



# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

TOWN OF EASTON

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## Resource for Holiday Observance

2022-2023 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 fall during the school year, excluding winter and summer breaks.** 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	Holiday	Description	± Excused absence	† Extra day for work	‡ Dietary considerations
2022	September 26-27*	Rosh Hashanah ✨	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jewish New Year</li> <li>Observed with festive meals and temple attendance</li> </ul>	✓	✓	–
	September 23*	Paryushana Parva 🙏	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Festival of Forgiveness;” most important Jain holiday</li> <li>8-10 days of intense spirituality</li> <li>Observed with prayer, meditation, and fasting</li> </ul>	–	–	✓
	September 26 – October 4	Navarathri 🙏	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10-day celebration of autumn and the goddess Durga</li> <li>Observed with fasting, evening prayers, vegetarian meals, and visiting friends &amp; family</li> </ul>	–	✓	✓
	October 5*	Yom Kippur ✨	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Day of atonement</li> <li>Holiest day of Jewish calendar</li> <li>Observed with 24-hour fast; refrain from work; temple attendance; festive meal to end fast at sundown</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓
	October 5	Dussehra 🙏	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Celebration the victory of good over evil</li> </ul>	–	–	–
	October 8	Mawlid al Nabi 🌙	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birthday of the Prophet Muhammad</li> <li>Celebrated with decorations, meals, and speeches</li> </ul>	–	–	–
	October 24	Diwali 🙏	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Festival of lights</li> </ul>	✓	✓	–
	October 24	Bandichhor Diwas 🙏	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Day of liberation for Sikhs</li> <li>Observed by lighting candles and lamps</li> </ul>	–	–	–
	November 24	Jain New Year 🙏	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Observed by a temple visit</li> </ul>	–	–	–
2023	December 19 – December 26*	Hanukkah ✨	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Festival of lights</li> <li>Celebrated for 8 nights; sundown candle-lighting and gift giving</li> </ul>	–	–	–
	January 7	Orthodox Christmas †	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Celebration of the birth of Jesus</li> </ul>	✓	✓	–
	January 22	Lunar New Year 🎆	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pan-Asian celebration</li> <li>Family reunions, festive meals, and gift-giving</li> </ul>	✓	✓	–
	February 18	Maha Shivaratri 🙏	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Festival celebrated in honor of the god Shiva and overcoming “darkness and ignorance”</li> <li>Includes an all-night vigil and fasting</li> </ul>	–	–	✓
	February 22	Ash Wednesday †	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First day of Lent, a 40-day period of sacrifice</li> <li>Forehead may be marked with cross of ashes; refrain from meat</li> </ul>	–	–	✓
2023	February 22 - April 6	Lent †	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 40-day time of intense devotion</li> <li>Observed by fasting, worship, and acts of charity</li> </ul>	–	–	✓
	March 6	Magha Puja Day 🎆	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A festival in honor of the Buddhist community and a chance for reaffirmation</li> </ul>	–	✓	–

The Human Rights Committee welcomes any additional comments and information regarding this informational guide. Please email [humanrights@easton.ma.us](mailto:humanrights@easton.ma.us) with your suggestions. For more information, visit [easton.ma.us/boards\\_and\\_committees/humanrightscommittee/](http://easton.ma.us/boards_and_committees/humanrightscommittee/).



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0			• Celebrated with gifts, gathering, and sermons			
2	March 7**	Holi ॐ	• Celebration of spring and color	✓	✓	–
3	March 20	Nouruz ☾	• Two-week celebration of the New Year (rebirth of Earth & first day of spring) • Observed by eating and visiting family & friends	✓	✓	–
	March 23 – April 21*/**	Ramadan ☾	• 30 days of daylight fasting with special attention to understanding one's inner self • Ritual evening meal to break fast	✓	–	✓
	March 30	Rama Navami ॐ	Festival that celebrates the birthday of Rama Observed by cleansing, chanting, and fasting	–	–	✓
	April 2	Palm Sunday †	• Celebration for honoring Jesus's entry into Jerusalem • Signifies the beginning of Holy Week • Observed by a special service, including the distribution of palm leaves	–	–	–
	April 3	Mahavir Jayanti ॐ	• Celebrates the birth of Jain sage Mahavira • Observed with fasting and prayers; refrain from work	✓	✓	✓
	April 7	Good Friday †	• Commemorates crucifixion of Jesus • Observed solemnly with fasting and refrain from work	✓	✓	✓
	April 5 - 13	Pasech †	• Commemorates the resurrection of Jesus • Celebrated by a series of services and events	–	–	–
	April 6 - 13*	Passover ☆	• Celebration of exodus from Egypt • Observed by lengthy festive ritual family meals; only consume unleavened grains	✓	✓	✓
	April 9	Easter Sunday †	• Commemorates the resurrection of Jesus • Observed by a special church service, gatherings, and other activities	–	–	–
	April 14	Orthodox Good Friday †	• Commemorates crucifixion of Jesus • Observed solemnly with fasting and refrain from work	✓	✓	✓
	April 16	Orthodox Easter Sunday †	• Commemorates the resurrection of Jesus • Observed by a special church service, gatherings, and other activities	–	–	–
	April 17	Lailat al Qadr	• "Night of Power" • Night of great commemoration and devotion to Allah • Observed by all-night praying and worship	–	✓	–
	April 21*	Eid-al-Fitr ☾	• A three-day Muslim holiday signifying the end of the holy month of Ramadan • Celebrated by congregational prayers and visiting family and friends	✓	–	✓
	May 26**	Buddha Day ☸	• Commemorates life cycle of Buddha • Most important holiday in Buddhism • Temple observance and refrain from meat	✓	–	✓

## Key to religious icons

	Baha'i (nine-pointed star)		Hinduism (om)		Judaism (Star of David)
	Buddhism (wheel of dharma)		Islam (crescent)		Sikh (khanda)
	Christianity (cross)		Jain (ahimsa hand)		Orthodox Christianity (orthodox cross)

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