



2024-2025

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.

2024-2025 Dates	Holiday/Observance <i>Religion/Holiday - Description</i>
September 2, 2024	Labor Day <i>U.S. Holiday - Celebrated the first Monday in September in recognition of U.S. workers.</i>
October 3, 2024	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>
October 12, 2024	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 3-12, 2024	Navaratri <i>Navrathri is a significant Hindu festival held in honor of the Divine Feminine, Shakthi. Navrathri is celebrated over 9 nights and 10 days. During Navaratri, nine forms of Goddess Durga are worshiped. Navaratri celebrates Her various incarnations and victories over terrible demons. Each day of Navaratri has an associated color which devotees are encouraged to wear.</i>
October 14, 2024	Columbus Day
November 1, 2024	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, 2024	Veterans Day <i>U.S. Holiday - Honors the U.S. Armed Services and commemorates the war dead.</i>
November 28, 2024	Thanksgiving Day <i>U.S. Holiday - Following a 19th century tradition, it commemorates the Pilgrims harvest feast in the autumn of 1621.</i>
December 25, 2024	Hanukkah Begins* <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, 2024	Christmas <i>Christian (U.S. Holiday) - Celebration of the birth of Jesus by Protestants and Roman Catholics.</i>
December 26, 2024	Kwanzaa Begins <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, 2025	New Year’s Day <i>U.S. Holiday - The first day of the year in the Gregorian calendar.</i>
January 6, 2025	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 14 - 16, 2025	Sankranti/Pongal <i>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).</i>

2024-2025 Dates	Holiday/Observance <i>Religion/Holiday - Description</i>
January 20, 2025	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>
February 17, 2025	President's Day <i>U.S. Holiday - Honors all past presidents of the United States of America.</i>
February 28 - March 29, 2025	Ramadan <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. Dates are subject to change.</i>
March 14, 2025	Holi <i>Hindu - Hindu annual festival that celebrates spring and commemorates various events in Hindu mythology.</i>
March 31, 2025	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 13, 2025	Passover Begins*/Palm Sunday <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> <i>Christian - Palm Sunday marks the first day of Holy Week.</i>
April 18, 2025	Good Friday <i>Christian - Friday preceding Easter Sunday; commemorates the day of Jesus' crucifixion.</i>
April 20, 2025	Easter <i>Christian - Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. Easter falls at some point between late March and late April each year.</i>
April 20, 2025	Greek Orthodox Easter
May 26, 2025	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>