Franklin Public Schools Calendar for 2023-2024

August

| Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 1st Day Staff | PD Day $\begin{array}{r} \\ \\ 29 \\ \hline\end{array}$ | 1st day Students | 1st Day K |  |

November


October


January

| Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { New Year's } \\ & \text { Day } \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |  |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| $\begin{array}{\|l} \hline \text { ML King Jr. } \\ \text { Day } \end{array}$ |  |  |  | Q2 ends |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 |  |  |



## 2023 - 2024 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

The Franklin Public School District is enriched by the cultural and religious diversity of its students, faculty, staff, and community. This document is prepared to promote cultural proficiency and inform our community of days in which students and staff may be participating in observances with their families. This document helps to outline what "observing" means in terms of a student's ability to be present in school, complete work, participate in after school activities, as well as dietary and other considerations. It does not include all religious holidays observed by every faith and only includes those holidays that fall within the School Year. State and Federal law require schools to make reasonable accommodations to the religious needs of students and employees. Parents should inform teachers when observances may conflict with school activities or if a holiday is not listed.

District policy IMDC "Accommodation for Religious and Ethnic Observances" describes the handling of absences and event scheduling on days which require consideration.

Please contact the Franklin Public School District with information about any religious day not listed below, for inclusion in future lists.
Holiday Observances in Massachusetts (Statewide Legal Holidays in Bold)

| Holiday/Observance | Description | $2023-2024$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Labor Day | Honors the American Labor Movement | Monday, September 4 |
| Rosh Hashanah* | Jewish New Year <br> Observed with festive meals and temple attendance <br> (Friday - Sunday) |  |
| Samvatsari | Sampatsari is the last day of Paryushana Shwetambar sect of Jainism. It falls on Shukla <br> Panchami each year in the Jain calendar month of Bhadrapada | Tuesday September 19 |
| Ganesh Chaturthi | 10-day festival marking the birth of the elephant-headed deity Ganesha, the god of <br> prosperity and wisdom. Families install small and colorful clay statues of Lord <br> Ganesha to be worshipped during the festival and visit friends \& families to wish each <br> other in the prayer offerings. | September 19 - September 28 <br> Tuesday - Thursday |
| Yom Kippur* | Day of Atonement <br> Observed with 24 hour fast, refrain from work, temple attendance |  |
| Sukkot | Feast of tabernacles to celebrate the harvest and the protection of the Jewish people <br> in the wilderness <br> Observed with festive meals taken in the sukkah, prayers | September 30-October 6 <br> (Friday - Friday) <br> (Sunday - Monday) |
| Indigenous Peoples Day | Christopher Columbus's arrival in the Americas <br> A day to honor native indigenous Americans and to celebrate their culture and <br> histories | Monday, October 9 |
| Navaratri | Navaratri is an annual Hindu festival observed in the honour of the goddess Durga. <br> Observed with fasting, evening prayers, vegetarian meals, visiting friends and family | October 15 - October 23 <br> (Sunday-Monday) |
| Dussehra | Final day of Navarati, a 10-day celebration of autumn and the goddess Durga <br> Observed with fasting, evening prayers, vegetarian meals, visiting friends and <br> family | Monday, October 23 |
| Diwali | Hindu festival of lights which celebrates victory of light over |  |


