

2007-08 RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The following information was collected from members of the Religious Faiths Advisory Committee of the Dallas Independent School District. Some of the dates listed below may require students and teachers to miss school to attend special religious services or rituals. Parents should be asked to notify the school in advance if holy days will require absences or other accommodations. Scheduling conflicts may be avoided by planning major tests, parent conferences, etc., with careful use of this annual calendar.

See Explanatory Notes on back of this page for brief descriptions of listed dates.

Key to Symbols

Bold: Holy days that may require absence from school

* Holy Days that begin at sunset the previous evening and last for 24 hours, until the next sundown

** Date is based on the lunar calendar and changes from year to year

Eastern Orthodox = EO; Celtic Christian = CC; Christian = C; Jain = J; Roman Catholic = RC; Zoroastrian = Z

JUNE 2007

3 All Saints' Day (EO)
 3 Trinity Sunday (C)
 7 Corpus Christi (RC)
 9 Saint Columba of Iona (CC)
 15 Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (RC)
 16 Guru Arjan Dev Martyrdom (Sikh)
 21 Litha (Wicca)
 24 Saint John the Baptist Day (C)
 29 Feast Day of Saint Peter (RC)
 30 Guru Purnima (Hindu)
 30 ** Asala Puja Day/Dharma (Buddhist)

JULY

9 * **Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)**
 11 * Saint Benedict Day (RC)
 13 ** Obon/Ulambana (Buddhist)
 24 Pioneer Day (Mormon)
 24 * Tisha B'Av (Jewish)
 25 Saint James Day (C)

AUGUST

1 Lammas (C)
 2 * Lughnasadh (Wicca)
 6 Transfiguration of the Lord (EO)
 11 * Lailat al Miraj (Islam)
 15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (RC)
 15 **Dormition of Theotokos (EO)**
 28 ** Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)
 28 Laylat al Bara'ah (Islam)
 29 ** Paryushana begins (J)
 29 Beheading of Saint John the Baptist (C, EO)

SEPTEMBER

1 Ecclesiastical Year begins (EO)
 4 Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)
 8 Nativity of Mary (C)
 13 * Ramadan begins (Islam)
 13-14 * **Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)**
 14 Holy Cross Day (C)
 15 ** Ganesa Chaturthi (Hindu)
 22 * Yom Kippur (Jewish)
 23 * Mabon (Wicca)
 27-Oct. 3 * Sukkot (Jewish)

OCTOBER

4 Shemini Atzeret (Jewish)
 4 Saint Francis of Assisi Feast Day (RC)
 5 * Simchat Torah (Jewish)
 6 Saint Thomas Day (EO)
 9 * Laylat al Qadr (Islam)
 12-20 * **Navaratri (Hindu)**
 12-21 * Eid al-Fitr (Ramadan ends) (Islam)

18 Saint Luke's Day (C)
 20 * Birth of the Bab (Baha'i)
 20 Guru Granth Sahib Day (Installation of Scriptures) (Sikh)
 21 ** Dassera (Hindu)
 31 Reformation Day (Protestant)
 31 * Samhain (Wicca)

NOVEMBER

1 All Saints' Day (RC, some Protestant)
 2 All Souls' Day (RC)
 9 ** Diwali, Festival of Light (Hindu, J, Sikh)
 12 * **Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)**
 22 Thanksgiving Day (Interfaith)
 24 Martyrdom Guru Tegh Bahadur (Sikh)
 24 Guru Nanak Dev (Sikh)
 26 * **Day of the Covenant (Baha'i)**
 28 * **Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha (Baha'i)**
 30 **Saint Andrew's Day (C)**

DECEMBER

2, 9, 16, 23 Sundays of Advent (C)
 5-12 ** **Chanukkah (Jewish)**
 8 ** Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
 8 Immaculate Conception (RC)
 12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (RC)
 16 Posadas Navidenas begins (C)
 18 * Hajj Begins (Baha'i)
 20 * Eid al-Adha (Islam)
 21 * Yule (C, Wicca)
 21 Saint Thomas Day (C)
 25 **Christmas (C)**
 26 Zarathosht Diso (Z)
 26 Saint Stephen Day (EO, RC)

