

July 2023 - June 2024

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.

2023-2024 Dates	Holiday/Observance <i>Religion/Holiday - Description</i>
June 29, 2023	Eid al-Adha * <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 4, 2023	Independence Day <i>U.S. Holiday - Anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776.</i>
July 19, 2023	Muharram <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>
July 28, 2023	Ashura <i>Muslim - For Shias, a commemoration of the martyrdom of Hussein, a grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, at Karbala.</i>
September 4, 2023	Labor Day <i>U.S. Holiday - Celebrated the first Monday in September in recognition of U.S. workers.</i>
September 6, 2023	Janmashtami <i>Hindu - Celebrates the birthday of Lord Krishna, the 8th incarnation of the God Vishnu</i>
September 16-17, 2023	Rosh Hashanah * <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 25, 2023	Yom Kippur * <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>
September 27, 2023	Mawlid an-Nabi <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>
September 30 – October 6, 2023	Sukkot * <i>Jewish - "Feast of Tabernacles" commemorates the 40-year wandering of the Israelites in the desert on the way to the Promised Land.</i>
October 7, 2023	Shemini Atzeret * <i>Jewish - "Eighth Day of Assembly," observed on the day immediately following Sukkot.</i>
October 8, 2023	Simchat Torah * <i>Jewish - "Rejoicing in the Torah" celebrates the conclusion of the public reading of the Pentateuch and its beginning anew.</i>
October 9, 2023	Indigenous Peoples Day
October 15 - 24, 2023	Navratri <i>Hindu - Nine day festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil.</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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November 11, 2023 (observed on Friday, November 10)	Veterans Day <i>U.S. Holiday - Honors the U.S. Armed Services and commemorates the war dead.</i>
November 12, 2023	Diwali <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 23, 2023	Thanksgiving Day <i>U.S. Holiday - Following a 19th century tradition, it commemorates the Pilgrims harvest feast in the autumn of 1621.</i>
December 8 – 15, 2023	Hanukkah * <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, 2023	Christmas <i>Christian (U.S. Holiday) - Celebration of the birth of Jesus by Protestants and Roman Catholics.</i>
December 26, 2023 – January 1, 2024	Kwanzaa <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, 2024	New Year's Day <i>U.S. Holiday - The first day of the year in the Gregorian calendar.</i>
January 6, 2024	Epiphany (Three Kings Day) <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 15, 2024	Martin Luther King Jr. Day <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 14, 2024	Ash Wednesday <i>Christian -Beginning of Lent, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter, not counting Sundays.</i>
February 19, 2024	President's Day <i>U.S. Holiday - Honors all past presidents of the United States of America.</i>
March 8, 2024	Maha Shivaratri <i>Hindu - Hindu festival honoring Shiva, the god of destruction; celebrates his wedding anniversary and the night of his celestial dance.</i>
March 11 – April 9, 2024	Ramadan (Beginning) * <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 24, 2024	Purim * <i>Jewish - The "Feast of Lots" marks the salvation of the Jews of ancient Persia from extermination.</i>
March 25, 2024	Holi <i>Hindu - Hindu annual festival that celebrates spring and commemorates various events in Hindu mythology.</i>
March 29, 2024	Good Friday <i>Christian - Friday preceding Easter Sunday; commemorates the day of Jesus' crucifixion.</i>
March 31, 2024	Easter <i>Christian - Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. Easter falls at some point between late March and late April each year.</i>
April 6, 2024	Laylat al-Qadr * <i>Islamic - The "Night of Power" marks the night in which God first revealed the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad.</i>
May 3, 2024	Orthodox Good Friday

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April 10, 2024	Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan) * <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>
April 17, 2024	Rama Navami <i>Hindu - Celebration of the birth of Rama, king of India, and one of the incarnations of the God Vishnu.</i>
April 23 – 30, 2024	Passover * <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>
May 5, 2024	Greek Orthodox Easter
May 27, 2024	Memorial Day <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>
June 12 – 13, 2024	Shavuot * <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, 2024	Juneteenth <i>A holiday celebrated on June 19th to commemorate the emancipation of enslaved people in the U.S.</i>

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