



Ardsley School District

Religious Holidays and Cultural Events & Calendar Presentation

Presented by Superintendent Schoenfeld

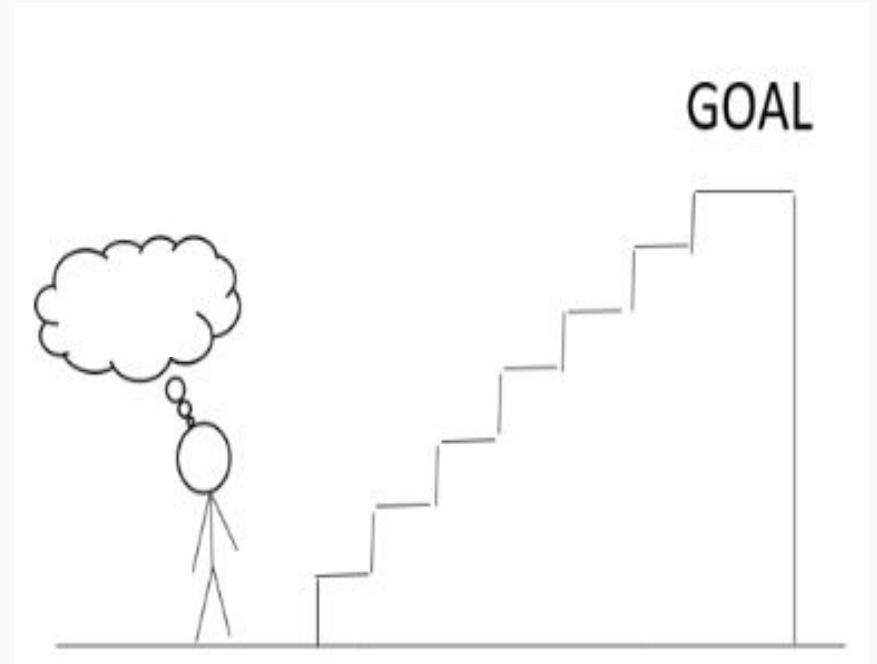
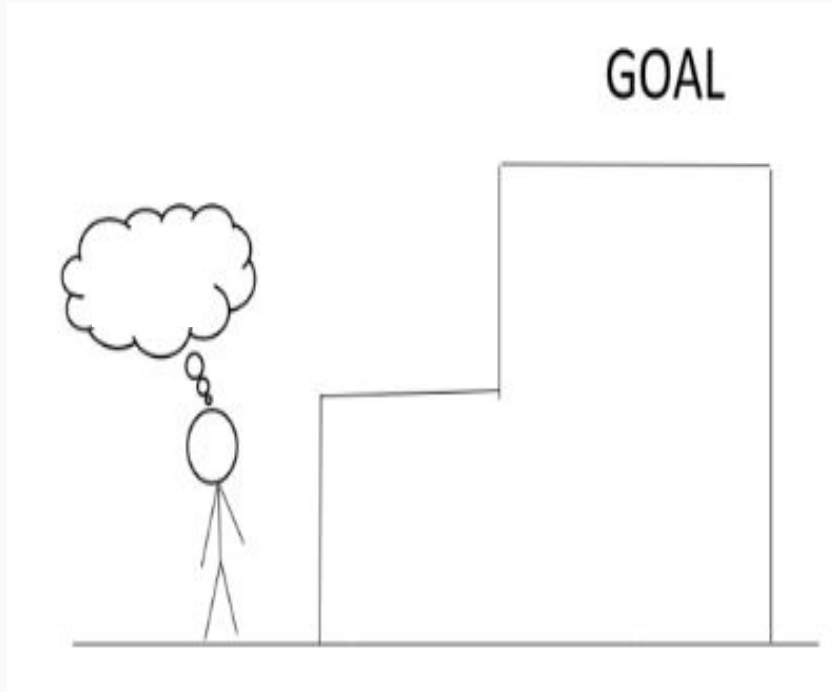
March 14, 2023

Presented at the Board of Education Meeting

Religious Holidays and Cultural Events

- There have been various **data points** shared and gained during the past **handful of years**.
- **Enrollment demographics have changed** in the Ardsley School District - ethnicity and religious beliefs.
- Individuals have voiced a **desire for the calendar to be more inclusive**.
- Our district is focused on providing a “**Welcoming and Affirming Environment**”.