JANUARY 2008

1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (RC)
 1 Feast of Saint Basil (EO)
 6 Feast of the Epiphany (Protestant, RC)
 6 Feast of Theophany (EO)
 7 ** **Feast of Nativity (EO)**
 10 Muharram (New Year) (Islam)
 13-14 Maghi (Sikh)
 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
 19 * Ashura (Islam)
 20 World Religion Day (Baha'i)
 22 * Tu B'shevat (Jewish)

FEBRUARY

2 Presentation of Christ to the Temple (C)
 2 * Imbolc (Wicca)
 3 Transfiguration of the Lord (RC)
 6 Ash Wednesday (RC)

11 ** Vasant Panchami (Hindu)
 15 ** Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
 17 Triodion (EO)
 26-March 1 * Intercalary Days (Baha'i)

MARCH

1 Saint David of Wales Day (CC)
 6 Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)
 10 Lent begins (EO)
 16 Palm Sunday (C)
 16 Sunday of Orthodox (EO)
 20 * Ostara/Eostra (Wicca)
 20 * Mawlid an Nabi (Islam)
 21 * Purim (Jewish)
 21 **Good Friday (C)**
 21 **Norooz (Z)**
 21 * **Naw Ruz (Baha'i)**
 21 ** **Magha Puja**
 22 Hola Mohalla (Sikh)
 22 ** Holi (Hindu)
 23 Easter Sunday (C)
 25 Annunciation of Virgin Mary (EO, RC)
 26 Khordad Sal (Z)

APRIL

6 ** New Year (Hindu)
 13 **Baisakhi (Sikh)**
 14 ** Ramnavami (Hindu)
 20 ** Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)
 20 Palm Sunday (EO)
 20-21 ** **Pesach (Jewish) (First two days)**
 21 * Ridvan begins (Baha'i)
 23 Saint George's Day (C)
 24-26 * **Pesach (Jewish) (Final two days)**
 25 Holy Week (EO)
 27 Easter (EO)
 30 Saint James Day (EO)

MAY

1 * **Beltane (Wicca)**
 1 Ascension of the Lord (RC)
 2 Yom HaSho'ah (Jewish)
 8 * Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Jewish)
 11 Pentecost (C)
 18 Trinity Sunday (RC, some Protestant)
 20 ** **Buddha Day/Visakha Puja (Buddhist)**
 22 Corpus Christi (RC)
 23 * **Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)**
 29 * **Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)**
 30 **Sacred Heart Day (RC)**
 31 * **Lag B'Omer (Jewish)**

EXPLANATORY NOTES *for* RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Advent – Time of preparation for observing the birth of Jesus Christ.

All Saints' Day – Celebrates the lives of all saints, especially those not having a special day. Eastern Orthodox churches observe the day in mid-summer following Pentecost Sunday.

All Souls' Day – A memorial to the deceased. EO churches celebrate four Saturdays during the movable calendar; students may fast the day before.

Annunciation of Virgin Mary – Marks the announcement of the Angel Gabriel to Mary that she will be the mother of Jesus.

Asala Puja Day/Dharma – Observance of the day when Gautama Buddha made his first public proclamation to five ascetics.

Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha – Commemorates the ascension of Abdul-Baha, who succeeded his father as head of the Baha'i community.

Ascension of Baha'u'llah – Commemorates the ascension of Baha'u'llah, founder of the Baha'i Faith.

Ascension of the Lord – Marks the ascension of Jesus into heaven.

Ashura – Tenth day of Muharram, first month of the year.

Ash Wednesday – Marks the first day of Lent, the 40-day period of preparation for Easter.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Celebrates the union in body and soul of Mary with Jesus in heaven (some students fast Aug. 1-15).

Baisakhi – Formation of the Sikh brotherhood and the new year.

Beheading of John the Baptist – Remembrance of the death of John the Baptist, who is known for preparing the people so they would recognize Jesus as the Messiah.

Beltane – Celebration of the fertility of crops and creativity of the spirit.

Birth of the Bab – Marks the birth of the founder of the Babi religion, forerunner of the Baha'i faith.

Birth of Baha'u'llah – Marks the birth of the founder of the Baha'i faith.

Bodhi Day – Celebrates the Enlightenment of the founder of Buddhism.

Buddha Day/Visakha Puja – Celebrates the birthday of Buddha.

Chanukkah – Festival of lights, eight-day commemoration of the Second Temple rededication.

