

Table “A” lists Major Holy Days **of the most heavily represented faith groups among CMS students.** Our records indicate a high level absenteeism in the district on these dates. CMS policy [ACD](#), Section 2, states: “...examinations and other major events¹ **will not** be scheduled on religious holidays designated by the Superintendent...”

Table A

Religion/Denomination	Holiday	Dates
Islamic/Muslim	Eid-ul-Adha	July 31, 2020# (Friday)
Jewish	Rosh Hashanah	September 19-20, 2020# (Saturday - Sunday) Starts at sundown the night before
Jewish	Yom Kippur	September 28, 2020# (Monday) Starts at sundown the night before
Christian (Protestant & Catholic)	Christmas	December 25, 2020 (Friday)
Christian (Protestant & Catholic)	Good Friday	April 2, 2021 (Friday)
Jewish	Passover (First Days)	March 28-29, 2021#(Sunday - Monday) Starts at sundown the night before
Islamic/Muslim	Eid ul-Fitr (End of Ramadan)	May 13, 2021# (Thursday)

Religious holidays for Islam, Judaism and Baha’i begin at sundown of the night before the observance date listed, with the following day being the first full day of the holiday. The holidays conclude at nightfall.

Table “B” lists Major Holy Days in which students **may be** absent from school or school-related activities of the most heavily represented faith groups among CMS students. CMS policy [ACD](#), Section 3, states: “students who miss school because of religious reasons should not be adversely affected because of the absence.” *Please be mindful of these dates when planning school activities or classroom evaluations.*

Table B

Religion/Denomination	Holiday	Dates
Jewish	Sukkot (First Days)	October 3-4, 2020# (Saturday - Sunday) Starts at sundown the night before
Jewish	Shemini Atzeret/ Simchat Torah	October 10-11, 2020# (Saturday - Sunday)
Hindu, Jain	Diwali-Deepavali	November 14, 2020 (Saturday)
Sikh	Guru Nanak Birthday	November 30, 2020 (Monday)
Baha’i	Birth of Baha’u’llah	October 19, 2020# (Monday)
Baha’i	Feast of Naw-Ruz	March 20, 2021# (Saturday)
Jewish	Passover (Last Days)	April 3-4, 2021# (Saturday - Sunday)
Jewish	Shavuot	May 17 - 18, 2021# (Monday - Tuesday)

Religious holidays for Islam, Judaism and Baha’i begin at sundown of the night before the observance date listed, with the following day being the first full day of the holiday. The holidays conclude at nightfall.

Legitimate Religious observance requests not listed above are covered by policy [ACD](#). If there is a question about an observance schools can contact the Diversity Office.

Parents are required to submit written notification to the school in the event of an upcoming absence due to a religious observance including, but not limited to, those listed above. Click [here](#) to go to the Religious Obligation Request for School Absence Form.

For questions, or for requested absences not listed in this calendar, schools can contact the Diversity & Inclusion Office at 980-343-8638, or diversity@cms.k12.nc.us

¹ Graduation and Homecoming

*The dates were reviewed and approved by members of CMS’s Interfaith Advisory Council (IAC) on 01/11/2019

*Observance	Description
Birth of Baha'u'llah	Baha'i Holy Day – The anniversary of the birth of Baha'u'llah, Prophet-founder of the Baha'i Faith.
Christmas	Celebration of the birth of Christ. (Christian)
Diwali	Also called Deepavali, is a major Indian festival that is very significant in Hinduism. Known as the "Festival of Lights," it symbolizes the victory of good over evil, and lamps (called diyas or kandils) are lit as a sign of celebration and hope for humankind.
Feast of Naw-Ruz	Baha'i New Year's Day.
First Day Ramadan	The beginning of the Islamic holy month in which Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset each day. This does not require time off. Students who are fasting may ask to be excused from going to cafeteria at lunch time, choosing instead to go to media center or other classroom.
Good Friday	Observed by Christians the Friday before Easter. Commemorates Christ's crucifixion, death and entombment. (Christian)
Guru Nanak Birthday	Birthday of Founder and First Guru of Sikh Religion.
Eid ul-Adha	The Festival of the Sacrifice. Marks the end of the Hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca, in which Muslims commemorate Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son.
Eid ul-Fitr	The Festival of the Breaking of the Fast. Muslims mark the end of Ramadan by attending congregational prayers and celebrating with friends and relatives.
Pesach/Passover	Jewish festival marking the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt.
Rosh Hashanah	Jewish New Year and holy days. Days of renewed responsibility.
Shavuot	Jewish festival that commemorates the giving of the law (Torah) to Moses on Mt. Sinai.
Shemini Atzeret	The closing day of the Jewish festival of Sukkot. A day of prayer.
Simchat Torah	Jewish holy day. Reading of the law (Torah) is completed and begun anew in the synagogue.
Sukkot	Feast of Tabernacles. Jewish festival of thanksgiving, and the remembrance of the wandering in the wilderness after their exodus from Egypt.
Yom Kippur	Day of Atonement; most solemn of Jewish holy days. Observed with fasting, prayer and repentance.

*Source: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools' Interfaith Council

¹ Graduation and Homecoming

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