



# Holy Days & Days of Significance Handbook



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## 2024– 2025 Holy Days & Days of Significance

Holy Days are dates that are set aside for religious- or creed-based festivals and observances. Some religions, like Christianity, may use the Gregorian calendar for their Holy Days (i.e. Christmas is observed on December 25 every year). Other religions use different calendar systems, such as a solar calendar, a lunar calendar, or a combination of both (luni-solar calendar). As such, please be sure to note if an observance may begin on the evening before the listed date in the chart below. For example:

- » Holy Days from the Baha'i, Jewish, and Wiccan faith begin at sunset on the evening prior to the listed date, and end at sunset of the listed date.
- » Holy Days from the Islamic faith may vary by a day due to the lunar calendar.
- » The Anishinaabeg follow a lunar calendar, where a 'month' is the period from one full moon to the next. The moon names presented in this calendar are an example of the moon names commonly used in and around Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan and Anishnaabewi Gitchi-Gami. However, every community and region have their own way of recognizing moon cycles and harvesting times.

Days of Significance are dates that are designated to raise awareness or promote action about different social, cultural, or historical events. While these dates may be associated with a particular creed or belief, they are not religious observances. By recognizing Days of Significance, we can help promote a more inclusive and equitable society and climate.

















## Planning for Holy Days & Days of Significance

The intent of this guide is to provide Board members with information to promote diversity in their schools, celebrate the diversity of our community, and create awareness about creed-based observances which may prevent students and community members from participating in school events.

When planning events, consult this guide to ensure there is not a conflict with another observance, especially those marked as significant holy days. If a scheduling conflict is unavoidable, consider how you might maximize participation and ensure access for those who may not be able to attend. For example, are you able to provide flexible scheduling so people can attend on a different date as well?

Many creed-based observances may fall on the same date, or during time periods that are recognized provincially or federally as holiday/break periods. It is important for schools to recognize all observances as equally as possible during these periods. Recognition in schools can include, but is not limited to:

- Announcements
- Displays
- Bulletin boards
- Posters
- Student Work
- Assemblies
- Curriculum Connections

Recognition of Days of Significance and Holy Days is not meant to indoctrinate students or staff towards a certain creed or belief. Lakehead District School Board upholds and celebrates not only creed, but every right protected under the Ontario Human Rights Code. While staff and students may request accommodations or exemptions from participation in events or activities, the Board will continue to support learning and working environments which celebrate human rights, respect for differences, and anti-discrimination.