**Cultures Connecting   
D**iversity Calendar 2020-2021

**Mission Statement:**

The purpose of this calendar is to address and support the diversity of students, staff, and families in K-12 education settings and beyond. We recognize that by increasing our understanding of diverse cultures, group experiences, traditions, values and beliefs, we can enhance our relationships with one another and hence, create culturally responsive environments where everyone feels valued and respected.

**How Dates Were Chosen:**

Due to the extensive number of cultural holidays, dates for this calendar were determined by the following four criteria:

1. Might a student or staff member be absent as a result of this day?
2. Might a student or staff member be disengaged as a result of this day (e.g., hunger or a negative association with a

particular day/date such as Thanksgiving, or a day of remembrance of a tragic event)?

1. Might a student, family, or staff member not be able to participate in a school activity during or after school as a result of

this day? (e.g., Many of our students do not participate in Halloween or Valentine’s Day. There are students, families, and

staff who cannot participate in district/school events that are scheduled on the evening of an important religious day

observed by the Jewish and Muslim communities).

1. Does the day provide an opportunity for a teachable moment regarding ethnic or cultural diversity that might not

otherwise be discussed, particularly dates associated with a continued history of oppression, discrimination, or racism?

**Work in Progress:**

We ask for your patience in the event that we have missed important dates that apply to the four criteria above. This was an enormous task taken on by a handful of individuals of good will and intention. If you know of additional cultural holidays that meet the above criteria, or would like to offer suggestions for appropriate websites, books, or other resources that can be used to improve this calendar, please contact: Kenzie Gandy at [kenzie.gandy@culturesconnecting.com](mailto:kenzie.gandy@culturesconnecting.com).

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|  |  |
| --- | --- |
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**Notes**:

* *Starred (\*) holy days begin at sunset of the date listed and go to sunset of the following day.*
* *Caret (^) indicates work restrictions.*
* *Due to regional and cultural differences, the holidays listed may be celebrated on different dates by individuals of the same faith.*
* *Muslim holidays are based on actual sighting of the moon and therefore the date may vary.*
* *For more information on individual holidays, click the holiday title to view its hyperlink (many are linked to Wikipedia).*

**AUGUST 2020**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date(s): | **Holiday / Observance:** | **Religious / Cultural Group:** | **Notes:** |
| Aug. 19-20\* | [Al¬Hijra / Muharram](http://www.islamicity.com/articles/Articles.asp?ref=IC0303-1877) | Islamic |  |
| Aug. 28-29\* | [Ashura](https://whoishussain.org/who-is-hussain/the-day-of-ashura/) | Islamic |  |

**SEPTEMBER 2020 Hispanic Heritage Month**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date(s): | **Holiday / Observance:** | **Religious / Cultural Group:** | **Notes:** |
| Sept. 7 | [Labor Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Labor_Day) |  | No school. |
| Sept. 11 | [Enkutatash (New Year)](http://www.awazetours.com/Visit-Ethiopia/Ethiopian-Festivals/New_Year.html) | Ethiopian |  |
| Sept. 16 | [Mexican Independence Day](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/2018/09/mexico-independence-day-confusion-cinco-de-mayo/) | Mexican |  |
| Sept. 18-20\*^ | [Rosh Hashanah (New Year)](https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/rosh-hashanah-101/) | Jewish | Rosh Hashanah kicks off several weeks of Jewish holidays in the fall. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are the two most-observed Jewish Holidays, called the high holy days. |
| Sept. 21-29\* | [Mabon](https://wicca.com/pagan-holidays/mabon.html) | Neo-Pagan |  |
| Sept. 27-28\* | [Yom Kippur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yom_Kippur) | Jewish | Day of fasting. |

