



# School Year 2024 - 2025

## NBPS Religious and Cultural Observances

### **2024 OBSERVANCES**

#### **Rosh Hashanah**

**Wednesday, October 2 – Friday, October 4** (SUNDOWN TO SUNDOWN)

The Jewish New Year celebration, marking the creation of the world.

#### **Yom Kippur**

**Friday, October 11 – Saturday, October 12** (SUNDOWN TO SUNDOWN)

The holiest day on the Jewish calendar, a day of atonement marked by fasting and ceremonial repentance.

#### **Sukkot**

**Wednesday, October 16 – Wednesday, October 23**

A seven-day Jewish festival giving thanks for the fall harvest.

#### **Diwali**

**Friday, November 1**

The Hindu, Jain and Sikh five-day festival of lights celebrates new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and lightness over darkness

#### **Chanukah/Hanukkah** (SUNDOWN TO SUNDOWN)

**Wednesday, December 25 – Thursday, January 2**

A Jewish holiday that is celebrated around the world for eight days and nights. Hanukkah celebrates the victory of the Maccabees, or Israelites, over the Greek-Syrian ruler, Antiochus, approximately 2,200 years ago.

#### **Kwanzaa**

**Thursday, December 26 – Wednesday, January 1**

An African-American holiday started by Maulana Karenga in 1966 to celebrate universal African-American heritage.

### **2025 OBSERVANCES**

#### **Lunar New Year**

**Wednesday, January 29**

One of the most sacred of all traditional Chinese holidays, a time of family reunion and celebration. The Lunar New Year is also celebrated in China, Korea, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia and Mongolia to name a few countries.

#### **Ramadan**

**Friday, February 28 – Saturday, March 29** (SUNDOWN TO SUNDOWN)

An Islamic holy month marked by fasting, praise, prayer, charity, and devotion to Islam. The holy month is a time meant for reflection, peace and getting closer to God (*Please be mindful of food related and vigorous activities for students who are observing*).

## **Ash Wednesday**

***Wednesday, March 5***

The first day of Lent on the Christian calendar. Its name is derived from the symbolic use of ashes to signify penitence. It takes place immediately after the excesses of the two days of Carnival that take place in Northern Europe and parts of Latin America and the Caribbean.

## **Eid al-Fitr**

***Sunday, March 30 – Monday, March 31*** (SUNDOWN TO SUNDOWN)

The first day of the Islamic month of Shawwal, marking the end of Ramadan. Many Muslims attend communal prayers, listen to a khutuba (sermon), and give Zakat al-Fitr (charity in the form of food) during Eid al-Fitr.

## **Passover**

***Saturday, April 12 – Sunday, April 20***

An eight-day Jewish holiday and festival in commemoration of the emancipation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt.

## **Palm Sunday**

***Sunday, April 13***

A Christian holiday commemorating the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. It is the last Sunday of Lent and the beginning of the Holy Week.

## **Good Friday**

***Friday, April 18***

A day celebrated by Christians to commemorate the execution of Jesus by crucifixion. It is recognized on the Friday before Easter.

## **Easter Sunday**

***Sunday, April 20***

A holiday celebrated by Christians to recognize Jesus' return from death after the Crucifixion.

## **Orthodox Good Friday**

***Friday, April 18***

Is a day of celebrating for Orthodox Christians the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## **Orthodox Easter Sunday**

***Sunday, April 20***

(also called Pascha), a later Easter date than observed by many Western churches.

## **Shavuot**

***Sunday, June 1 – Tuesday, June 3*** (SUNDOWN TO SUNDOWN)

A Jewish holiday that has double significance. It marks the all-important wheat harvest in Israel and commemorates the anniversary of the day when God gave the Torah to the nation of Israel assembled at Mount Sinai.

## **Eid al-Adha** (SUNDOWN TO SUNDOWN)

***Friday, June 6 – Saturday, June 7***

The Feast of Sacrifice