
CALIFON PUBLIC SCHOOL

"Making Their Lives Extraordinary"

Kathleen M. Prystash, Ed.D
Chief School Administrator/Principal
(908) 832-2828 Ext. 210

Dennis Oblack, CPA
Business Administrator/Board Secretary
(908) 832-2828 Ext. 213

March 18, 2008

Dear Parents:

Outlined below is the protocol developed by the State of New Jersey Department of Education for reporting your child absent from school due to a religious holiday.

- 1. Any pupil absent from school because of a religious holiday may not be deprived of any award or of eligibility or opportunity to compete for any award because of such absence.**
- 2. Pupils who miss a test or examination because of an absence on a religious holiday must be given the right to take an alternate test or examination.**
- 3. To be entitled to the privileges set forth above, the pupil must present a written excuse signed by a parent or guardian.**
- 4. Any absence because of a religious holiday must be recorded in the school register or in any group or class attendance record as an excused absence.**

If your child will be absent from school on Friday, March 21, 2008 due to your religious beliefs, a note from you stating that must be received by the school office. When that note is received, we will mark your child's absence as "excused".

I've attached a list of Religious Holidays for the 2007-08 school year that was adopted by the New Jersey State Board of Education.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Prystash, Ed.D
Chief School Administrator

KMP:bet
Attachment

RESOLUTION

The List of Religious Holidays Permitting Pupil Absence from School

WHEREAS, according to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14 through 16 and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(j);, regarding pupil absence from school because of religious holidays, the Commissioner of Education, with the approval of the State Board of Education, is charged with the responsibility of prescribing such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of the law; and

WHEREAS, the law provides that:

1. Any pupil absent from school because of a religious holiday may not be deprived of any award or of eligibility or opportunity to compete for any award because of such absence;
2. Pupils who miss a test or examination because of absence on a religious holiday must be given the right to take an alternate test or examination;
3. To be entitled to the privileges set forth above, the pupil must present a written excuse signed by a parent or person standing in place of a parent;
4. Any absence because of a religious holiday must be recorded in the school register or in any group or class attendance record as an excused absence;
5. Such absence must NOT be recorded on any transcript or application or employment form or on any similar form; and
6. The Commissioner, with the approval of the State Board of Education, is required to:

(a) prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act; and

(b) prepare a list of religious holidays on which it shall be mandatory to excuse a pupil. The list, however, is to be a minimum list. Boards of education, at their discretion, may add other days to the list for the schools of their districts; and

WHEREAS, the district board of education has the right to add any bona fide religious holiday to the list for its own schools; now therefore be it,

RESOLVED that the State Board of Education adopts the following list of religious holidays for the 2007-2008 school year:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| September 1 | Day of Ascension (Isra and Miraj) (Islamic)
First Consecration of the Guru Granth Sahib ji, the Sikh Scripture |
| September 7 | His Holiness Sakya Trizin's birth date (Buddhist) |
| September 7 | Ganesha Chaturthi (Hindu) |
| September 13-14 | Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) |
| September 13 | Ramadan begins |
| September 14 | The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Eastern, Greek, Russian Orthodox) |
| September 19 | The Night of Power 9 (Laylatul Qadr) (Islamic) |
| September 22 | Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) (Jewish) |
| September 23 | Feast of Trumpets (World Wide Church of God, United Church of God and Global Church of God) |
| September 27-28 | Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles) (Jewish) |
| October 2 | Day of Atonement (World Wide Church of God, United Church of God and Global Church of God) |
| October 4 | Shemini Atzeret (Eighth Day of Sukkot) (Jewish) |