Steps to assess and move toward our GOAL



Steps to assess and move toward our goal

Formalized Data Collection - Qualitative and Quantitative:

Focus Group - approx. 65: students, parents, administration, board trustees

Survey - 1,206 respondents:

- students 257 (21%), parents 787 (65%),
faculty/staff 185 (15%), & community 43 (4%)

Focus Group - Qualitative Data

It's important to have a day off from school so we don't have to worry about education or school work being missed.

1) Why is it important for you to have a holiday that you celebrate as a day off from school?

It's hard to skip out of school to celebrate our traditions. It's important to have a holiday that we can celebrate our traditions in.

It is respectful to your culture

It's important to have a day off from school so we don't have to worry about education or school work being missed.

1) Meaningful Observance (Cultural, Religious, Hinduism)

2) To continue to celebrate our Heritage
3) Holiday celebrating our Holiday gives us a deeper meaning to Diversity to be recognized and celebrate Indian Heritage

4) To Recognize, Respect all the Contributions of Diverse members that make up Ardsley!

5) So that we don't have to choose between Culture and education.

6) Teaching our cultural practice with actual experiencing it rather than just a theory.

7) So that our strong culture & rich traditions of Hinduism stand STRONG in future until 9023 !!

7] So that our strong culture & rich traditions of Hinduism stand STRONG in future until 9023 !!

8) To foster acceptance of all culture & diversities.

To build stronger connections with family, friends.

SO THAT CHILDREN DO NOT FEEL LIKE OTHER

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

11) To celebrate togetherness & diversity of being

12) It helps more people learn about their cultures and others learn as well

13) To make children feel included

Meet family and friends
Go to temple
Do decorations

An opportunity for all students to learn about our diverse communities

VERY LESS TIME in school calendar for cultural work, holiday to learn, understand the culture, practice it, to establish

Band with family overseas. To go to Temple

Community

Affirmation of identity

We have over 100 days of school we could have a holiday off

We can celebrate with others in our community & we feel like our culture & religion are recognized by the holiday community.

OUR PRIDE

OUR CULTURE would feel more festive!

Yes with our holiday

For some breaks, yes,
but not all.

Yes! ✓✓✓✓✓

I think all original
breaks should stay ★★

Yes, as a student, a break
is all I need to keep going
and doing my best.

Yes, since with long breaks
we actually can refresh
and not keep thinking
about school.

Yes kids need
a certain break

4) During the school
year there are
typically full weeks
of school off
(holiday break,
winter break, &
spring break). Is it
important to keep
these as full week's
off from school?

Yes ☺

NO

YES!!!

NO

You can take 1-2 days
off the start of
summer.

Not wedded to these breaks
but I can understand that
some families are.

YES, *

these are good. Inclusive calendar
for family bonding week-long breaks

YES!!!

Yes, but not at the
expense of treating
communities equitably.

NO
- kids need
a break

I think there can be
some flexibility with
the February break.
This would free up days
for additional holidays.

YES!!!

Yes! ✓✓✓
★
* YES!!!
Students need
break!

No, adding flexibility
the schedule will be
beneficial

Yes!

2022-2023 - School Start Day 2023
Perfect!

NO!!!

We should start school
the same way we
always do!

YES!!

Yes
of course

NO!!!

YES!

Yes
amirite!

NO

YES!

YES!

It's a really bad idea!!!

Yes

* Yes

Yes, we can
either but
add 2nd end

YES!

No - it gets too
hot in June and
too hot in
August

Yes
End school
later in the
year!

Yes

Start Early
rather than ending late.
School
is
Low
Evolution!

We can
start earlier
than Labor Day!

NO

I love
Camp!

Yes please
it gets
boring
without
school

End later
Start early
finish early

YES

No adjustment to
Labor Day!
Up to 2 days extra
at year.

I will lose
a day of
summer
break

No H/W
Needs time to celebrate

No School Re-Entry
Work during holidays
Expt of competing kids

No!!!

Students always do

Projects! I think we

Should have homework

because when you are celebrating

you will worry about the

Keep competition

available to NO

students because there

can be optional.

I think there

of a break with

No share your

Culture instead

No homework

Takes away

from time to

celebrate

Short Vacation

We should differentiate

a vacation and a holiday.

GIVE
SPACE TO CELEBRATE

6) Education is a primary part of what schools provide. During a vacation or declared holiday should there be no homework, assigned projects, competitions, tests on the following day? And why?

