



# Poway Unified School District Cultural Observances Calendar 2017-2018

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.*

## September 2017

- 1\*-5 Eid al Adha (Islamic)  
4 Labor Day  
11 Day of Remembrance and Service (for 9/11)  
**Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15-10/15)**  
16 Mexican Independence Day  
17 Constitution Day  
20\*-22 Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)  
22 Native American Day  
29\*-30^ Yom Kippur (Jewish)

## October 2017

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

## November 2017

**American Indian Heritage Month**

- 2 Last day of Dia de los Muertos
- 10 Veteran's Day Observed
- 23 Thanksgiving (Seek to ensure that depictions of the role of Native Americans are respectful and historically accurate.)

### December 2017

- 12\*-20 Hanukkah
- 16-24 Las Posadas (Mexican) and Simbang Gabi (Filipino)
- 25 Christmas (Christian)
- 26-1/1 Kwanzaa (African American)

### January 2018

- 1 New Year's Day and Last Day of Kwanzaa
- 15 Martin Luther King Day

### February 2018

#### Black History Month

- 14 Valentine's Day
- 14 ^ Ash Wednesday (Christian)
- 14 Lent begins (Christian)
- 16 Lunar New Year: *Year of the Dog* (China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Korea and Singapore)
- 19 President's Day Holiday
- 28-3/1 Purim (Jewish)

### March 2018

- 1 Purim ends
- 1-2 Holi (Hindu/Sikh)
- 2\* Ala (Baha'i)
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 21\* Nowruz (Persian New Year)
- 25 Palm Sunday (Christian)
- 25-31 Holy Week (Christian)
- 29 Lent ends
- 30^ Good Friday
- 31 Cesar Chavez Day
- 30\*- 4/7 Passover/Pesach (Jewish)

### April 2018

- 1 Easter (Christian)
- 7 Passover/Pesach ends
- 8 Eastern Orthodox Easter (Pascha)
- 8 Vesak/Buddha's Birthday (Buddhist – date may vary somewhat by country)
- 20 \* First day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
- 29 \* Ninth day of Ridvan (Baha'i)

### May 2018

#### Asian American and Pacific Islander Month

- 2\* 12<sup>th</sup> Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
- 5 Cinco de Mayo
- 13 Mother's Day

15\* ^ Beginning of Ramadan (Islamic)  
28 Memorial Day

**June 2018**

19 Juneteenth (African American)  
14 Eid al Fitr/End of Ramadan (Islamic)

***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 5-9</i>	<i>Counselor Appreciation Week</i>
<i>April 4</i>	<i>School Librarians Day</i>
<i>April 24</i>	<i>School Bus Drivers Day</i>
<i>April 25</i>	<i>Administrative Professionals Day</i>
<i>April 30 - May 4</i>	<i>School Nutrition Employee Week</i>
<i>May 8</i>	<i>National Teachers Day</i>
<i>May 9</i>	<i>School Nurses and Health Professionals Day</i>
<i>May 21-25</i>	<i>Classified School Employee Week</i>