**OCTOBER 2020 Cultural Diversity Month | Coming Out Month | Disability Employment**

**Awareness Month | Filipino American History Month**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date(s): | **Holiday / Observance:** | **Religious / Cultural Group:** | **Notes:** |
| Oct. 1 | [Tet Trung Thu (Vietnam) Moon Festival (China, Taiwan) Chu¬Seok (Korea)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mid-Autumn_Festival) | Vietnam, China, Taiwan, Korea |  |
| Oct. 2-9\*^ | [Sukkot](https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/sukkot-101/) (Feast of Tabernacles) | Jewish |  |
| Oct. 9-11\*^ | [Shemini Atzeret](http://www.jewfaq.org/holiday6.htm) | Jewish |  |
| Oct. 11 | [National Coming Out Day](https://www.hrc.org/resources/national-coming-out-day) | LGTBQ+ and Allies |  |
| Oct. 10-11\*^ | [Simchat Torah](http://www.jewfaq.org/holiday6.htm) | Jewish |  |
| Oct. 12 | [Día de la Raza](https://www.britannica.com/place/Mexico/Holidays-and-festivals#ref922421) | Latinx, Mexican |  |
| Oct. 12 | [Indigenous People’s Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous_Peoples%27_Day) | United States |  |
| Oct. 17-18\*^ | [Birth of the Báb](http://bahai-invitation.com/feast/fhd08.html) | Bahá'i |  |
| Oct. 17-25\* | [Navaratri/Dassehra](https://www.amritapuri.org/3590/navaratri.aum) | Hindu |  |
| Oct. 18-19\*^ | [Birth of Bahá'u'lláh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birth_of_Bah%C3%A1%CA%BCu%27ll%C3%A1h) | Bahá'i |  |
| Oct. 26 | [Dashain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dashain) | Bhutan |  |
| Oct. 28-29\* | [Mawlid-al-Nabi (birthday of Mohammad)](http://pluralism.org/religions/islam/the-muslim-experience/birthday-of-the-prophet-mawlid-al-nabi/) | Islamic |  |
| Oct. 31 | [Halloween](https://www.history.com/topics/halloween/history-of-halloween) | United States | Be mindful that not all families observe Halloween. |
| Oct. 31-Nov. 1 | [Samhain](https://www.learnreligions.com/all-about-samhain-2562691) | Neo-Pagan |  |
| Oct. 31-Nov. 2 | [Día de los Muertos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Day_of_the_Dead) | Mexican |  |

**NOVEMBER 2020** **Native American Heritage Month**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date(s): | **Holiday / Observance:** | **Religious / Cultural Group:** | **Notes:** |
| Nov. 1 | [All Saint's Day](http://www.churchyear.net/allsaints.html) | Anglican & Roman Catholic |  |
| Nov. 11 | [Veteran's Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veterans_Day) | United States |  |
| Nov. 14^ | [Diwali](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Diwali-Hindu-festival) | Hindu, Jain, Sikh, Buddhist |  |
| Nov. 20 | [Transgender Day of Remembrance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transgender_Day_of_Remembrance) | International, LGTBQ+ and Allies |  |
| Nov. 26 | [Thanksgiving Day](https://www.history.com/topics/thanksgiving/history-of-thanksgiving) | United States | No school. <http://americanindiansource.com/mourningday.html> |
| Nov. 30 | [Birthday of Guru Nanak](http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/sikhism/people/nanak.shtml) | Sikh |  |

**DECEMBER 2020**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date(s): | **Holiday / Observance:** | **Religious / Cultural Group:** | **Notes:** |
| Dec. 8 | [Feast of the Immaculate Conception](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feast_of_the_Immaculate_Conception) | Catholic |  |
| Dec. 10-18\* | [Hanukkah (Chanukah)](https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/hanukkah) | Jewish |  |
| Dec. 12 | [Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Our_Lady_of_Guadalupe) | Mexican Catholic |  |
| Dec. 16-24 | [Las Posadas](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Las-Posadas) | Mexican |  |
| Dec. 16-24 | [Simbang Gabi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simbang_Gabi) | Filipino Catholic |  |
| Dec. 21 | [Winter Solstice / Yule](https://wicca.com/pagan-holidays/yule.html) | Neo-Pagan |  |
| Dec. 25 | [Christmas Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas) | Christian | No school. |
| Dec. 26-Jan. 1 | [Kwanzaa](https://nationaltoday.com/kwanzaa/) | African American |  |

**JANUARY 2021**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date(s): | **Holiday / Observance:** | **Religious / Cultural Group:** | **Notes:** |
| Jan. 1^ | [Gantan-sai](http://faith.wikidot.com/gantan-sai) | Shinto |  |
| Jan. 1 | [New Year's Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Year%27s_Day) | International | No school. |
| Jan. 6 | [Dia de los Reyes (Three Kings Day/Epiphany)](https://www.enforex.com/culture/reyes-magos.html) | Mexican Christian |  |
| Jan. 7 | [Orthodox Christmas](https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/russia/christmas-day) | Christian Orthodox |  |
| Jan. 18 | [Martin Luther King Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Luther_King_Jr._Day) | United States | No school. |
| Jan. 20^ | [Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guru_Gobind_Singh) | Sikh |  |
| Jan. 20 | [Bodhi Day (Rohatsu)](https://www.learnreligions.com/bodhi-day-449913) | Buddhist |  |
| Jan. 27 | [Holocaust Remembrance Day](https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/yom-ha-shoah-holocaust-memorial-day) | International |  |

