

## 2025-2026 Calendar - The Whys Behind the Calendar Decisions

The 2025-2026 calendar is finally ready for distribution. Thank you for your patience. Several dates we consider during calendar creation fell in more complicated ways than in other years and this caused our discernment process to take longer than usual. The next two years, 26-27 and 27-28, are much simpler and will be released in the fall.

### Final 2025-2026 Calendar

Below, I have detailed some notable calendar items:

#### PD Days coinciding with some of the major religious holidays celebrated by members of our community:

- Tuesday, September 23rd - Rosh Hashanah (First Day)
  - Special note: We will have school the previous day, Monday, September 22nd. This aligns with both Minneapolis Public and St. Paul Public school calendars.
- Thursday, October 2nd - Yom Kippur
  - Special note: We will have school the following day, Friday, October 3rd. This also aligns with both Minneapolis Public and St. Paul Public school calendars.
- Friday, March 20th - Eid al-Fitr
  - Special note: This is not a PD day, but the date of the March daytime conferences. We will work with our practicing Muslim families to schedule their Thursday evening conferences prior to sunset.

#### Other PD Days:

- Friday, October 31st - Not a PD day, but October daytime conferences.
- Friday, January 30th - PD/Report Writing
- Friday, February 13th
- Friday, April 17th
- Friday, May 15th

#### Other School Year Closures:

- Thursday-Friday, October 16th-17th - MEA
- Wednesday-Friday, November 26th-28th - Fall Break (The addition of Wednesday off is new this year.)
- Two-Week Winter Break - December 22nd through January 2nd
- Monday, January 19th - MLK Day
- Monday, February 16th - Presidents Day
- One-Week Spring Break - March 30th through April 3rd
  - Special note: This placement aligns with Minneapolis Public next year, but is one week earlier than St. Paul Public. Both Minneapolis and St. Paul spring breaks align with each other in the next two academic calendars.
- Monday, May 25th - Memorial Day

#### An Imperfect Calendar

The 25-26 FSMN Calendar, like most organizational calendars, is not perfect. The following are days that we'd like to have observed in our calendar, but were unable to accommodate this year:

- Diwali
  - Next year Diwali lands on the Tuesday after the Thursday-Friday MEA break in October.

- Observing Diwali would mean school on Monday after a four day weekend and then no school Tuesday or closing both Monday and Tuesday. The latter resulting in a six day weekend.
- Indigenous People's Day
  - This day is always the 2nd Monday of October.
  - MEA break is always the 3rd Thursday of October
  - This means they will always be in the same week whenever October 1st lands on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. This was the case in 2024, and will be the case in 2025 and 2026. They will not land in the same week in 2027-2029.
  - I believe future conversations around the role of MEA break in our school calendar could resolve this conflict.
- Eid-Al-Adha
  - Next year Eid-Al-Adha lands on the Wednesday after Memorial Day.
  - Observing Eid-Al-Adha would mean school on Tuesday after a three day weekend and then no school Wednesday or closing both Tuesday and Wednesday. The latter resulting in a five day weekend.

It is our current practice to align PD days or closures with community celebrated holidays whenever possible. While that is not always possible, please know that student absences due to family celebrations on these unaligned days will always be excused absences.

Again, thank you for your patience as the 25-26 calendar was discerned and developed. The 26-27 and 27-28 calendars will be shared in mid to late fall of the next school year.

Yours,

Joe