Christmas – Commemorates the birth of Jesus.

Christmas Fast – Fasting period preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus Christ.

Corpus Christi – Recognition of Blessed Sacrament of the body and blood of Christ.

Dassera – Celebration of victory and valor.

Day of the Covenant – Celebrates the handing of the covenant from God to man through Bah'u'llah.

Declaration of the Bab – announcement of the mission of the prophet founder of the Babi religion.

Diwali – Festival of Lights celebration of God Vishnu Avatar Ram's return to Ayodhya after defeating King Ravan.

Dormition of Theotokos – Death and transfer of Virgin Mary to heaven.

Easter Sunday – Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.

Ecclesiastical Year – Marks the beginning of liturgical year.

Eid al-Adha – Festival of the Sacrifice, commemorates the trials and triumphs of the Prophet Abraham

Eid al-Fitr ('Id al Fitr)– Celebrates a festival at the breaking of the fast of Ramadan.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe – Celebrates the appearance of the image of Blessed Virgin Mary in Mexico.

Feast of Saint Basil – Honors Saint Basil the Great, who wrote a Eucharist Liturgy that bears his name.

Feast of the Epiphany – Celebrates the visit of the wise men to the child Jesus (some students fast on preceding day).

Feast of the Nativity – Commemorates the birth of Jesus.

Feast of the Theophany – Feast to recall the revelation of the Holy Trinity in the baptism of the Lord.

Feast Day of Saint Peter – Honors the disciple chosen by Jesus to give leadership to the church.

Ganesa Chaturthi – A festival honoring the god of prosperity, prudence and success.

Good Friday – Marks the day of crucifixion of Jesus.

Guru Arjan Dev Martyrdom – Time of remembering those who have suffered for the faith.

Guru Granth Sahib Day (Installation of Scriptures) – Marks the appointment of the Holy Book of Sikhs.

Guru Nanak Dev – Honoring the birth of the first Sikh.

Guru Purnima – Celebration of the ancient Gurus, in particular Sage Ved Vyas.

Hajj – Obligatory pilgrimage and performance of rituals in Mecca.

Hanuman Jayanti – Celebration of Hanuman who was an embodiment of Lord Rama.

Hola Mohalla – Day when mock battles are fought and martial arts are displayed.

Holi – God Vishnu saves Holika and Prahlad from the fires created by Harnaya Kashyap.

Holy Cross Day – Day of recognition for the Cross on which Jesus was crucified.

Holy Week – Marks the most solemn week in the Christian year, the week preceding Pascha or Easter.

Immaculate Conception – Celebration of the belief that Mary, mother of Jesus, was preserved from original sin all of her life.

Imbolc – Reflection on the power of the gods from which physical and spiritual harvest will come.

Intercalary Days – Insertion of days into the calendar in order to maintain their solar calendar.

Khordad Sal – Remembrance of the birth of Prophet Zarathustra.

Krishna Janmashtami – Birthday of God Krishna, Avatar of Vishnu.

Lag B' Omer – Observation of the counting of the day-the link-between Pesach and Shavout.

Laylat al Bara'ah – Night of Forgiveness.

Lailat al Miraj – Islamic observance of Mohammed's night journey from Mecca.

Lammas – first harvest

Laylat al Qadr – Blessed 27th night of Ramadan.

Lughnasadh – first harvest.

Lent – Christian time of reflection and preparation for Holy Week and Easter.

Litha – Summer solstice. Celebration of the sacred marriage in which energy of god is poured into the service of life.

Mabon – Observance of the autumnal equinox when day and night are of equal length.

Maghi – Commemoration of a battle in which forty Sikhs died for Guru Gobindh Singh Ji.

Maha Shivaratri – Festival in honor of Lord Shiva and his marriage to Goddess Parvati.

Magha Puja – Observance of the first time Buddha presented the Main Code of Discipline and Instruction.

Martyrdom of the Bab – Marks the execution of the founder of the Babi religion, forerunner of the Baha'i faith.

Martyrdom Guru Tegh Bahadur – Gave life to prevent forcible conversion of all religions into Islam. Time of remembering those who have suffered for the faith.

Mawlid an Nabi – Birth of Prophet Muhammad.

Muharram – The first day of the first month of the Muslim year.

Nativity of Mary– Commemorates the birth of the Virgin Mary.

