

# Religious Holy Days Calendar 2020-2021

The dates listed below are the faith days of particular significance to members of the faith communities in our District as identified through consultation with local community organizations and the Ontario Multifaith Council. Every effort should be made to ensure that school and board examinations/tests are not scheduled on these dates. The Board will refrain from holding events involving parents on religious holy days.

Student absences on days of religious observance will be marked as “G” (grant) days, regardless of whether or not the day(s) of observance is noted in the procedure.

Faith	Holy Day(s)	Date
Baha’i	Ridvan (12 day festival)*	April 20 - May 1, 2021
Buddhism	New Year	January 28, 2021
Christianity (Orthodox)	Christmas – Feast of the Nativity Holy Friday Pascha	January 7, 2021 April 30, 2021 May 2, 2021
Christianity (Western)	Christmas Good Friday Easter	December 25, 2020 April 2, 2021 April 4, 2021
Hinduism	Diwali Festival (5-day festival)	November 14, 2020
Islam	Ramadan Eid-al-Fitr* Eid-al-Adha*	April 13 - May 11, 2021 May 13, 2021 July 20, 2021
Judaism	Rosh Hashanah (2 days)* Yom Kippur* Pesach (Passover)	September 19 – 20, 2020 September 28, 2020 March 27 – April 4, 2021
Sikhism	Baisakhi (Vaisakhi)	April 13, 2021

## Religious Holy Days

\* Means that Holy days begin at sundown the day before this date

Please Note: **Regional customs, group preference or moon phases may cause a variation of date**

\*\*\* *The above list is not an exhaustive list of all religious faiths. The Board acknowledges that other religious faiths can also be accommodated and is willing to do so, based on the provisions outlined in the Religious Accommodation Guideline. For consideration of additional religious accommodations, please contact the school principal or the Superintendent of Education, Lorrie Naar, at 905-632-6300.*



St. Thomas Aquinas  
Catholic Secondary School  
124 Dorval Drive  
Oakville, ON  
L6K 2W1

(905) 842-9494

[sta.hcdsb.org](http://sta.hcdsb.org)

### **Religious Accommodation Requests 2020-2021**

The Halton Catholic District School Board (the Board) believes in the dignity of all people and their equality as children of God. The Board recognizes the importance of freedom of religion and strives to recognize, value and honour the many customs, traditions and beliefs that make up the Catholic community. The Board commits to work with the community it serves to foster an inclusive learning environment and will take all reasonable steps to provide religious accommodation within the legal rights afforded to the Catholic school system.

Students requesting religious accommodations must present verbal or written information from their parents/guardians specifying their accommodation needs relating to religious observances, including holy days on which they will be absent from school. Wherever possible, this notice should be made in advance (preferably at the beginning of each school year) to ensure that scheduling of major evaluations, such as tests, assignments or examinations, takes the religious observances into consideration.

For further information regarding religious accommodations, please do not hesitate to contact the Principal of the school or refer to “Religious Accommodation Requests” on the school website.



St. Thomas Aquinas  
Catholic Secondary School  
124 Dorval Drive  
Oakville, ON  
L6K 2W1

(905) 842-9494

[sta.hcdsb.org](http://sta.hcdsb.org)

### Parent/Guardian Religious Accommodation Request Letter

The Halton Catholic District School Board (the Board) believes in the dignity of all people and their equality as children of God. The Board recognizes the importance of freedom of religion and strives to value and honour the many customs, traditions and beliefs that make up the Catholic community. Freedom of religion is an individual right and a collective responsibility. The Board commits to work with the community it serves to foster an inclusive learning environment that promotes acceptance and protects individuals from discrimination and harassment on the basis of their religion. The Board will take all reasonable steps to provide religious accommodations within the legal rights afforded to the Catholic school system.

Students requesting religious accommodations within these rights are asked to present verbal or written information from their parent/guardians specifying their accommodations. The attached form provides some areas for religious accommodation.

At the beginning of the school year:

- Call your child's school and talk to your child's teacher or principal to let the school know about any religious or creed-based accommodations your child may need, including a list of dates of holy days or observances.
- or
- Submit the attached religious accommodation form to your child's teacher or principal
- The school will keep a record of the conversation or submitted form to accommodate your child's needs.

Where possible accommodation requests should be presented at the beginning of each school year to ensure that scheduling of major evaluations, such as tests, assignments or examinations, takes the religious observances into consideration. Accommodation will be provided in accordance with the principles of dignity, individualization, and inclusion.

Attached is also a list of religious holy days for your reference. It is recognized that the attached list of religious holy days is not exhaustive.

If further information is required regarding Religious Accommodation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mr. A. Perusin

Principal

## RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION REQUEST

The Halton Catholic District is committed to an inclusive learning environment and strives to ensure respect for the diverse religious beliefs and practices of students and their families within our school communities. Requests for accommodation can be made verbally or in writing. The following are examples of accommodation requests. Please contact your child's teacher or principal regarding your child's specific accommodation requests.

SCHOOL NAME:			DATE:	
STUDENT NAME:				
PARENT/GURADIAN/ADULT STUDENT NAME			SIGNATURE:	

### Classroom/ School Accommodations

- **Assessments/Examinations**

*Example: My child will be absent on exam/test date due to religious or creed-based observance. What alternatives are available?*

Family Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

- **Dietary Requirements & Fasting**

*Example: My child may require adjustments to their daily schedule/ activities due to fasting.*

Family Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

- **Items of Ceremonial Dress & Modesty**

*Example: My child wears ceremonial dress (e.g. a kippah, hijab, kirpan, etc.) as part of their religious observation.*

Family Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

- **In-School Prayer/ Creed-based Observances/ Practices**

*Example: During the school day, my child requires a space to pray/ carry out faith observances at the following times...*

Family Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

- **Participation in School-wide Activities**

*Example: My child would like to participate in \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. dances, photo days, graduation, etc.) but the dates conflict with our religious based observances. Can the dates be adjusted?*

Family Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

- **Smudging**

*Example: My child begins the day with smudging.*

Family Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

- **Other Area (s) to discuss (turn page for additional space)**

\_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE USE ONLY—PLEASE FILE IN OSR

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS REGARDING ACCOMMODATIONS:**

[illegible]

**SCHOOL ACTION PLAN (OFFICE USE ONLY):**

[illegible]