

# 2009-2010 Holiday Calendar

This calendar of religious, national, and community holidays has been prepared to assist you in planning activities. Educators are reminded that students **must** be given excused absences to meet religious obligations and that reasonable accommodations **must** be made for students to make up missed work. Please be sensitive about scheduling events so that students and employees do not miss significant activities and opportunities due to religious observance. **No person should be penalized for their religious observances.**

Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath, commemorates the day of rest on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of creation. Shabbat begins prior to sunset each Friday and concludes approximately one hour after sundown on Saturday. Holidays, like Shabbat, begin at sundown on their given day and end after sunset the following day. On Shabbat and Jewish Holy Days, it is traditional to refrain from many types of work, including writing and driving.

## September 2009

National Hispanic Heritage Month  
September 15-October 15

September 2009						
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**Monday September 7, Labor Day:** Observed in honor of the American Labor Movement. Legal holiday; all schools closed.

♦ **Saturday September 19-Sunday September 20, Rosh Hashanah:** Jewish New Year 5769. Begins sunset September 18.

**Monday September 21, Eid al-Fitr:** Islamic festival which concludes the fast of Ramadan.

♦ **Monday September 28, Yom Kippur:** Jewish Day of Atonement. Most solemn day of the Jewish year devoted to prayer and fasting. Begins sunset September 27.

## October 2009

♦ **Saturday October 3-Sunday October 4, Sukkot:** Eight day Jewish festival of thanksgiving, harvest and remembrance of Jews wandering in the desert after Exodus from Egypt. Begins sunset October 2.

♦ **Saturday October 10, Shemini Atzeret:** Final day of Sukkot. Begins sunset October 9.

♦ **Sunday October 11, Simchat Torah:** Reading of the Torah is completed and begun anew in the synagogue. Begins sunset October 10.

**Monday October 12, Columbus Day observed:** Marks Columbus' discovery of America. Legal holiday; some schools closed.

**Thursday October 17 Diwali:** Hindu/Sikh/Jain Festival of Lights

**Saturday October 31, Halloween**

October 2009						
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♦ Denotes Jewish High Holy Days and major Biblical festivals when Jews may be absent from school or work. Please note that all Jewish holidays begin at sunset of the preceding evening.

## November 2009

National American Indian Heritage Month

**Sunday November 1, All Saints Day:** Christian celebration of the lives of all saints.

**Monday November 2, Guru Nanak Dev's Birthday:** Observes the birth of the founder of the Sikh religion in 1469.

**Wednesday November 11, Veterans Day (observed):** Honors those who served in the United States Armed Services. Legal Holiday; some schools closed.

**Thursday November 12, Birth of Baha'ullah:** Commemorates the 1817 birth of the founder of the Baha'i faith.

**Thursday November 26, Thanksgiving:** Commemorates Pilgrims' observance of the harvest in the New World. Legal holiday; all schools closed.

**Saturday November 28, Eid al-Adha:** Commemorates the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his son Ishmael in response to a command from God.

**Sunday November 29, First Sunday of Advent:** First of 4 Sundays before Christmas marked by special church services.

November 2009						
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## December 2009

**Tuesday December 8, Feast of Immaculate Conception:** Celebrates the Roman Catholic belief that Mary was conceived without sin.

**Saturday December 12, Chanukah (Festival of Lights):** First day of eight day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the second Temple by the Maccabees and their victory over the Seleucid Empire in 165 B.C.E. Begins sunset December 11.

**Friday December 18, Islamic New Year**

**Friday December 25, Christmas Day:** Christian holy day marking the birth of Jesus. Legal holiday; all schools closed.

**Saturday December 26, Kwanzaa:** Beginning of 7-day celebration of African-American values and traditions.

December 2009						
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## January 2010

**Friday January 1, New Year's Day:** First day of the new year. Legal holiday, all schools closed.

**Wednesday January 6, Epiphany:** End of the 12 days of Christmas. Especially important to Eastern Orthodox Christians and in Latino cultures.

**Monday January 18, Martin Luther King Day:** Commemorates the birth of the African-American civil rights leader and winner of the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize. Legal holiday; some schools closed.

