



# **WESTBOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

45 West Main Street · Westborough, MA 01581 · 508-836-7700 · [www.westborough.org](http://www.westborough.org)

June 7, 2018

Dear Staff and Families,

In January 2018 the Westborough School Committee accepted the final recommendations of the School Calendar Committee. These recommendations provide a process to allow students from all religious faiths to receive time off from school assignments so that they may celebrate important religious and cultural holidays with their families. This is important because the assignment of homework during religious and cultural holidays prevents students from fully engaging in their families' religious and cultural practices.

The process for making this system work is described here. The list of specific holidays and dates are listed below.

## **Category 1:**

*What this means:* Absences by staff and students impact the ability to conduct classes on this date or during this time. Designated as "days of low attendance", a day when teacher or student attendance would be so low that it is better to close school.

*Instructions:* No homework will be assigned in any class for all students on the last day of school before a category 1 holiday. Homework assignments, projects, presentations, or other assignments cannot be due until at least the second class meeting after the holiday, even in the case of a longer school vacation. The same policy applies for the administration of tests.

## **Category 2:**

*What this means:* School remains in session because these holidays are not considered to be a "day of low attendance". However, they are still celebrated by a significant portion of our school population.

*Instructions:* No homework will be assigned in any class for all students on the last day of school before the category 2 holiday. Homework assignments, projects, presentations, or other assignments cannot be due until at least the second class meeting after the holiday, even in the case of a longer school vacation. The same policy applies for the administration of tests.

## **Category 3:**

*What this means:* School remains in session because these holidays impact a smaller number of our students than in the prior two categories.

*Instructions:* Students who are unable to complete a homework assignment due to this type of holiday should inform their teacher, who will arrange with the student an alternative time for completion of work, without loss of credit. Parents are also encouraged to contact teachers if a category 3 holiday impacts a student's ability to complete an assignment.

**Athletics and Fine Arts:**

Our athletic and fine arts programs are also sensitive to these issues. Regardless of the category, coaches and fine arts instructors are advised of and sensitive to the religious and cultural needs of their students and families. There will be no athletic or fine arts consequence for missing games/performances and/or practices due to religious observances.

<b>Category 1:</b>  Rosh Hashanah (Day 1) Yom Kippur Diwali Thanksgiving Christmas Good Friday Easter	Monday, 9/10/18 Wednesday, 9/19/18 Wednesday, 11/7/18 Thursday, 11/22/18 - Friday, 11/23/18 Tuesday, 12/25/18 Friday, 4/ 19, 2019 Sunday, April 21, 2019
<b>Category 2:</b>  Eid al-Adha Eid al-Fitr Lunar New Year	# Tuesday, 8/22/18 # Tuesday, 6/4/19 Tuesday, 2/5/19
<b>*Category 3:</b>  Rosh Hashanah (Day 2) Passover Kwanzaa Good Friday (Eastern Orthodox) Easter (Eastern Orthodox)	Tuesday, 9/11/18 Saturday, 4/20/19-Saturday, 4/27/19 Wed., 12/26/18-Tues., January 1, 2019 Friday, 4/26/19 Sunday, 4/28/19

\*This is not inclusive of all possible category 3 dates. Students who are unable to complete a homework assignment due to this type of holiday should inform their teacher.

#Some of these dates are not fixed to a calendar but based on the actual sighting of the moon and therefore there may be some variance by a day.