**FEBRUARY 2021 African American History Month**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date(s): | **Holiday / Observance:** | **Religious / Cultural Group:** | **Notes:** |
| Feb. 1-2 | [Imbolc](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imbolc) | Neo-Pagan |  |
| Feb. 3 | [Setsubun-sai](https://www.discoverkyoto.com/event-calendar/february/setsubun-sai-heian-jingu/) | Shinto |  |
| Feb. 12 | [Tết](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T%E1%BA%BFt) | Vietnam |  |
| Feb. 12 | [Chinese New Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_New_Year) | China |  |
| Feb. 14 | [Valentine's Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentine%27s_Day) | International | Be mindful that not all students observe this holiday. |
| Feb. 17 | [President's Day](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Presidents-Day) |  | No school. |
| Feb. 17 | [Ash Wednesday](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ash_Wednesday) | Christian |  |
| Feb. 17-Mar. 29 | [Lenten Season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lent) | Christian |  |
| Feb. 19 | [Day of Remembrance  (Japanese Incarceration)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Day_of_Remembrance_(Japanese_Americans)) | United States |  |
| Feb. 26 | [Magha Puja Day](https://www.beliefnet.com/faiths/buddhism/articles/celebrating-magha-puja-day.aspx) | Buddhist |  |
| Feb 28 - 29\* | [Purim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purim) | Jewish |  |

**MARCH 2021 Women's History Month | Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date(s): | **Holiday / Observance:** | **Religious / Cultural Group:** | **Notes:** |
| Mar. 8 | [International Women's Day](https://www.internationalwomensday.com/About) | International |  |
| Mar. 11 | [Maha Shivaratri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maha_Shivaratri) | Hindu |  |
| Mar. 17 | [St. Patrick's Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Patrick%27s_Day) | Irish |  |
| Mar. 20 | [Ostara](https://www.learnreligions.com/history-of-ostara-the-spring-equinox-2562485) | Neo-Pagan |  |
| Mar. 20\* | [Naw Rúz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bah%C3%A1%27%C3%AD_Naw-R%C3%BAz) | Bahá'I / Persian / Kurdish / Zoroastrianism |  |
| Mar. 21 | [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Day_for_the_Elimination_of_Racial_Discrimination) | International |  |
| Mar. 21-22 | [Persian New Year (Nowruz)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nowruz) | Iranian |  |
| Mar. 27-Apr. 4\*^ | [Passover (Pesach)](https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/passover) | Jewish |  |
| Mar. 28-29\* | [Holi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holi) | Hindu |  |
| Mar. 28-Apr. 3 | [Holy Week](http://www.crivoice.org/cyholyweek.html) | Christian |  |
| Mar. 31 | [César Chávez Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cesar_Chavez_Day) | United States |  |
| Mar. 31 | [International Transgender Day  of Visibility](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Transgender_Day_of_Visibility) | International, LGTBQ+ and Allies |  |

**APRIL 2021** **Autism Acceptance Month | Holocaust Remembrance Month**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date(s): | **Holiday / Observance:** | **Religious / Cultural Group:** | **Notes:** |
| Apr. 1 | [Maundy Thursday](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maundy_Thursday) | Christian |  |
| Apr. 2 | [World Autism Awareness Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Autism_Awareness_Day#:~:text=World%20Autism%20Awareness%20Day%20is,Asperger%20syndrome%20throughout%20the%20world.) | United States |  |
| Apr. 2 | [Good Friday](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Good_Friday) | Christian |  |
| Apr. 4^ | [Easter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter) | Christian |  |
| Apr. 6 | [National Tartan Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tartan_Day) | Scottish American |  |
| Apr. 8 | [Yom HaSho’ah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yom_HaShoah) | Jewish |  |
| Apr. 9 | [National Day of Silence](https://www.glsen.org/day-silence) | LGBTQ+ and Allies |  |
| Apr. 12-May 11\*^ | [Ramadan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramadan) | Islamic |  |
| Apr. 14 | [Vaisakhi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vaisakhi) | Sikh |  |
| Apr. 14-16 | [Bun Pi Mai (New Year)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lao_New_Year) | Laotian | Begins on the first full moon of April. |
| Apr. 14-16\* | [Cambodian New Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cambodian_New_Year) |  |  |
| Apr. 21 | [Ramanavami](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rama_Navami) | Hindu |  |
| Apr. 21-May 2\* | [First Day of Ridván](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ridv%C3%A1n) | Bahá'i |  |
| Apr. 27-28\* | [Ninth Day of Ridván](https://www.bpl.org/blogs/post/the-origins-and-practices-of-holidays-the-ninth-day-of-ridvan/) | Bahá'i |  |
| Apr. 28 | [Palm Sunday](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palm_Sunday) | Christian / Orthodox |  |
| Apr. 30 | [Orthodox Good Friday](https://wilstar.com/holidays/orthodox-good-friday.htm) | Christian Orthodox |  |
| Apr. 30 | [Día de los Niños](http://dia.ala.org/content/about-d%C3%ADa) | Mexican |  |
| Apr. 30-May 1\* | [Twelfth Day of Ridván](http://bahai-library.com/walbridge_encyclopedia_ridvan) | Bahá'i |  |

