

Religious Calendar 2011-2012

The purpose of the Religious Calendar is to identify major Holy Days which may require an absence from school or school-related activities of the most heavily represented faith groups among CMS students. This is to comply with CMS policy ACD, Section 2, which states: "...examinations and other major events¹ will not be scheduled on religious holidays designated by the Superintendent...".

This calendar was reviewed and approved by CMS's Interfaith Advisory Council (IAC).

Religious observance requests not listed here are covered by policy ACD, Section 3, which states: "students who miss school because of religious reasons should not be adversely affected because of the absence." Schools should code this absence as a religious observance absence.

Parents are encouraged to proactively provide the school with a written notification of an upcoming religious absence.

Religion/Denomination	Holiday	Dates
Islamic/Muslim	Eid ul-Fitr (End of Ramadan)	August 31, 2011* #
Jewish	Rosh Hashanah	September 29-30, 2011#
Jewish	Yom Kippur	October 8, 2011#
Jewish	Sukkot	October 13-14, 2011# (primary obligation days)
Jewish	Shemini Atzeret	October 20, 2011#
Jewish	Simchat Torah	October 21, 2011#
Hindu, Jain, Sikh	Diwali	October 26, 2011
Islamic/Muslim	Eid-ul-Adha	November 6, 2011* #
Baha'i	Birth of Baha'u'llah	November 12, 2011#
Christian	Christmas	December 25, 2011
Baha'i	Feast of Naw-Ruz	March 21, 2012 #
Christian	Good Friday	April 6, 2012
Jewish	Passover (First Day)	April 7, 2012#
Jewish	Passover (Last Day)	April 14, 2012#
Jewish	Shavuot	May 27-28, 2012#

Religious holidays for Islam, Judaism and Baha'i begin with sundown of the night before the holiday.

* Islamic observances are approximate since they are based on the sighting of the moon. Some Muslims follow the first moon sighting anywhere in the world, while others follow local moon sightings.

For questions, or for requested absences not listed in this calendar, schools can contact José Hernández-Paris at the Diversity Office at 980-343-0471, or jose.hparis@cms.k12.nc.us

*Observance	Description
Birth of Baha'u'llah	Baha'i Holy Day – The anniversary of the birth of Baha'u'llah, Prophet-founder of the Baha'i Faith.
Christmas	Celebration of the birth of Christ. (Christian)
Diwali	Also called Deepavali, is a major Indian festival that is very significant in Hinduism. Known as the "Festival of Lights," it symbolizes the victory of good over evil, and lamps (called diyas or kandils) are lit as a sign of celebration and hope for humankind.
Feast of Naw-Ruz	Baha'i New Year's Day.
First Day Ramadan	The beginning of the Islamic holy month in which Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset each day. This does not require time off. Students who are fasting may ask to be excused from going to cafeteria at lunch time, choosing instead to go to media center or other classroom.
Good Friday	Observed by Christians the Friday before Easter. Commemorates Christ's crucifixion, death and entombment. (Christian)
Eid ul-Adha	The Festival of the Sacrifice. Marks the end of the Hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca, in which Muslims commemorate Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son.
Eid ul-Fitr	The Festival of the Breaking of the Fast. Muslims mark the end of Ramadan by attending congregational prayers and celebrating with friends and relatives.
Pesach/Passover	Jewish festival marking the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt.
Rosh Hashanah	Jewish New Year and holy days. Days of renewed responsibility.
Shavuot	Jewish festival that commemorates the giving of the law (Torah) to Moses on Mt. Sinai.
Shemini Atzeret	The closing day of the Jewish festival of Sukkot. A day of prayer.
Simchat Torah	Jewish holy day. Reading of the law (Torah) is completed and begun anew in the synagogue.
Sukkot	Feast of Tabernacles. Jewish festival of thanksgiving, and the remembrance of the wandering in the wilderness after their exodus from Egypt.
Yom Kippur	Day of Atonement; most solemn of Jewish holy days. Observed with fasting, prayer and repentance.

*Source: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools' Interfaith Council