October 5	Simhat Torah (Rejoicing of the Law) (Jewish)
October 7-13	First Day through Seventh Day Feast of Tabernacles (World Wide Church of God, United Church of God and Global Church of God)
October 13	Eid-al-Fitr (Islamic)/ September 30 - Dussera (Hindu)
October 14	Last Great Day (World Wide Church of God, United Church of God and Global Church of God)
October 20	Birth of the Bab (Baha'i)
October 20	Joint-Sovereignty of Guru Granth and Guru Panth declared to Guide the Sikh people
October 20	Guruship of Guru Granth Sahib ji declared by 10th Guru (Sikh)
October 20 - 23	Deepavali (Hindu)
October 31	Reformation Day (Protestant, Lutheran)
November 1	All Saints Day (Roman Catholic, Protestant & Lutheran)
November 2	All Souls Day (Roman Catholic)
November 12	Birth of the Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
November 15	Guru Nanak Dev ji's birth date (Sikh)
November 24	Guru Tegh Bahadur dev ji's Martyrdom (Sikh)
December 5	First Day of Hanukkah (Jewish)
December 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Roman Catholic)
December 8	Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
December 20	Eid-al-Adha (Day of Sacrifice) (Islamic)
December 25	Christmas (Roman Catholic, Protestant, Eastern, Greek and Russian Orthodox)
December 26	Kwanzaa
January 1	New Year's Day
January 5	Gukru Gobind Singh ji's birth date (Sikh)
January 6	Feast of the Epiphany (Roman Catholic, Eastern, Greek and Russian Orthodox)
January 6	Christmas (Armenian)
January 10	Muharram (New Year) (Islamic)
January 14	Makara Sankranti (Hindu)
January 19	Day of Ashurah (10th Day) (Islamic)
January 22	Mahayana New Year (Buddhist)
February 5	Shrove Tuesday
February 6	Ash Wednesday (Roman Catholic, Protestant)
February 7	New Year (Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese)
February 19	Bright Monday (Eastern, Greek and Russian Orthodox)
March 4	Holi (Hindu)
March 6	Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)
March 10	Lent (Eastern Orthodox)
March 19	Chandramana Yugadi
March 20	Holy Thursday (Roman Catholic, Protestant)
March 21	Birthday of the Prophet Muhammad (Islamic)
March 21	Feast of Naw-Ruz (Baha'i and Iranian New Year, also Persian New Year and Heritage Day)
March 21	Good Friday (Roman Catholic, Protestant, Lutheran, Eastern, Greek and Russian Orthodox))
March 21	Purim (Jewish)
March 21	Sikh New Year/Holla Mohalla
March 27	Rama Navami (Hindu)
March 22	Lord's Evening Meal
March 30	Chandramana Yugardi (Hindu)
April 2	Passover (World Wide Church of God, United Church of God and Global

	Church of God)
April 3	First Day of Feast of Unleavened Bread or Passover (World Wide Church of God, United Church of God and Global Church of God)
April 6-14	Rama Navami (Hindu)
April 14	Souramana Yugadi (Hindu)
April 14	Khalsa formation day and Vaisakhi
April 20-21	First Two Days of Pesach (Passover) (Jewish)
April 21	First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
April 24	Memorial Day (Armenian)
April 25	The 11th Panchen Lama's birthday (Buddhist)
April 27	Good Friday (Lutheran, Eastern, Greek and Russian Orthodox)
April 26 -27	Last Two Days of Pesach (Passover) (Jewish)
May 1	Ascension Day (Eastern Orthodox, Greek and Russian Orthodox, Roman Catholic & Protestant)
May 2	The 12th Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
May 2	Buddha's birthday (Buddhist)
May 23	Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)
May 27	Day of Pentecost (World Wide Church of God, United Church of God and Global Church of God)
May 29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
June 9-10	Shavuot (Feast of Weeks) 2 days (Jewish)
June 16	Guru Arjun Dev ji's Martyrdom (Sikh)
June 26	His Holiness the 17th Gyalawa Karmapa's (Ugyen Trinley Dorje) birth date (Buddhist)

Lucille E. Davy, Commissioner
Secretary, NJ State Board of Education

Arnold G. Hyndman, Ph.D.
President, NJ State Board of Education