Yes, there should be no H/W. Children need to be there.

Yes, as far as possible since we want kids to utilize this time for family bonding, learn their culture/traditions with full heart & interest.

children work really hard on these h/w's!

No H/W projects either

Does not matter

Do the same as for current holidays. Competitions are OK to keep!

Yes, No homework

* NO projects, Competitions

* NO projects, Competitions

100% off

No Homework, kids Use time

off to Focus on Extracurriculars

We should

have some sort of work

but OK for recess time

the material.

No there shouldn't be any

tests after a holiday

No there should not

because when people try

and celebrate later on

they will be too tired

and lazy to study.

No except some light summer projects

No for following and prior days

Days from summer can be taken off

Days from summer can be taken off

Before Labor Day. OK

Just Early dismissal

days 2/3 or use teachers comp day

Coinciding Cultural Holidays with Superintendent Day off!

Teacher's conference

Day → Use for kids holiday.

Reduce one of the full

weak breaks!

Andsky Community diversity should

be reflected in religious vacations

We can at least recognize some holidays by mentioning on calendar.

We can have a few choice holidays

Have days off for overlapping holidays!

Use 10 big breaks like winter, summer etc for breaks

Mutual respect to each religion

Same number of cultural holidays for each culture!

Avoid Communalism!

Inviting community input on these decisions, with the multiple constraints made transparent

7) With a limited number of vacation days that can be recognized during a school year how can a thoughtful calendar be accomplished?

I would take one day from summer because its so long.

Use 10 big breaks like winter, summer etc for breaks

Mutual respect to each religion

Same number of cultural holidays for each culture!

Avoid Communalism!

Inviting community input on these decisions, with the multiple constraints made transparent

Have days off for overlapping holidays!

We can have a few choice holidays

We can at least recognize some holidays by mentioning on calendar.

Andsky Community diversity should

be reflected in religious vacations

Reduce one of the full

weak breaks!

Teacher's conference

Day → Use for kids holiday.

Cutting down on who has more than 2-3 days

How would you rank these in order of importance:

1. Maintain first/last day
2. Maintain existing full week breaks
3. Maintain consistency from year to year

Make December break longer? **None**

Should we have a different set of holidays?

What does the holiday mean to you?

The same survey to get opinion of from learning community.

How Important is it to understand and celebrate cultures different from yours?

Are you currently satisfied with the holidays that are officially recognized by the district?

What is worth Ardley celebrating the holiday you want?

Are you happy with the decisions that the school are making?

Do you feel like your religious holiday is important to our community?

I think the same survey should be sent.

Should Wednesday be a short?

- recover 2-3 days in school year

Please share cultural and religious observations

8) If we were to send a follow up survey to our learning community what is a question that would be worth asking?

What is the time range of the holiday?

None

Currently, are all of the holidays you celebrate recognized in the district calendar?

Which holidays should be observed?

Do you think your culture and you are respected and accepted in this school?

Would you be ok to add another holiday to our school calendar, and starting the summer later by one day?

#6 It is **important to understand religious holidays** and **cultural celebrations different from mine.**

Strongly Agree & Agree

90%

Strongly Disagree & Disagree

2%

Neither Agree Nor Disagree

8%

#2 During the school year, there are typically **full weeks of vacation** (holiday break, winter break, and spring break). It is important to **keep these as full weeks off from school**.

Strongly Agree & Agree

87%

Strongly Disagree & Disagree

4%

Neither Agree Nor Disagree

9%

#5 During a vacation or declared holiday, there should be **no** homework, assigned projects, competitions, or tests **on the following day**.

Strongly Agree & Agree

83%

Strongly Disagree & Disagree

6%

Neither Agree Nor Disagree

11%

#4 For **consistency purposes**, we should **maintain the same school holidays** from school year to school year.

Strongly Agree & Agree

72%

Strongly Disagree & Disagree

9%

Neither Agree Nor Disagree

20%

#7 The **holidays that I celebrate are recognized** in the current school calendar.

Strongly Agree & Agree

62%

Strongly Disagree & Disagree

27%

Neither Agree Nor Disagree

11%

#8 The current school calendar **negatively impacts** my ability to **properly observe occasions** (religious holidays and cultural celebrations), as I customarily do.

Strongly Agree & Agree

24%

Strongly Disagree & Disagree

57%

Neither Agree Nor Disagree

19%

#3 I am **willing to begin school before Labor Day** and/or **end school later in June** to **allow for additional days off** during the school year.

