

## July 2023 - June 2023

### Holidays and Cultural Observances

South Windsor Public Schools encourages all students and staff to appreciate and be respectful of each other's heritage and cultural diversity. The curriculum at every level presents opportunities to provide learning experiences which help create awareness and sensitivity toward a variety of holidays, celebrations and cultural observances. The following is intended to provide information regarding not only the secular holidays on which South Windsor schools are closed, but also regarding the major festivals and holy days for many of the religious traditions represented in the South Windsor community. Faculty will make appropriate accommodations for students affected by these and other special observance days.

*Holidays in red denote days on which schools are closed.*

2022-2023 Dates	Holiday/Observance <i>Religion/Holiday - Description</i>
July 4, 2022 (observed on Monday, July 5)	<b>Independence Day</b> <i>U.S. Holiday - Anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776.</i>
July 9, 2022	<b>Eid al-Adha *</b> <i>Islamic - The "Feast of Sacrifice" concludes the Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca), and is a 3-day festival recalling Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to God.</i>
July 30, 2022	<b>Muharram</b> <i>Islamic - Beginning of the new year based on the Islamic lunar calendar. Celebrates the hegira, the flight of the prophet Muhammad from Mecca to Medina.</i>
August 7, 2022	<b>Ashura</b> <i>Muslim - For Shias, a commemoration of the martyrdom of Hussein, a grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, at Karbala.</i>
August 18, 2022	<b>Janmashtami</b> <i>Hindu - Celebrates the birthday of Lord Krishna, the 8<sup>th</sup> incarnation of the God Vishnu</i>
September 5, 2022	<b>Labor Day</b> <i>U.S. Holiday - Celebrated the first Monday in September in recognition of U.S. workers.</i>
September 9-16, 2022	<b>Sukkot *</b> <i>Jewish - "Feast of Tabernacles" commemorates the 40-year wandering of the Israelites in the desert on the way to the Promised Land.</i>
September 26, 2022	<b>Rosh Hashanah *</b> <i>Jewish - Beginning of the Jewish New Year and first of the High Holy Days; marks the beginning of a 10-day period of repentance and spiritual renewal.</i>
September 26 – October 5, 2022	<b>Navratri</b> <i>Hindu - Nine day festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil.</i>
October 5, 2022	<b>Yom Kippur *</b> <i>Jewish - The holiest day in Judaism – the "Day of Atonement" marks the end of the Ten Days of Repentance that begin with Rosh Hashanah.</i>
October 12, 2022	<b>Indigenous Peoples Day</b>
October 8, 2022	<b>Mawlid an-Nabi</b> <i>Islamic - The observance of the birthday of Islam founder Prophet Muhammad, which occurs in Ragvi' al-awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar. (Celebrated five days later by Shite Muslims.)</i>
October 16-18, 2022	<b>Shemini Atzeret *</b> <i>Jewish - "Eighth Day of Assembly," observed on the day immediately following Sukkot.</i>
October 18, 2022	<b>Simchat Torah *</b> <i>Jewish - "Rejoicing in the Torah" celebrates the conclusion of the public reading of the Pentateuch and its beginning anew.</i>

\* All Jewish and Islamic holidays begin at sundown on the previous day.

<b>2022-2023 Dates</b>	<b>Holiday/Observance</b> <i>Religion/Holiday - Description</i>
October 24, 2022	<b>Diwali</b> <i>Hindu - "Festival of Lights" is the most important Hindu festival of the year and the beginning of a five-day period which honors various Hindu gods and goddesses. It celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance.</i>
November 11, 2022	<b>Veterans Day</b> <i>U.S. Holiday - Honors the U.S. Armed Services and commemorates the war dead.</i>
November 24, 2022	<b>Thanksgiving Day</b> <i>U.S. Holiday - Following a 19th century tradition, it commemorates the Pilgrims harvest feast in the autumn of 1621.</i>
December 18-26, 2022	<b>Hanukkah *</b> <i>Jewish - Eight-day holiday commemorating the victory of the Jews, led by the Maccabees, over the Greeks in 165 B.C.E and the rededication of the temple.</i>
December 25, 2022	<b>Christmas</b> <i>Christian (U.S. Holiday) - Celebration of the birth of Jesus by Protestants and Roman Catholics.</i>
December 26, 2022 – January 1, 2023	<b>Kwanzaa</b> <i>African American - The celebration honors African heritage in African-American culture, and is observed from December 26 to January 1, culminating in a feast and gift-giving.</i>
January 1, 2023	<b>New Year's Day</b> <i>U.S. Holiday - The first day of the year in the Gregorian calendar.</i>
January 6, 2023	<b>Epiphany (Three Kings Day)</b> <i>Christian - Western church associated Epiphany with the journey of the Magi to the infant Jesus; the Eastern church, with the baptism of Jesus by John.</i>
January 16, 2023	<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b> <i>U.S. Holiday - The birthday of civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is celebrated on the third Monday in January.</i>
February 18, 2023	<b>Maha Shivaratri</b> <i>Hindu - Hindu festival honoring Shiva, the god of destruction; celebrates his wedding anniversary and the night of his celestial dance.</i>
February 20, 2023	<b>President's Day</b> <i>U.S. Holiday - Honors all past presidents of the United States of America.</i>
February 22, 2023	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> <i>Christian -Beginning of Lent, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter, not counting Sundays.</i>
March 7, 2023	<b>Purim *</b> <i>Jewish - The "Feast of Lots" marks the salvation of the Jews of ancient Persia from extermination.</i>
March 8, 2023	<b>Holi</b> <i>Hindu - Hindu annual festival that celebrates spring and commemorates various events in Hindu mythology.</i>
March 22 – April 21, 2023	<b>Ramadan (Beginning) *</b> <i>Islamic - A month of strict fasting from dawn until dusk in honor of the first revelations of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad.</i>
March 30, 2023	<b>Rama Navami</b> <i>Hindu - Celebration of the birth of Rama, king of India, and one of the incarnations of the God Vishnu.</i>
April 5 - 13, 2023	<b>Passover *</b> <i>Jewish - Eight-day "Feast of Unleavened Bread" celebrates Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage. The first two days of Passover are usually considered the most important days of the period.</i>
April 7, 2023	<b>Good Friday</b> <i>Christian - Friday preceding Easter Sunday; commemorates the day of Jesus' crucifixion.</i>

\* All Jewish and Islamic holidays begin at sundown on the previous day.

Sources: Diversity.umn.edu; Anti-Defamation League (ADL); Yale University

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April 9, 2023	<b>Easter</b> <i>Christian - Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. Easter falls at some point between late March and late April each year.</i>
April 14, 2023	<b>Orthodox Good Friday</b>
April 16, 2023	<b>Greek Orthodox Easter</b>
April 18, 2023	<b>Laylat al-Qadr *</b> <i>Islamic - The "Night of Power" marks the night in which God first revealed the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad.</i>
April 22, 2023	<b>Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan) *</b> <i>Islamic - The "Feast of the Breaking of the Fast" marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting from dawn until dusk.</i>
May 29, 2023	<b>Memorial Day</b> <i>U.S. Holiday - Initiated originally to honor the dead of the Civil War, this observance now pays homage to the dead of all U.S. wars.</i>
May 25-27, 2023	<b>Shavout *</b> <i>Jewish - The "Feast of Weeks" celebrates the covenant established at Sinai between God and Israel, and the revelation of the Ten Commandments.</i>
June 19, 2023	<b>Juneteenth</b> <i>A holiday celebrated on June 19th to commemorate the emancipation of enslaved people in the U.S.</i>

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