

Religious Expression Policy

OHVA respects and values each persons sincerely held religious beliefs and practices for reasons of faith or religious or spiritual belief system.

- Students will be permitted to be absent for up to three religious expression days each school year to take holidays for reasons of faith or religious or spiritual belief system, or participate in organized activities conducted under the auspices of a religious denomination, church or other religious or spiritual organization. The student's parent or guardian must submit written notice to the principal of up to three specific dates for which alternative accommodations are requested. This request must be submitted either within 14 days of the first day of school, or if a student transfers to or enrolls after the first day of school, within 14 days of the transfer or enrollment.
- Upon approval of a written request, the school administrator will require the appropriate teacher or teachers to adjust the due dates for any alternative examination or other academic requirement the approved religious expression day absence creates a conflict for. This accommodation may be before or after the originally scheduled date.
- Students will be permitted to participate in interscholastic athletics or other extracurricular activities on days in which the student was otherwise absent for a religious expression day.

OHVA will post and communicate this policy to families and students annually. These three religious expression days do not count toward parental notification requirements under [ORC 3321.191 \(C\)\(1\)](#) for excessive absences.

Pursuant to [Ohio Revised Code 3320.04](#), which becomes effective on Oct. 24, 2024, OHVA has adopted the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce non-exhaustive list of major religious holidays for the next two school years, that will posted on the OHVA website.

Grievance Procedure- A student or parent/guardian may submit a written grievance to the OHVA Head of School or designee regarding the implementation of this policy. The written grievance must include a statement identifying the specific part of the policy the school has allegedly violated, including facts supporting the allegation.

Non-exhaustive List of Major Religious Holidays

Rosh Hashanah	Oct. 2-4, 2024	Sept. 22-24, 2025
Yom Kippur	Oct. 11-12, 2024	Oct. 1-2, 2025
Diwali	Oct. 31 - Nov 1, 2024	Oct. 20-21, 2025
Hanukkah	Dec. 25, 2024 - Jan. 2, 2025	Dec. 21-29, 2025
Ramadan	Feb. 28 - March 30, 2025	Feb. 17 - March 18, 2026
Ash Wednesday	March 5, 2025	Feb. 18, 2026
Eid al-Fitr	March 29-30, 2025	March 19-20, 2026
Pesach (Passover)	April 12-20, 2025	April 1-9, 2026
Good Friday	April 18, 2025	April 3, 2026
Easter	April 20, 2025	April 5, 2026
Eid al-Adha	June 6-7, 2025	May 26-27, 2026