Strongly Agree & Agree

32%

Strongly Disagree & Disagree

55%

Neither Agree Nor Disagree

13%

#9 What **additional religious holidays and cultural celebrations** should be considered as **a day off from school**?

Persian New Year holidays cultural celebrations
holidays celebrated accommodate acknowledged Monday Easter Ash Wednesday
cultures Jewish holidays school calendar Eid al-Fitr day Thanksgiving Halloween
Monday Good Friday end school year fall considered day school don't
able first day Holi Chinese New Year religious holidays
Patrick's Day even considered Lunar New Year Easter Monday one calendar district
Christmas also celebrate **Diwali** days many know perhaps Labor Day
Hindu major time school **None** week religious believe Passover
Ardsley longer NA Diwali Holi Eid holidays **N** think need Hanukkah start Purim
additional Ramadan family sure day Easter us important going work following
Saints Day great days school see year recognized feel already celebrations Christmas Eve
Good Friday Easter observed least children will religions last day
St. Patrick's Day public school Friday Easter Monday
school district Islamic holidays day Easter Sunday Winter break

#10 What religious holidays and cultural celebrations, which are currently **not a day off from school, should be considered as a day to recognize** in our district in another way?





Drafted School Calendars for:

2023-2024

2024-2025

2025-2026

2027-2028

2028-2029

Current Holidays (Bold = Federal Holidays):

Rosh Hashanah

Yom Kippur

Columbus/Indigenous People's Day

Veteran's Day

Christmas

Kwanzaa

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

President's Day

Good Friday

Easter

Passover

Memorial Day

Juneteenth

Proposed Holidays:

Calendar Years	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Diwali					
Lunar New Year					
Eid al-Fitr					

Key:

During Week	
On Weekend	

September - December

Supt. Conf. Day # 1 & 2:
Wed. 8/30 & Thu. 8/31

First Day Students:
Tue. 9/5

Supt. Conf. Day #3:
Tue. 11/7

Diwali:
Sun. 11/12

Early Dismissal Students
11/22

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4
Independence Day

30-31
Superintendent Conference Day

Student Days: 0
Teacher Days: 2

4
Labor Day

5
Schools Open

15-17
Rosh Hashanah
Yom Kippur

Student Days: 18
Teacher Days: 18

2
Superintendent Conference Day

10
Veterans Day

12
Divali

23-24
Early Dismissal
Thanksgiving Break-Closed

Student Days: 18
Teacher Days: 18

7
1st Night of Hanukkah

25-29
Christmas
Holiday Break

26
1st Day of Kwanzaa

Student Days: 16
Teacher Days: 16

JANUARY 2024 <table> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				FEBRUARY 2024 <table> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30													
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1
New Year's Day

1-2
Holiday Break

15
M.L. King, Jr. Day

Student Days: 20
Teacher Days: 20

10
Lunar New Year

19
President's Day

19-23
Winter Break-Closed

Student Days: 16
Teacher Days: 16

10
1st Night of Ramadan

15
Superintendent Conference Day

25
Holi

25-29
Spring Break

29
Good Friday

31
Easter

Student Days: 15
Teacher Days: 16

10
Eid al-Fitr

22-23
Passover

Student Days: 19
Teacher Days: 19

27
Memorial Day

Student Days: 22
Teacher Days: 22

17
Eid al-Adha

19
Juneteenth

26
Last Day of School for Students

26
Early Dismissal CRRS & A/VIS

26
Rating Day

Holiday or Vacation Period	Supt. Conf. Day/Workshop-Teachers Only	Early Dismissal

Calendar contains 182 days of student attendance, 4 Superintendent Conference Days & 1 Rating Day, for a total of 186 days for teachers. If, due to emergency closings, the number of student contact days falls below 180, the days will be made up in this order: March 15th, March 25th, March 26th. NO VACATION PLANS SHOULD BE MADE FOR THESE MAKE-UP DAYS. BOE approved 3/23.

January - December

Return form Break:
Wed. 1/3

Lunar New Year:
Sat. 2/10

Spring Break:
3/25 - 3/29

Eid al-Fitr:
Wed. 4/10

Early Dismissal CRS & AMS and AHS Rating Day (no sts.):
Wed. 6/26

NOTE: The 2023-2024 School Calendar is pending Board approval on 3/28/23



**Thank you for your participation and
support during this process**