Navaratri – Nine days of fasting and prayer before Dussehra.

Naw Ruz – Marks the Baha'i New Year.

Nirvana Day – a regional observance of the death of the Buddha.

Norooz – The New Day, new year celebration.

Obon (Ulambana) – Celebration of the ritual of saving the deceased from torment.

Ostara/Eostra – Spring Equinox.

Palm Sunday – Opens Christian Holy Week using palms to recall the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

Paryushana – Eight-day festival signifying human emergence into a new world of spiritual and moral refinement.

Pentecost – Observation of the day when the God the Holy Spirit came to the disciples in the forms of tongues of fire and rushing winds.

Pesach (Passover) – Marks the eight-day festival in remembrance of the delivery of the Jews from slavery in Egypt.

Pioneer Day – Celebrates the arrival of Mormon pioneers in Salt Lake Valley.

Posadas Navidenas – Commemorates the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem in preparation for the birth of Jesus.

Presentation of Christ to the Temple – Celebration of end of physical temple as dwelling place of God.

Purim – Celebrates the deliverance of Jews of ancient Persia from a plot to destroy them.

Raksha Bandhan – Celebration of love and responsibility of brothers to sisters who present 'Rakhi', an amulet, to brothers.

Ramadan – Marks the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. There is fasting, sunup to sundown, honoring first revelations to the Prophet Muhammad.

Ramnavami – Birthday of God Rama, Avatar of Vishnu.

Reformation Day – Commemorates reformation inaugurated by Martin Luther in the 16th Century.

Ridvan – Commemorates declaration of Baha'u'llah to his followers in 1863.

Rosh Hashanah – Marks the Jewish New Year, beginning 10 days of penitence concluded on Yom Kippur.

Saint Andrew's Day – Observance of the coming of Christianity to the area now known as Scotland.

Saint Benedict Day – Recognition of the father of the Benedictine Order.

Saint Columba of Iona – Honors Columba, who began the famous community of Iona off the coast of Scotland in 563.

Saint David of Wales Day – Honors saint known for his wisdom and missionary work.

Saint Francis of Assisi Feast Day – Recognition of service to people and appreciation of the world.

Saint George's Day – remembrance of a person who in the fourth century was a martyr and became an ideal of martial valor and selflessness.

Saint James Day – Recognition of the martyrdom of the Apostle James the Greater.

Saint John the Baptist Day – Remembrance of the birth of Saint John the Baptist.

Saint Luke's Day – Remembrance of Luke, disciple of Jesus.

Saint Thomas Day – Remembrance of the Apostle of Jesus who traveled east to India.

Saint Stephen Day – Remembrance of Saint Stephen, the first martyr.

Samhain – Final harvest and time to honor ancestors.

Shemini Atzeret – Marks the eighth day of solemn assembly, a part of the Sukkot festival.

Simchat Torah – Reading of the Torah (Law) is completed and begun anew in the synagogue. Last day of Sukkot.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God – Honors the Mother of Jesus.

Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – Occasion to pay homage to Christ's all encompassing love for humanity.

Sukkot – Jewish celebration in remembrance of exodus from Egypt.

Sunday of Orthodox – First Sunday of Lent.

Thanksgiving Day – Commemorates the American Indians' celebration of the harvest to which the Pilgrims were invited.

Tisha B'av – A day of fasting in remembrance of the destruction of the temple.

Transfiguration of the Lord – Commemorates the experience of Jesus on the mountain as described in Matthew Chapter 17.

Triodion – Time period leading up to Lent.

Trinity Sunday – Celebrates the belief in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Tu B'shevat – Celebration of the coming of spring by preparation of food.

Vasant Panchami – Celebration dedicated to Saraswati, goddess of learning.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Observance with prayer for the restoration of unity between the churches of faith.

World Religion Day – Day dedicated to the unit and oneness of all world religions.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut – Israeli Independence Day, marks the establishment of the modern state of Israel in 1948.

Yom HaSho'ah – Memorializes the six million Jews who died in the Nazi Holocaust.

Yom Kippur – This day of atonement is the most solemn Jewish holy day, devoted to prayer, fasting, and repentance.

Yule – Winter solstice. Celebration of the light dawning in Jesus.

Zarathosht Diso – Anniversary of the death of Prophet Zarathushtra.