|  | darkness Observed with gift exchanges, festive meals, and fireworks |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Veterans Day | Federal holiday observed annually on November 11, for honoring military veterans - all persons who have served in the United States Armed Forces | Saturday, November 11 |
| Thanksgiving | Federal holiday to commemorate "first" thanksgiving when the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest In 1863 Abraham Lincoln declared a day of National Thanksgiving in November | Thursday, November 23 |
| Hanukkah* | Jewish festival of lights which commemorates the rededication of the temple by the Maccabees Observed with celebratory meals, lighting of the menorah candles, and gift exchanges | December 7 - December 15 (Thursday - Friday) |
| Winter Solstice | Shortest day of the year in the northern hemisphere - considered a turning point in many cultures <br> Observed with festivals, fires, spending time with family | Thursday, December 21 |
| Christmas Day | Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ Observed with religious ceremonies, worship, gift exchanges, family celebrations | Monday, December 25 |
| Kwanzaa | African American and Pan-African holiday celebrating African heritage, family, community and culture Observed with festive meals, and gift exchanges | December 26- January 1 <br> (Tuesday - Monday) |
| New Year's Day | Celebration of the New Year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars | Monday, January 1 |
| Orthodox Christmas | Celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ (date is associated with the Julian calendar). Observed with religious ceremonies, worship, gift exchanges, and celebratory meals. | Sunday, January 7 |
| Martin Luther King Day | Federal holiday to commemorate the life and legacy of civil rights activist Martin Luther King | Monday, January 15 |
| Chinese New Year/Lunar New Year | Pan Asian Celebration- Celebrates the beginning of a new year in the Chinese calendar Observed with family reunions, festive meals, and gift-giving | Saturday, February 10 |
| Isra \& Miraj * | Within Islam, Isra and Mi'raj, celebrated on the 27th day of the 7th month of the Muslim calendar, refers to a miraculous nighttime journey undertaken by the Prophet Muhammad, in two legs. First from Mecca to Jerusalem, and then from Jerusalem to the heavens | Saturday February 17 |
| Ash Wednesday | Marks the beginning of the 40-day season of Lent Religious ceremony includes ashes on the forehead of observers to mark regret for past sins | Wednesday, February 14 |
| Presidents Day | Federal Holiday to celebrate George Washington and Abraham Lincoln | Monday, February 19 |
| Ramadan Begins* | Ninth month of the Islamic lunar year and the time in which Muslims observe 30 days of fast from sunrise to sunset Ritual evening meal to break the fast | Sunday, March 10 |
| Holi* | Celebration of Spring and Color Observed through a festival of colors (showering of colors) and lighting of fires | March 24 - March 25 <br> (Sunday - Monday) |
| Nowruz | Celebration of the Zoroastrian and Persian New Year | March 20- March 21 (Wednesday - Thursday) |


| Palm Sunday | Christian celebration of the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and beginning of Holy Week <br> Observed by worship celebrations and includes palm branches | Sunday, March 24 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Good Friday | Remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ <br> Observed solemnly with fasting, religious ceremonies, refrain from work |  |
| Easter | Celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ <br> Observed with religious ceremonies, festive meals | Friday, March 29 |
| Laylat al-Qadr | The night that the first verses of the Qu'ran were revealed to the Prophet <br> Mohammad. <br> It is considered to be the holiest night of the year for Muslims and marks the night <br> that the first verses of the Qur'an were revealed to the Prophet Mohammed. | Sunday, March 31 |
| Eid al-Fitr* Ramadan Ends | Conclusion of Ramadan <br> Celebrated prayers and feasting to break the fast | Saturday April 6 |
| Patriots Day | State-wide holiday to commemorate the first battles of the American Revolutionary <br> War | Monday, April 15 |
| Passover* | Celebration of the delivery of Jewish people from slavery in Egypt <br> Observed with festive ritual family meals; only consume unleavened <br> grains | April 22 - April 30 <br> (Monday - Tuesday) |
| Orthodox Good Friday | Remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ <br> Observed solemnly with fasting, religious ceremonies, refrain from work | Friday, May 3 |
| Orthodox Easter | Celebration of resurrection of Jesus Christ <br> Observed solemnly with fasting, religious ceremonies, retrain from work | Sunday, May 5 |
| Buddha Day | One of the most important Buddhist days which celebrates the birthday of the Buddha <br> Observed by religious ceremonies at the Temple and meditation | Wednesday, May 15 |
| Vesak | Vesak, also known as Buddha Jayanti, Buddha Purnima and Buddha Day. The festival <br> commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Gautama Buddha in <br> Theravada, Tibetan Buddhism and Navayana | Thursday May 23 |
| Eid Ul Adha | Federal holiday to honor the military personnel who died while serving in the United <br> States <br> Armed Forces. | Monday, May 27 |
| Juneteenth | Jewish celebration of Moses' descent from Mt Sinai with the ten commandments. <br> Plants and flowers are used in decorations | June 11 - June 13 <br> (Tuesday - Thursday) |
| Holiday which celebrates Ibrahim's devotion to Allah through his willingness to <br> sacrifice his <br> son Ismail. | June 16 - June 17 <br> (Sunday - Monday) |  |
| Federal holiday to celebrate the emancipation of African American slaves. | Wednesday, June 19 |  |

* all observances begin at sundown

Please note, observant Jews celebrate the second, seventh, eighth days of Passover; the second, eighth, and ninth days of Sukkot; and two days of Shavuot (Mass Lawyers Diary Manual)

