

Religious Calendar 2015-2016

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 events¹ 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 an observance, please contact the Diversity Office.

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 the Religious Obligation Request for School Absence Form.

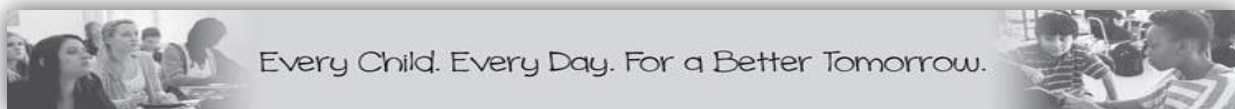
Religion/Denomination	Holiday	Dates
Islamic/Muslim	Eid ul-Fitr (End of Ramadan)	July 18, 2015# (Summer Break)
Jewish	Rosh Hashanah	September 14-15, 2015# (Mon-Tue)
Jewish	Yom Kippur	September 23, 2015# (Wednesday)
Islamic/Muslim	Eid-ul-Adha	September 23, 2015# (Wednesday)
Jewish	Sukkot (First Days)	September 28-29, 2015# (Mon-Tue)
Jewish	Shemini Atzeret/ Simchat Torah	October 5, 6, 2015# (Mon-Tue)
Hindu, Jain, Sikh	Diwali	November 11, 2015 (Wednesday)
Baha'i	Birth of Baha'u'llah	November 12, 2015# (Thursday)
Christian (Protestant & Catholic)	Christmas	December 25, 2015 (Friday)
Baha'i	Feast of Naw-Ruz	March 21, 2016# (Monday)
Christian (Protestant & Catholic)	Good Friday	March 25, 2016 (Friday)
Jewish	Passover (First Days)	April 23-24, 2016# (Saturday-Sunday)
Jewish	Passover (Last Days)	April 29-30, 2016# (Friday-Saturday)
Jewish	Shavuot	June 12-13, 2016# (Sunday-Monday)

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 begins at sundown on the evening of September 13, and ends at sundown on the evening of September 15.

The dates were reviewed by members of CMS's Interfaith Advisory Council (IAC).

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

¹ Graduation and Homecoming



*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. This holiday is eight days in length. The first two and last days are holy days. For all eight days, there is a special restricted diet that includes unleavened bread, or matzah. Jewish employees and students may be absent on these days and the night preceding.
Rosh Hashanah	Jewish New year and holy days. Days of renewed responsibility. This holiday is two days in length and Jewish employees and students may be absent on these days and the night preceding.
Shavuot	Jewish Festival that commemorates the giving of the law (Torah) to Moses on Mt. Sinai. This holiday is two days in length.
Shemini Atzeret	The closing day of the Jewish festival of Sukkot. A day of prayer. This holiday is one day in length and Jewish employees and students may be absent on this day and the night preceding.
Simchat Torah	Jewish holy day. Reading of the law (Torah) is completed and begun anew in the synagogue. This holiday is one day in length and Jewish employees and students may be absent on this day and the night preceding.
Sukkot	Feast of Tabernacles. Jewish festival of thanksgiving, and the remembrance of the wandering in the wilderness after their exodus from Egypt. The first two days are holy days. The last two days are also holy, and are called Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah (explained above). Jewish employees and students may be absent on these days and the night preceding.
Yom Kippur	Day of Atonement; most solemn of Jewish holy days. Observed with 25 hours of fasting, prayer and repentance. This holy day is one day in length. Jewish employees and students may be absent on these days and the night preceding.

*Source: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools' Interfaith Council

