

## Religious Calendar 2016-2017

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. It is not a general listing of religious observances.** CMS policy [ACD](#), Section 2, states: "...examinations and other major events<sup>1</sup> will not be scheduled on religious holidays designated by the Superintendent..." Schools should be particularly aware of the dates below that are **bolded** since our records indicate a high level absenteeism in the district on those dates.

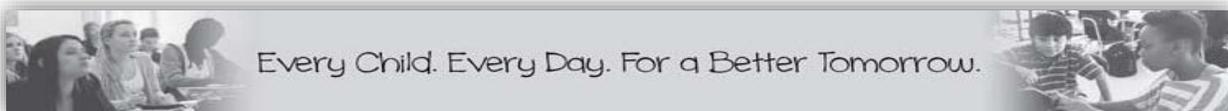
**Religious observance requests not listed here are covered by policy [ACD](#), Section 3, which states: "students who miss school because of religious reasons should not be adversely affected because of the absence."** If there is a legitimate request not listed here, schools should code it as a religious observance absence. If you have any questions about the religious calendar, please contact Earnest Winston at 980-344-0010 or [earnest.winston@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:earnest.winston@cms.k12.nc.us).

Parents are required to submit written notification to the school in the event of an upcoming absence due to a religious observance including, but not limited to, those listed below. Click [here](#) to go to Religious Obligation Request for School Absence Form.

Religion/Denomination	Holiday	Dates
Islamic/Muslim	Eid ul-Fitr (End of Ramadan)	July 7, 2016# (Summer Break)
<b>Islamic/Muslim</b>	<b>Eid-ul-Adha</b>	<b>September 12, 2016#</b> (Monday)
<b>Jewish</b>	<b>Rosh Hashanah</b>	<b>October 3-4, 2016#</b> (Monday-Tuesday)
<b>Jewish</b>	<b>Yom Kippur</b>	<b>October 12, 2016#</b> (Wednesday)
Jewish	Sukkot (First Days)	October 17-18, 2016# (Monday-Tuesday)
Jewish	Shemini Atzeret/ Simchat Torah	October 24, 25, 2016# (Monday-Tuesday)
Hindu, Jain	Diwali-Deepavali	October 30, 2016 (Sunday)
Baha'i	Birth of Baha'u'llah	November 12, 2016# (Saturday)
Christian (Protestant & Catholic)	Christmas	December 25, 2016 (Sunday)
Baha'i	Feast of Naw-Ruz	March 21, 2017# (Tuesday)
Jewish	Passover (First Days)	April 11-12, 2017# (Tuesday-Wednesday)
Christian (Protestant & Catholic)	Good Friday	April 14, 2017 (Friday)
Jewish	Passover (Last Days)	April 17-18, 2017# (Monday-Tuesday)
Jewish	Shavuot	May 31-June 1, 2017# (Wed-Thurs)

# Religious holidays for Islam, Judaism and Baha'i begin at sundown of the night before the observance date listed, with the following day being the first full day of the holiday. The holidays conclude at nightfall. For example, Rosh Hashanah starts the evening of October 2 and ends the evening of October 4.

<sup>1</sup> Graduation and Homecoming



<b>*Observance</b>	<b>Description</b>
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

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