



2023-2024

Holidays and Cultural Observances

Ellington Public Schools encourages all students and staff to appreciate and be respectful of each other’s heritage and cultural diversity. The following is a list of dates for secular holidays as well as other festivals and holy days observed in the Ellington community.

Holidays in red denote days on which schools are closed.

2023-2024 Dates	Holiday/Observance <i>Religion/Holiday - Description</i>
September 4, 2023	Labor Day <i>U.S. Holiday - Celebrated the first Monday in September in recognition of U.S. workers.</i>
September 15-17, 2023	Rosh Hashanah * <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 24, 2023	Yom Kippur * <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 9, 2023	Columbus Day
November 12, 2023	Diwali <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>
November 11, 2022	Veterans Day <i>U.S. Holiday - Honors the U.S. Armed Services and commemorates the war dead.</i>
November 23, 2023	Thanksgiving Day <i>U.S. Holiday - Following a 19th century tradition, it commemorates the Pilgrims harvest feast in the autumn of 1621.</i>
December 7-15, 2023	Hanukkah * <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>
December 25, 2023	Christmas <i>Christian (U.S. Holiday) - Celebration of the birth of Jesus by Protestants and Roman Catholics.</i>
December 26, 2023 – January 1, 2024	Kwanzaa <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, 2024	New Year’s Day <i>U.S. Holiday - The first day of the year in the Gregorian calendar.</i>
January 6, 2024	Three Kings Day <i>Christian - Western church associated Three Kings Day with the journey of the Magi to the infant Jesus; the Eastern church, with the baptism of Jesus by John.</i>
January 15, 2024	Martin Luther King Jr. Day <i>U.S. Holiday - The birthday of civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is celebrated on the third Monday in January.</i>

*All Jewish and Islamic holidays begin at sundown on the previous day. Sources: Diversity.umn.edu; Anti-Defamation League (ADL); Yale University; Drikpanchang.com

2023-2024 Dates	Holiday/Observance <i>Religion/Holiday - Description</i>
February 19, 2024	President's Day <i>U.S. Holiday - Honors all past presidents of the United States of America.</i>
March 10 – April 9, 2024	Ramadan (Beginning) * <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>
March 25, 2024	Holi <i>Hindu - Hindu annual festival that celebrates spring and commemorates various events in Hindu mythology.</i>
March 29, 2024	Good Friday <i>Christian - Friday preceding Easter Sunday; commemorates the day of Jesus' crucifixion.</i>
March 31, 2024	Easter <i>Christian - Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. Easter falls at some point between late March and late April each year.</i>
April 10, 2024	Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan) * <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>
April 22 - 30, 2024	Passover * <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>
May 5, 2024	Greek Orthodox Easter
May 27, 2024	Memorial Day <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>

October 15-24, 2023

Navaratri
Navaratri is a significant Hindu festival which is observed for 9 nights and 10 days. During Navaratri, nine forms of Goddess Durga are worshipped. Navaratri celebrates Her various incarnations and victories over terrible demons. Each day of Navaratri has an associated color which devotees are encouraged to wear.

January 15-18, 2024

Sankranti/Pongal
Hindu Harvest Festival in celebration of the Sun God. Pongal is a four day festival and the most important day of Pongal is known as Thai Pongal. Thai Pongal is also celebrated as Sankranti. Sankranti days are considered good for charity activities and all auspicious ceremonies are avoided on the day of Sankranti(s).

NOTES: Islamic holidays are based on the lunar calendar and celebrations may occur on or around the dates listed.