**MAY 2021 Asian American and South Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date(s): | **Holiday / Observance:** | **Religious / Cultural Group:** | **Notes:** |
| May 1\* | [Beltane](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beltane) | Neo-Pagan |  |
| May 1 | [May Day  (International Worker’s Day)](https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/history-of-may-day) | International |  |
| May 2 | [Orthodox Easter](https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/orthodox-easter-day) | Christian Orthodox |  |
| May 5 | [Cinco de Mayo](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Cinco-de-Mayo) | United States / Mexican |  |
| May 8 | [Buddha Day / Visakha Puja  / Vesek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vesak) | Buddhist |  |
| May 9 | [Mother's Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother%27s_Day) |  | Mother’s Day (always May 10th in Mexico) is very important for Mexican Families. |
| May 9 | [Laylat al-Qadr](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laylat_al-Qadr) | Islamic |  |
| May 12-13\*^ | [Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eid_al-Fitr) | Islamic |  |
| May 16-18\*^ | [Shavuot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shavuot) | Jewish |  |
| May 22-23\* | [Declaration of the Báb](https://www.bahai.us/event/declaration-of-the-bab/) | Bahá'i |  |
| May 23 | [Pentecost](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentecost) | Christian |  |
| May 27-28\* | [Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh](https://www.bahai.us/event/ascension-of-bahaullah/) | Bahá'i |  |
| May 31 | [Memorial Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial_Day) | United States / Mexican | No school. |

**JUNE 2021 LGBTQ+ Pride Month**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date(s): | Holiday / Observance: | Religious / Cultural Group: | Notes: |
| Jun. 12 | [Loving Day](http://www.lovingday.org/) | United States |  |
| Jun. 12 | [Philippine Independence Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independence_Day_(Philippines)) | Filipino |  |
| Jun. 19 | [Juneteenth](https://www.juneteenth.com/history.htm) | African American |  |
| Jun. 19-20 | [Eid-ul-Adha (Feast of Sacrifice)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eid_al-Adha) | Islamic |  |
| Jun. 20 | [Summer Solstice/Litha](http://wiccaliving.com/wiccan-calendar-litha-summer-solstice/) | Neo-Pagan |  |
| Jun. 27 | [17th of Tammuz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seventeenth_of_Tammuz) | Jewish |  |
| Jun. 28 | [Pride](https://www.seattlepride.org/) | International, LGBTQ+  and Allies |  |

**JULY 2021**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date(s): | Holiday / Observance: | Religious / Cultural Group: | Notes: |
| Jul. 4 | [Independence Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independence_Day_(United_States)) |  |  |
| Jul. 5 | [Dharma Day](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zd4dtfr/revision/2) | Buddhist |  |
| Jul. 17-18 | [Tisha B’Av](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tisha_B%27Av) | Jewish |  |
| Jul. 17-22 | [Hajj](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hajj) | Islamic |  |
| Jul. 23 | [Birthday of Haile Selassie](https://www.readthespirit.com/religious-holidays-festivals/birthday-of-haile-selassie-rastafari-celebrate-his-courage-on-global-stage/) | Rastafarian |  |

**AUGUST 2021**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date(s): | Holiday / Observance: | Religious / Cultural Group: | Notes: |
| Aug. 1 | [Lughnasadh (Lammas)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lughnasadh) | Neo-Pagan |  |
| Aug. 9-Sept. 6\* | [Al¬Hijra / Muharram](http://www.islamicity.com/articles/Articles.asp?ref=IC0303-1877) | Islamic |  |
| Aug. 10 | [Muharram (Al Hijrah New Year)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muharram) | Islamic |  |
| Aug. 12 | [International Youth Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Youth_Day) | International |  |
| Aug. 13-15 | [Obon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bon_Festival) | Japanese Buddhist |  |
| Aug. 22 | [Raksha Bandhan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raksha_Bandhan) | Hindu |  |
| Aug. 29 | [Krishna Janmashtami](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Krishna_Janmashtami) | Hindu |  |

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