

East Lansing Public Schools Religious and Cultural Calendar

The East Lansing Public Schools are committed to honoring the rich cultural diversity of our students and community. The calendar, adopted by the Board of Education, is designed to show respect for the cultural diversity in our district. The dates below are holidays of major significance to different religious and cultural groups in our community. To the extent possible, administrators, teachers, coaches and event planners will be respectful of these dates as schedules and events are planned within our school district. Examples include, but are not limited to, major exams, reviews for exams, tryouts for teams or plays, and major events such as prom, graduations, banquets or student elections.

If you are desirous of having a date or celebration considered for inclusion by the Board of Education, please contact the Superintendent's Office (333-7424).

Holiday		2011-12 School Year	2012-13 School Year	2013-14 School Year
Eid al-Fitr	Muslim	Aug 30 eve-Sept 1, 2011	August 18 eve-21, 2012	August 7 eve-11, 2013
Rosh Hashannah	Jewish	Sept. 28 eve- 30, 2011	Sept. 16 eve-18, 2012	September 4 eve-6, 2013
Yom Kippur	Jewish	October 7 eve- 8, 2011	Sept. 25 eve -26, 2012	Sept.13 eve - 14, 2013
Ramadan`	Muslim	July 31 eve-Aug. 30, 2011	July 19 eve-Aug. 18, 2012	July 8 eve- Aug. 7, 2013
Eid al-Adha	Muslim	November 5 eve-9, 2011	October 25 eve-29, 2012	October 14 eve-18, 2013
Hanukkah	Jewish	Dec. 20 eve-28, 2011	Dec. 8 eve-16, 2012	Nov. 27 eve-Dec. 5 2013
Christmas	Christian	December 25, 2011	December 25, 2012	December 25, 2013
Kwanzaa	African-American	December 26, 2011	December 26, 2012	December 26, 2013
Passover	Jewish	April 6 eve -14, 2012	Mar. 25 eve-April 2, 2013	April 14 eve-22, 2014
Ash Wednesday	Christian	February 22, 2012	February 13, 2013	March 5, 2014
Good Friday	Christian	April 6, 2012	March 29, 2013	April 18, 2014
Easter	Christian	April 8, 2012	March 31, 2013	April 20, 2014
Orthodox Easter	Christian	April 15, 2012	May 5, 2013	April 20, 2014

Explanatory Notes

Ash Wednesday - Begins Christian Lent; name derives from symbolic use of ashes to signify penitence.

Chinese New Year – East Asian holiday commemorating the lunar new year.

Christmas – Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

Easter – Christian holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Eid al-Adha - Islamic celebration for completing pilgrimage to Makkah, commemorating the ways of the Prophet Ibrahim. Holiday begins with first citing of the moon.

Eid al-Fitr - Islamic celebration of the breaking of the fast, Ramadan. This holiday also begins with the first citing of the moon.

Good Friday – Christian Holiday commemorating the day of Jesus' crucifixion.

Hanukkah - Jewish festival of lights, eight-day commemoration of the rededication of the Second Temple in 165 B.C.E. Jewish families celebrate this holiday every night for 8 consecutive nights. Avoiding scheduling major events on the first night would be courteous.

Kwanzaa Seven-day celebration of African-American values and traditions and their continued vitality. "Kwanzaa" in Kiswahili, means "first fruits of the harvest."

Passover – Jewish Holiday - Eight day celebration marking the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt; "Seder" ceremonies emphasize concept of freedom. Jewish families usually have evening celebrations the first two nights of this holiday. Observant Jews follow a strict "Passover diet" during this time, abstaining from eating leavened breads.

Ramadan - The ninth month in the Islamic calendar; month of strict fasting from sunup to sundown.

Rosh Hashanah - Jewish New Year beginning 10 days of penitence concluded on Yom Kippur. Jewish families observe the holiday starting in the evening before the first full day, and many Jewish children will miss school the first and second days of this holiday.

Yom Kippur - Jewish day of atonement; most solemn Jewish holy day, devoted to prayer, fasting and repentance. This holiday is observed starting the evening before the first full day. Many Jewish children will be unable to attend events the evening before Yom Kippur and will miss school on the day of Yom Kippur.