13 Baisakhi - Sikh (New Year Festival)
- 21 First Day of Ridvan * - Baha'I (work restrictions)
- 28-May 1
Theravadin New Year** - Buddhist
- 29 Ninth Day of Ridvan * - Baha'I (work restrictions)
- 30 St. James the Great Day – Orthodox Christian

MAY 2010

- 2 Twelfth Day of Ridvan * - Baha'I (work restrictions)
- 6 National Day of Prayer - Interfaith USA
- 19-20 Shavuot * - Jewish (feast)
- 23 Pentecost – All Christians
- 27 Buddha Day - Visakha Puja - Buddhist (major holiday)
- 29 Ascension of Baha'u'llah - Baha'i (major holiday) (work restrictions)

JUNE 2010

- 29 Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul – Catholic Christian

* Usually begins at sundown the day before this date.

** Local customs may vary this date.