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DATE: April 6, 2010  
TO: All BVSD Teachers and Administrators  
FROM: Ellen Miller-Brown  
Chief Academic Officer  
RE: Expectations Regarding Major Religious Holidays 2010/2011

As part of BVSD's commitment to diversity, teachers and administrators should refrain from scheduling events, assignments, and assessments that might interfere with a student's ability to recognize a spiritual holiday.

Examples of past experiences that families have cited as problematic include:

- An elementary school picture day on Yom Kippur
- A high school homecoming dance on Rosh Hashanah
- A middle school test scheduled on Good Friday

The attached planning calendar has been developed to help teachers and administrators avoid conflicts when planning lessons, assignments, assessments, and school-wide events.

Staff should consult this calendar when planning to ensure that major spiritual holidays do not conflict with due dates for assignments, test dates, or other significant events.

Though we can't list all religious holidays, accommodations should also be made for students of non-dominant religions when conflicts impact their ability to recognize their spiritual holidays. For holidays not listed, accommodations should be made when requested on a case-by-case basis.

When conflicts do occur, teachers should be as flexible and accommodating as possible to ensure that all students can celebrate their religious traditions equally.

**In addition to listing major spiritual holidays, the attached planning calendar has other significant dates that should be helpful as you plan your school year. A level meetings schedule will follow this correspondence.**

**As you begin planning the 2010-2011 calendar specific to your school and classroom, please check the below dates for conflicts.**

**July 2010**

7/26/10 Administrators Return

**August 2010**

8/11/10 Teachers return

8/11 – 16 (2.5 days) Dist. Professional Development

8/10/10 (at sunset) Ramadan begins, ending 9/9/10 (at sundown)

**September 2010**

9/6/10 Labor Day

9/8/10 (at sunset) Rosh Hashanah begins

9/9/10 Ramadan Ends (at sunset)

9/8/10 (at sunset) through 9/10/10 at sun down)\* Rosh Hashanah

9/16 – 17/2010 Elementary Assessment Days

9/17/2010 Secondary Assessment Days (6-12)

9/18/10 Yom Kippur (begins at sundown 9/17/10)\*

**October 2010**

10/1/2010 October Count

**November 2010**

11/7/10 Daylight Savings Ends

11/11/10 Veterans Day (PD workday for certified staff)

11/16 – 11/20/10 Festival of Sacrifice (Muslim Observance)

11/22-23/10 Parent Conf. Exchange Day/ No school for students

11/24/10 Vacation Day

11/25/10 Thanksgiving Day

11/26/10 Vacation Day (No School)

**December 2010**

12/1/10 (sundown) through 12/9/10 Hanukah

12/20/10 – 1/4/2011 Winter Break

12/18/10 CU Commencement

12/26/10 – 1/1/11 Kwanzaa Begins

12/24/10 Christmas Eve

12/25/10 Christmas Day

**January 2011**

1/1/11 New Years Day

1/1/11 Kwanza Ends

1/ 3-4/11 Professional Development Days

1/17/11 Martin Luther King Day

## **February 2011**

2/21/11 Presidents Day Holiday  
2/25/11 Professional Development Day

## **March 2011**

3/9/2011 Ash Wednesday  
3/13/11 Daylight Savings Time (Spring Ahead)  
3/21/11 – 3/25/11 Spring Break  
3/28 – 29/11 Conf. Exchange Days

## **April 2011**

4/17 – 4/23/11 Public Schools Volunteer Week  
4/22/11 Good Friday  
4/24/11 Easter  
4/19/2011 –Passover begins (ends 4/25/2011)  
4/25/11 Passover Ends\*  
4/29/11 PD Teacher Workday

## **May 2011**

5/5/11 Cinco de Mayo  
5/6/11 CU Commencement  
5/26/11 Last Day for Students  
5/27/11 Last Day for Teachers  
5/30/11 Memorial Day Holiday

## **June 2011**

June 8, 2011 Shavuot\* (begins June 7 at sundown)

\*Jewish holidays begin at sunset the evening before.