



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

TOWN OF EASTON

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Resource for Holiday Observance

2018-2019 School Year

This guide was prepared by the Town of Easton’s Human Rights Committee as a resource for teachers, coaches, and all school personnel to promote cultural proficiency. The purpose of the guide is to explain what “observing” the following holidays means in terms of a student’s ability to be present in school, complete work, or participate in any after-school activities, as well as dietary and other considerations.

Please note that this guide describes only major holidays that may fall on a school day and which are not already legal holidays or days off from school. We acknowledge that students may be absent for other religious or cultural observances beyond what is on this list, and we ask that school personnel treat such absences with understanding and accommodation.

- ± Excused absence
- † Will be allowed one (1) extra day after return to school to complete work
- ‡ Dietary considerations
- * Holy days usually begin at sundown the day before this date
- ** Local or regional customs may use a variation of this date

Date	Name of Holiday	Description	± Excused Absence	† Extra Day for Work	‡ Dietary Considerations
2018	August 22–25	Eid al Adha ☪	✓	✓	--
	September 10–11*	Rosh Hashanah ☆	✓	✓	--
	September 13	Ganesh Chaturthi ॐ	✓	✓	✓
	September 19*	Yom Kippur ☆	✓	✓	✓
	October 18	Dussehra ॐ	--	✓	✓
	November 7	Diwali ॐ	✓	✓	--
	December 3–10*	Hanukkah ☆	✓	--	--
2019	January 7	Orthodox Christmas ‡	✓	✓	--
	February 5	Lunar/Chinese New Year 🌸	✓	✓	--
	March 6	Ash Wednesday †	--	--	✓
	March 20-21**	Holi ॐ	✓	✓	--



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Date	Name of Holiday	Description	± Excused Absence	† Extra Day for Work	‡ Dietary Considerations
April 8**	Buddha Day ☸	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commemorates life cycle of Buddha • Temple observance and refrain from meat 	✓	--	✓
April 9**	Mahavir Jayanti 🙏	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrates the birth of Jain sage Mahavira • Observed with fasting and prayers; refrain from work 	✓	✓	✓
April 19	Good Friday †	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commemorates crucifixion of Jesus • Observed solemnly with fasting and refrain from work 	✓	✓	✓
April 20–27*	Passover ☆	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebration of Exodus from Egypt • Observed by festive ritual family meals; only consume unleavened grains 	✓	✓	✓
April 26	Orthodox Good/Holy Friday ‡	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commemorates crucifixion of Jesus • Observed solemnly with fasting and refrain from work 	✓	✓	✓
May 6*/**	Ramadan (beginning) ◌	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thirty days of daytime fasting • Ritual evening meal to break fast 	✓	--	✓
June 5–7*	Eid al Fitr ◌	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conclusion of Ramadan • Celebrated prayers and feasting 	✓	✓	--

Key to Religions and Corresponding Icons

☸ Baha'i (nine-pointed star)	🙏 Jainism (ahimsa hand)
☸ Buddhism (wheel of dharma)	☆ Judaism (Star of David)
† Christianity (cross)	☸ Sikhism (khanda)
ॐ Hinduism (om)	‡ Orthodox Christianity (orthodox cross)
◌ Islam (crescent)	

The Human Rights Committee welcomes any additional comments and information regarding this informational guide. Please email humanrights@easton.ma.us with your suggestions.

For more information, visit http://www.easton.ma.us/boards_and_committees/humanrightscommittee/.