

RELIGIOUS and CULTURAL HOLIDAY and SPRING BREAK POLICY
Effective 2020-21 school year

In order to take full advantage of the number of school days necessary to fulfill our curriculum with the greatest number of students in attendance, Germantown Academy will close on the following days whenever they fall on school days: the first day of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Good Friday. Depending on the year and how the calendar falls, our spring break will range from 7 school vacation days to 10 school vacation days. Spring break will always include two weekends; in years with 10 days off, it will include three weekends. Replacing these additional days off for religious holidays with spring break days enables our school to meet the annual minimum requirement of school days and allows teachers to prepare students effectively for national assessments given in May.

As per GA policy and tradition, students who celebrate other religious holidays which fall on open school days will receive an excused absence for that day and an extension on missed work. Parents are asked to always give advance notice when a student is going to miss school for a religious holiday and to follow the regular attendance requirements of their division(s).

Note: GA will continue to hold Upper School varsity athletic practices and travel over spring break regardless of the length of the break in order to be prepared for our league schedule (which normally commences right after break). Typically the first four days of spring break will be the 'blackout period' (no games or practices) unless the timing of religious holidays requires a shift.

Eid al-Adha

- Sundown Thursday evening, July 30, 2020, through Monday evening, August 3, 2020.

Rosh Hashanah

- Sundown Friday, September 18, 2020, through sundown Sunday, September 20, 2020.
- No homework, tests, papers, quizzes, or projects may be assigned for Monday, September 21, 2020.

Yom Kippur (School closed Monday, September 28, 2020.)

- Sundown Sunday, September 27, 2020, through sundown Monday, September 28, 2020.
- No homework, tests, papers, quizzes, or projects may be assigned for Tuesday, September 29, 2020.

Diwali

- Sundown Saturday, November 14, through sundown Sunday, November 15, 2020.

Thanksgiving

- Wednesday, November 25, 2020 (11:50am dismissal), through Monday, November 30, 2020.
- Monday, November 30, 2020 (No Classes), is an In-Service Day for faculty and staff. No games will be scheduled for Monday, November 30, 2020.
- No tests, papers, quizzes, projects, or homework may be assigned for Tuesday, December 1, 2020.

Chanukah

- Sundown Thursday, December 10, 2020, through sundown Friday, December 18, 2020.

Winter Break

- Saturday, December 19, 2020, through Sunday, January 3, 2021.
- Return to school on Monday, January 4, 2021.
- No homework, tests, quizzes, papers, or projects may be assigned over Winter Break.

Lunar New Year

- Friday, February 12, 2021.

Spring Break

- Saturday, March 20, 2021, through Sunday, April 4, 2021.
- Classes resume on Monday, April 5, 2021.
- No homework, tests, quizzes, papers, or projects may be assigned over Spring Break.

Passover

- Sundown Saturday, March 27, 2021, through sundown Sunday, April 4, 2021.

Good Friday

- Friday, April 2, 2021.

Easter

- Sunday, April 4, 2021.

Easter Monday

- Monday, April 5, 2021.

Ramadan

- Sundown Monday, April 12, 2021, through sundown Tuesday, May 11, 2021.

Eid al-Fitr

- Sundown Wednesday, May 12, 2021 through sundown Thursday, May 13, 2021.

Juneteenth

- Saturday, June 19, 2021.

Please consult your Division Head(s) regarding academic policies for national holiday weekends in which Germantown Academy is closed:

Martin Luther King Day – Monday, January 18, 2021

Presidents' Day – Monday, February 15, 2021

Memorial Day – Monday, May 31, 2021

(Revised July 24, 2020)