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DATE: May 13, 2009  
TO: All BVSD Teachers and Administrators  
FROM: Ellen Miller-Brown  
Deputy Superintendent  
RE: Expectations Regarding Major Religious Holidays 2009/2010

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. Please refer to the BVSD Outlook "master calendar" for a listing of all district meetings.**

**As you begin planning the 2009-2010 calendar specific to your school and classroom, please check the below dates for conflicts.**

### **July 2009**

7/27/09 Administrators Return  
7/28/2009 DLT (7:30 – 12:00)

### **August 2009**

8/4/09 DLT (1:00 – 5:00 p.m.)  
8/12/09 Teachers return  
8/12, 13, 14, and 17 Dist. Professional Development for all staff  
8/20/09 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
8/21/09 (at sunset) Ramadan begins, ending 9/19/09 (at sundown)  
8/27/09 Administrators Visit Schools Day

### **September 2009**

9/3/09 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
9/7/09 Labor Day  
9/8/09 DLT (7:30 – 9:30)  
9/10/09 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
9/17/09 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
9/18/09 (at sunset) Rosh Hashanah begins  
9/18/09 (at sunset) through 9/20/09 at sundown )\* Rosh Hashanah  
9/18/09 Professional Development Day  
9/19/09 (sunset) Ramadan Ends  
9/24/09 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
9/27/09 (begins at sundown and ends 9/28/09) Yom Kippur\*

### **October 2009**

10/1/09 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
10/8/09 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
10/13/09 DLT (7:30 – 9:30)  
10/15/09 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
10/22/09 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
10/29/09 Administrators Visit Schools Day

### **November 2009**

11/8/09 Daylight Savings Ends  
11/5/09 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
11/10/09 DLT (7:30 – 9:30)  
11/11/09 Veterans Day  
11/12/09 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
11/19 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
11/23 – 25 Parent Conf. Exchange Day/ No school for students  
11/26/09 Thanksgiving Day  
11/27/09 Vacation Day (No School)  
11/27 – 11/30/09 Festival of Sacrifice (Muslim Observance)

## **December 2009**

12/3/09 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
12/8/90 DLT (7:30 – 9:30)  
12/11 (sundown) through 12/19/09 Hanukah  
12/21/09 – 1/1/10 Winter Break  
12/18/09 CU Commencement  
12/26/09 – 1/1/10 Kwanzaa Begins  
12/24/09 Christmas Eve  
12/25/09 Christmas Day

## **January 2010**

1/1 New Years Day  
1/1 Kwanza Ends  
1/ 4 – 5 Professional Development Days  
1/7/10 Administrator School Visits  
1/12/10 DLT (7:30 – 9:30)  
1/14/10 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
1/18/09 Martin Luther King Day  
1/21/10 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
1/28/10 Administrators Visit Schools Day

## **February 2010**

2/4/10 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
2/9/10 DLT (7:30 – 9:30)  
2/11/10 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
2/15/10 Presidents Day Holiday  
2/17/10 Ash Wednesday  
2/18/10 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
2/25/10 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
2/26/10 Professional Development Day

## **March 2010**

3/4/10 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
3/14/10 Daylight Savings Time (Spring Ahead)  
3/9/10 DLT (7:30 – 9:30)  
3/22 – 3/26/10 Spring Break  
3/30/10 Passover Begins

## **April 2010**

4/1/10 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
4/2/10 Good Friday  
4/4/10 Easter  
4/5 – 4/9/10 Public Schools Volunteer Week  
4/5/10 Passover Ends\*  
4/8/10 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
4/13/10 DLT (7:30 – 9:30)  
4/15/10 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
4/22/10 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
4/29/10 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
4/30/10 Professional Development Day

## **May 2010**

5/5/10 Cinco de Mayo  
5/6 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
TBD Retirement Dinner  
5/11/10 DLT (7:30 – 9:30)  
5/13/10 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
5/19 Shavuot\* (begins May 18 at sundown)  
5/20/10 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
5/27/10 Administrators Visit Schools Day  
5/27/10 Last Day for Students  
5/28/10 Last Day for Teachers  
5/31/10 Memorial Day Holiday

## **June 2010**

6/8/10 DLT (7:30 – 9:30)

\*Jewish holidays begin at sunset the evening before.