

# Larkspur-Corte Madera School District

## Religious Calendar Observances

The Larkspur-Corte Madera School District has made a commitment to celebrate and honor the cultural diversity of our students and our community. As the District strives to meet the needs of each child, we also strive to reflect the contributions and interests of diverse cultural, religious and social groups in our vision and mission.

For many students in our schools, the observance of religious and cultural traditions is an important part of their personal, family, and community life. These traditions help the students understand and preserve their own value systems, cultures, customs, and history. We in the District will assemble information about the customs related to diverse religious and cultural groups, so that we can show respect for their integrity and, at the same time, provide a school and classroom climate in which staff feel confident that they are the opportunity to be optimally effective.

The annual calendar includes the following:

- Name of religious observance
- Religious or cultural group affiliation
- Dates of observance

The guidelines that follow are for use by staff in the planning and scheduling of classroom, school building, and District-wide activities.

### RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS GUIDELINES

**Holiday observances of major significance** to a religious group are indicated on the calendar. The following guidelines apply for all students:

1. Major exams, projects, presentations or homework assignments should not be due on the days of the holiday observance nor the first student day following the observance (see BP 6154 Make-Up Work for excused absences).
2. Reviews for major exams or quizzes should not be given.
3. Standardized tests should not be given.
4. Tryouts; for example, teams, plays, etc., should not be scheduled.
5. One-time or major events (graduation ceremonies, elections, etc.) should not be scheduled.
6. Interscholastic athletic games should be scheduled in a manner that minimizes conflict with the designated holidays. *Scheduling of an athletic event on a holiday must be reviewed by the Superintendent or designee.* Board members will be notified well in advance when there is a conflict.
7. Interscholastic athletic practices are allowed.

School district employees may arrange for students to participate in one-time or major events on holidays if the scheduling of these events is not controlled by District employees. Scheduling of such events must be approved by the site principal and the Superintendent or designee.

Students will probably be with their families or at a place of worship in observance of these holidays. They will not be in school and/or not have time available to do the required homework. In addition, teachers should be aware that some students may be fasting for long periods during these observances. Absence to observe these holidays should be excused, and make-up privileges should be the same as the make-up privileges offered to a student who has an excused absence due to illness.

*Parents, for school year planning purposes, please let us know if your child/children will be missing school to observe any of the holidays listed below. To the extent students observe religious holidays not on this calendar, students and parents are encouraged to have a conversation with the student's teacher(s) in advance regarding these guidelines so that appropriate accommodations can be made.*

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## **2019-20 RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES**

| <b>Date</b>         | <b>Day</b>         | <b>Observance</b>                | <b>Description</b>   |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 8/10/19-<br>8/11/19 | Saturday-Sunday    | Eid al-Adha                      | The Muslim Festival of Sacrifice is celebrated for four days, after the Hajj, which is the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. Begins at sunset on 8/10; ends at sunset on 8/11. |
| 9/29/19-<br>10/1/19 | Sunday-Tuesday     | Rosh Hashanah                    | Jewish New Year and holy days. Days of renewed responsibility. Begins at sunset on 9/29.   |
| 10/8/19-<br>10/9/19 | Tuesday-Wednesday  | Yom Kippur                       | Day of Atonement; most solemn of Jewish holy days. Observed with fasting, prayer and repentance. Begins at sunset on 10/8.   |
| 12/25/19            | Tuesday            | Christmas                        | Christian celebration of the birth of Christ.  |
| 1/6/20              | Monday             | Epiphany -<br>Orthodox Christmas | Observed by Eastern and Greek Orthodox Christians who follow the Julian calendar.  |
| 4/8/20-<br>4/16/20  | Wednesday-Thursday | Pesach/Passover                  | Jewish festival marking the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. Begins at sunset on 4/8.  |
| 4/10/20             | Friday             | Good Friday                      | Observed by Christians the Friday before Easter. Commemorates Christ's crucifixion, death and entombment.  |
| 4/12/20             | Sunday             | Easter                           | Christian celebration of Christ's resurrection. Observed the first Sunday following the first full moon that occurs on or after the vernal equinox.                      |
| 4/23/20-<br>5/23/20 | Daily              | Ramadan                          | Islamic holy month in which Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset each day. Begins at sunset on 4/23.  |
| 5/23/20-<br>5/24/20 | Saturday-Sunday    | Eid al-Fitr                      | Muslim day of feasting to celebrate the end of Ramadan. Festival of breaking of the fast. Begins at sunset on 5/23.  |