

# July 2020 - June 2021

## 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.*

2020-2021 Dates	Holiday/Observance <i>Religion/Holiday - Description</i>
July 4, 2020 (observed on Friday, July 3)	<b>Independence Day</b> <i>U.S. Holiday - Anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776.</i>
July 30, 2020	<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>
August 11, 2020	<b>Janmashtami</b> <i>Hindu - Celebrates the birthday of Lord Krishna, the 8<sup>th</sup> incarnation of the God Vishnu</i>
August 20, 2020	<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 28, 2020	<b>Ashura</b> <i>Muslim - For Shias, a commemoration of the martyrdom of Hussein, a grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, at Karbala.</i>
September 7, 2020	<b>Labor Day</b> <i>U.S. Holiday - Celebrated the first Monday in September in recognition of U.S. workers.</i>
Saturday, September 19, 2020	<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 27 – 29, 2020	<b>Shemini Atzeret *</b> <i>Jewish - "Eighth Day of Assembly," observed on the day immediately following Sukkot.</i>
Monday, September 28, 2020	<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 2 – 9, 2020	<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>
October 10 - 11, 2020	<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>
October 12, 2020	<b>Columbus Day</b> <i>U.S. Holiday - A public holiday in many parts of the United States that commemorates the voyage of Christopher Columbus to the Americas in 1492.</i>
October 17 – 26, 2020	<b>Navratri</b> <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

<b>2020-2021 Dates</b>	<b>Holiday/Observance</b> <i>Religion/Holiday - Description</i>
October 28, 2020	<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>
November 11, 2020	<b>Veterans Day</b> <i>U.S. Holiday - Honors the U.S. Armed Services and commemorates the war dead.</i>
Saturday, November 14, 2020	<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>
Thursday, November 26, 2020	<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 10 – 18, 2020	<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>
Friday, December 25, 2020	<b>Christmas</b> <i>Christian (U.S. Holiday) - Celebration of the birth of Jesus by Protestants and Roman Catholics.</i>
December 26, 2020 – January 1, 2021	<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, 2021	<b>New Year's Day</b> <i>U.S. Holiday - The first day of the year in the Gregorian calendar.</i>
January 6, 2021	<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 18, 2021	<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 15, 2021	<b>President's Day</b> <i>U.S. Holiday - Honors all past presidents of the United States of America.</i>
February 17, 2021	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> <i>Christian -Beginning of Lent, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter, not counting Sundays.</i>
February 26 – 27, 2021	<b>Purim *</b> <i>Jewish - The "Feast of Lots" marks the salvation of the Jews of ancient Persia from extermination.</i>
March 11, 2021	<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>
March 27 – April 3, 2021	<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>
March 28 – 29, 2021	<b>Holi</b> <i>Hindu - Hindu annual festival that celebrates spring and commemorates various events in Hindu mythology.</i>
April 2, 2021	<b>Good Friday</b> <i>Christian - Friday preceding Easter Sunday; commemorates the day of Jesus' crucifixion.</i>
April 4, 2021	<b>Easter</b> <i>Christian - Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. Easter falls at some point between late March and late April each year.</i>

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

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

2020-2021 Dates	Holiday/Observance <i>Religion/Holiday - Description</i>
April 21, 2021	<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 12 – May 11, 2021	<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>
April 30, 2021	<b>Orthodox Good Friday</b>
May 2, 2021	<b>Greek Orthodox Easter</b>
May 9, 2021	<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>
May 12, 2021	<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 16 - 18, 2021	<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>
May 31, 2021	<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>

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

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