

East Lansing Public Schools
Religious and Cultural Calendar
2009-2011

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).

2009-2010

Friday August 21, 2009	Ramadan begins	Muslim
Friday September 18 (evening) –September 19 th (afternoon)	Rosh Hashanah	Jewish
Sunday September 20	Eid Al Fitr	Muslim
Sunday September 27 (evening) through September 28 (evening)	Yom Kippur	Jewish
Friday November 27	Eid al Adha	Muslim
Friday December 11 (evening)	1 st night of Hanukkah	Jewish
Friday December 25	Christmas	Christian
Saturday December 26	Kwanzaa begins	African American
Sunday February 14, 2010	Chinese New Year (Tiger)	East Asian
Wednesday February 17, 2010	Ash Wednesday	Christian
Monday March 29, 2010 (evening)	Passover (1 st night)	Jewish
Friday April 2, 2010	Good Friday	Christian
Sunday April 4, 2010	Easter (Greek too)	Christian

2010-2011

Thursday August 12, 2010	Ramadan begins	Muslim
Wednesday September 8, 2010 (evening) -September 9 (afternoon)	Rosh Hashanah	Jewish
Thursday September 9, 2010	Eid al Fitr	Muslim
Friday September 17, 2010 (evening) - September 18, (evening)	Yom Kippur	Jewish
Tuesday November 16, 2010	Eid al Adha	Muslim
Wednesday December 1, 2010	1 st night of Hanukkah	Jewish
Saturday December 25, 2010	Christmas	Christian
Sunday December 26, 2010	Kwanzaa begins	African-American
Thursday February 3, 2011	Chinese New Year (Rabbit)	East Asian
Wednesday March 9, 2011	Ash Wednesday	Christian
Monday April 18, 2011 (evening)	Passover (1 st night)	Jewish
Friday April 22, 2011	Good Friday	Christian
Sunday April 24, 2011	Easter (Greek too)	Christian

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.