



# Poway Unified School District Cultural Observances Calendar 2018-2019

The purpose of this calendar is to address and support the diversity of students, staff and families in our schools. As we increase our understanding of diverse cultures and their traditions, values and beliefs, we can create culturally responsive learning environments in which everyone feels valued and respected.

Due to the extensive number of cultural holidays, dates for this list were chosen based on the following criteria:

- A student may be absent from school or an after school event as a result of this day.
- A student may be disengaged on this day (e.g. because of fasting or sadness on a day of remembrance).
- A student may be unable to participate in a school activity for cultural or religious reasons (e.g. Halloween activities, Valentine's Day, Easter egg hunts, etc.)
- The day may provide a teachable moment opportunity regarding cultural diversity that might not otherwise be discussed, especially dates associated with oppression, discrimination or racism.

This is not a comprehensive list, but if you believe that an important date is missing and should be included, please contact Mercedes Hubschmitt at [mhubschmitt@powayusd.com](mailto:mhubschmitt@powayusd.com)

*\*Holy days begin at sunset of the date listed and go to sunset of the following day. (Some observances are based on the actual sighting of the moon and therefore the date may vary.)*

*^ Observances may include fasting for a period of time.*

## August 2018

20\*-21 Eid al Adha (Islamic)

## September 2018

3 Labor Day  
9\*-11 Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)  
11 Day of Remembrance and Service (for 9/11)  
**Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15-10/15)**  
16 Mexican Independence Day  
17 Constitution Day  
18\*-19^ Yom Kippur (Jewish)  
24 Moon Festival - Chuseok (Korean) O-Tsukimi (Japanese)  
28 Native American Day

## October 2018

**Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15-10/15)**  
**Filipino American Heritage Month**  
31 Halloween (Keep in mind that not all families regard Halloween in a positive light)  
31-11/2 Dia de los Muertos (Mexican)

## November 2018

**American Indian Heritage Month**  
2 Last day of Dia de los Muertos  
7 Diwali (Hindu/Sikh)  
12 Veteran's Day Observed  
22 Thanksgiving (Seek to ensure that depictions of the role of Native Americans are respectful and historically accurate.)

## December 2018

2\*-10 Hanukkah

- 16-24 Las Posadas (Mexican) and Simbang Gabi (Filipino)
- 25 Christmas (Christian)
- 26-1/1 Kwanzaa (African American)

### January 2019

- 1 New Year's Day and Last Day of Kwanzaa
- 6-7 Eastern Orthodox Christmas
- 13 Korean American Day
- 21 Martin Luther King Day

### February 2019

#### **Black History Month**

- 5 Lunar New Year: *Year of the Pig* (China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Korea and Singapore)
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 18 President's Day Holiday

### March 2019

- 2\* Ala (Baha'i)
- 6 ^ Ash Wednesday (Christian)
- 6 Lent begins (Christian)
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 20-21 Holi (Hindu/Sikh)
- 20-21 Purim (Jewish)
- 21 Purim ends
- 21\* Nowruz (Persian New Year)
- 31 Cesar Chavez Day

### April 2019

- 1 Cesar Chavez Day Observed
- 8 Vesak/Buddha's Birthday (Buddhist – date may vary somewhat by country)
- 14 Palm Sunday (Christian)
- 18 Lent ends
- 20 \* First day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
- 14-20 Holy Week (Christian)
- 19^ Good Friday
- 19\*- 27 Passover/Pesach (Jewish)
- 21 Easter (Christian)
- 27 Passover/Pesach ends
- 28 Eastern Orthodox Easter (Pascha)
- 28 \* Ninth day of Ridvan (Baha'i)

### May 2019

#### **Asian American and Pacific Islander Month**

- 2\* 12<sup>th</sup> Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
- 5 Cinco de Mayo
- 5\* ^ Beginning of Ramadan (Islamic)
- 12 Mother's Day
- 27 Memorial Day

### June 2019

- 4 Eid al Fitr/End of Ramadan (Islamic)
- 16 Father's Day
- 19 Juneteenth (African American)

## ***DATES TO CELEBRATE STAFF***

<i>October 2</i>	<i>National Custodians Day</i>
<i>October 16</i>	<i>Boss's Appreciation Day</i>
<i>February 4-8</i>	<i>Counselor Appreciation Week</i>
<i>April 17</i>	<i>School Librarians Day</i>
<i>April 23</i>	<i>School Bus Drivers Day</i>
<i>April 24</i>	<i>Administrative Professionals Day</i>
<i>April 29 - May 3</i>	<i>School Nutrition Employee Week</i>
<i>May 7</i>	<i>National Teachers Day</i>
<i>May 8</i>	<i>School Nurses and Health Professionals Day</i>
<i>May 20-24</i>	<i>Classified School Employee Week</i>