



Natick Public Schools

Holiday and Cultural Observances

DRAFT



Purpose

Natick Public Schools encourages all students and staff to appreciate our vast heritage and cultural diversity. This Standard Operating Procedure provides information regarding how we manage not only the legal and secular holidays on which schools and Central Office are closed, but also major festivals and holy days for many of the religious traditions represented in the Natick community.

We expect faculty to make appropriate accommodations for students affected by these and other special observance days. The goal is to ensure students from all religious and cultural faiths receive the appropriate accommodations for school assignments so they may celebrate and observe without worry.

This is important because the assignment of homework or large projects during religious and cultural holidays prevents students from fully engaging in their families' religious and cultural practices.

Our process for making this system work is described below and broken into three categories based on an accompanying explanation.

Our [list of holidays, appreciation days, and celebrations](#) is by no means exhaustive, but ensures we also recognize days relevant to elementary and secondary education and the community at large.

Category 1 – Schools Closed

Schools Are Closed; Observance Impacts Students and Staff (Large Population)

Holiday	2022–23 School Year Date	23–24 SY	25–26 SY
Labor Day	Monday, September 5, 2022	Monday September 4, 2023	Monday, September 2, 2024
Rosh Hashanah (Day 1)	Monday, September 26, 2022	Saturday, September 16, 2023	Thursday, October 3, 2024
Yom Kippur	Wednesday, October 5, 2022	Monday, September 25, 2023	Saturday, October 12, 2024
Indigenous People's Day/ Columbus Day	Monday, October 10, 2022	Monday, October 9, 2023	Monday, October 14, 2024
Diwali	Monday October 24, 2022+	Sunday November 12, 2023	Friday November 1, 2024+
Veterans Day	Friday, November 11, 2022	Saturday, November 11, 2023	Monday, November 11, 2024
Thanksgiving	Thursday & Friday, November 24–25, 2022	Thursday and Friday, November 23–24, 2023	Thursday and Friday, November 28–29, 2024
Christmas Schools Closed for December Break, December 26–30	Monday, December 26, 2022	Monday, December 25, 2023	Wednesday, December 25, 2024
New Year's Day	Monday, January 2, 2023	Monday, January 1, 2024	Wednesday, January 1, 2025
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Monday, January 16, 2023	Monday, January 15, 2024	Monday January 20, 2025
President's Day Schools	Monday, February 20, 2023 Closed for February Break, February 20–24	Monday, February 19, 2024 Closed 19–22	Monday February 17, 2025 Closed 17–20
Good Friday	Friday, April 7, 2023	Friday, March 29, 2024	Friday April 18, 2025
Patriots' Day	Monday, April 17, 2023	April 15, 2024	April 21, 2025

	Schools Closed for April Break, April 17-21	Schools Closed for April Break, April 15-19	Schools Closed for April Break, April 21-25, 2025
Eid al-Fitr**	Friday, April 21, 2023	Wednesday, April 10, 2024+	Sunday, March 30, 2025
Memorial Day	Monday, May 29, 2023	Monday, May 27, 2024	Monday, May 26, 2025
Juneteenth	Monday, June 19, 2023	Wednesday, June 19, 2024	Thursday, June 19, 2025
Independence Day	Tuesday, July 4, 2023	Thursday, July 4, 2024	Friday, July 4, 2025

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, these are days when teacher or student attendance would be so low that it is better to close school.

Instructions

No homework is 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 for longer school vacations. The same policy applies to the administration of tests.

Category 2 – Smaller Impact

Observance May Impact Student and Staff (Smaller Population)

Holiday	Date 2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Rosh Hashana (Day 2)	Tuesday, September 27, 2022	Sunday, September 17, 2023	Friday, October 4, 2024
Lunar New Year	Sunday, January 22, 2023 and February 5th, 2023	Saturday, February 10, 2024	Wednesday, January 29, 2025
Orthodox Easter	Sunday, April 16, 2023	Sunday, May 5, 2024	Sunday, April 20, 2025
Orthodox Good Friday	Friday, April 14, 2023	Friday, May 3, 2024	Friday, April 18, 2025

What This Means

School remains in session because these holidays are not low attendance days. However, a significant portion of our school population celebrates these days.

Instructions

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

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.

Category 3 – Niche

Observance May Impact Student and Staff (Niche Population)

Holiday	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Sukkot	October 9-16, 2022	September 29, -Oct 6, 2023	October 16-23, 2024
Purim	Monday & Tuesday, March 6-7, 2023	March 21 and 24-25, 2024	March 13-15, 2025
Eid al-Adha	Wednesday, June 28, 2023	June 16, 2024	June 6, 2025
Holi	Wednesday, March 7, 2023	March 25, 2024	March 14, 2025
Ramadan Starting of Month of Observance	Wednesday, March 23, 2023	March 11, 2024	March 1, 2025

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.

Reference Listing

Listed in alphabetical order

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ash Wednesday • Chanukah (Hanukkah) • Christmas • Columbus Day • Diwali • Easter Sunday • Eid al-Adha • Eid al-Fitr • Good Friday • Holi • Independence Day • Indigenous Peoples' Day • Islamic New Year • Japanese New Year • Juneteenth • Kwanzaa • Labor Day • Lunar New Year | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin Luther King, Jr. Day • Memorial Day • New Year's Day • Orthodox Easter • Orthodox Good Friday • Palm Sunday • Passover • Patriots' Day • Presidents Day • Purim • Ramadan • Rosh Hashanah • Shavuot • Spring Equinox • Sukkot • Thanksgiving • Veteran's Day • Yom Kippur |
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Notes

*All Jewish observances begin at sundown, in the evening, prior to the day of the observance. In addition to the dates noted, observant Jews celebrate the second, seventh and eighth days of Passover; the second, eighth and ninth days of Sukkot; and two days of Shavuot (Mass. Lawyers Diary and Manual).

**Due to the lunar calendar, these are only approximate dates

***Previous legal holiday in Suffolk County