



# School Year 2023 - 2024

## NBPS Religious and Cultural Observances

### **2023 OBSERVANCES**

#### **Rosh Hashanah**

*Friday, September 15 - Sunday, September 17* (SUNDOWN TO SUNDOWN)

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

#### **Yom Kippur**

*Sunday, September 24 – Monday, September 25* (SUNDOWN TO SUNDOWN)

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

#### **Sukkot**

*Friday, September 29 – Friday, October 6*

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

#### **Diwali**

*Sunday, November 12*

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**

*Friday, December 7 – Friday, December 15*

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**

*Tuesday, December 26 – Monday, January 1*

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

### **2024 OBSERVANCES**

#### **Lunar New Year**

*Saturday, February 10*

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.

#### **Ash Wednesday**

*Wednesday, February 14*

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.

## **Ramadan**

*Sunday, March 10 – Tuesday, April 9* (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.

## **Palm Sunday**

*Sunday, March 24*

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, March 29*

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

## **Easter Sunday**

*Sunday, March 31*

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

## **Eid al-Fitr**

*Tuesday, April 9 – Wednesday, April 10*

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**

*Monday, April 22 – Tuesday, April 30*

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

## **Orthodox Good Friday**

*Friday, May 3*

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

## **Orthodox Easter Sunday**

*Sunday, May 5*

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

## **Shavuot**

*Tuesday, June 11 – Thursday, June 13* (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**

*Sunday, June 16 – Monday, June 17*

The Feast of Sacrifice