**Saturday January 30, Tu B'Shvat:** Jewish Arbor Day, New Year for trees. Begins sunset January 29.

January 2010						
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## February 2010

Black History Month

**Sunday February 14, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese New Year:** Year of the tiger.

**Monday February 15, Washington's Birthday/**

**President's Day:** Legal holiday; some schools closed.

**Wednesday February 17, Ash Wednesday:** The first day of Lent. Name derives from symbolic use of ashes to signify penitence.

**Sunday February 28, Purim:** Celebrates the deliverance of the Jews of ancient Persia from a plot to exterminate them. Begins sunset February 27.

February 2010						
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## March 2010

Women's History Month

**Wednesday March 17, St. Patrick's Day:** Irish celebration of the life of St. Patrick.

**Sunday March 21, Naw-Ruz:** Persian and Baha'i New Year.

**Sunday March 28, Palm Sunday:** Begins Christian Holy Week.

♦ **Tuesday March 30-Wednesday March 31, Passover (first two days):** Eight-day Jewish festival marking deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. Begins sunset March 29.

March 2010						
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## April 2010

**Friday April 2, Good Friday/Holy Friday:** Christian holy day that commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus.

**Sunday April 4, Easter:** Christian holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus. Western and Eastern Orthodox observances coincide on April 4, 2007.

♦ **Monday April 5-Tuesday April 6, Passover (concluding two days):** Begins at sunset April 4.

**Sunday April 11, Yom HaShoah v'HaGvurah (Holocaust Remembrance Day):** Honors the memory of six million Jewish martyrs and heroes who perished in the Nazi Holocaust. Begins sunset April 10.

**Tuesday April 19, Yom HaZikaron (Israeli Memorial Day):** Jewish holiday to remember individuals and soldiers who have fallen for the State of Israel. Begins sunset April 18.

**Thursday April 20, Yom HaAtzma'ut (Israeli Independence Day):** Jewish holiday marking the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. Begins sunset April 19.

April 2010						
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## May 2010

Asian-Pacific Heritage Month

**Sunday May 2, Lag B'Omer:** 33rd day of the Omer, the 49-day period between the Jewish holidays of Passover and Shavuot. As the Omer is a period of semi-mourning, this is the only day when prohibitions (such as cutting hair) are lifted, and celebrations are permitted. Begins sunset May 1.

**Wednesday May 5, Cinco de Mayo:** Celebrated in Mexico and by Mexican-Americans; marks the victory in 1862 of a small Mexican force that routed a French army three times its size.

**Sunday May 9, Mother's Day**

**Tuesday May 11, Yom Yerushalayim:** Jewish and Israeli holiday commemorating the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967. Begins sunset May 10.

**Thursday May 13, Ascension Day:** Christian holy day, 40 days after Easter, which commemorates Jesus' ascent into heaven.

♦ **Wednesday May 19- Thursday May 20, Shavuot (Festival of Weeks):** Jewish festival commemorating the giving of the Torah (Law) on Mount Sinai. Begins sunset May 18.

**Sunday May 23, Pentecost:** Christian holiday commemorating the descent of the Holy Ghost upon the Apostles 50 days after Easter.

**Friday May 27, Wesak:** Birth of the Buddha. Commemoration of Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and death.

**Monday May 31, Memorial Day:** Honors those who died in defense of the United States. Legal holiday; all schools closed.

May 2010						
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June 2010							July 2010							August 2010						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31				

## SUMMER 2010: June, July, August

**Sunday June 20, Father's Day**

**Sunday July 4, American Independence Day**

♦ **Tuesday July 20, Tisha B'Av:** One of two major fast days in Judaism, this holiday commemorates the destruction of the Temples in Jerusalem as well as a number of other tragedies throughout Jewish history. Begins sunset July 19.

**Thursday August 12-Friday September 10, Ramadan:** Ninth month of the Islamic calendar, during which Muslims fast daily from dawn to sunset for thirty days in honor of the first revelations to the Prophet Muhammad.

### Two-Year Calendar of Major Jewish Holidays

	2010-2011	2011-2012
Rosh Hashanah	Sept 9-10	Sept 29-30
Yom Kippur	Sept 18	Oct. 8
Sukkot	Sept 23-24	Oct. 13-14
Shemini Atzeret	Sept 30	Oct. 20
Simchat Torah	Oct. 1	Oct. 21
Passover	April 19-20	April 7-8
Passover (concluding days)	April 25-26	April 13-14
Shavuot	June 8-9	May 27-28