

Equity, Diversity & Inclusivity

# Shenendehowa Cultural Calendar 2024-25



The purpose of this calendar is to **honor** our diversity and **educate** on the many cultures represented within Shenendehowa Central School District. Please note this Cultural Calendar is not meant to replace or update any related policies or regulations regarding school days and attendance such as 8410 District Calendar and School Day, 8360 Religious Observances and Instructional-Related Activities, or 71110 Student Attendance and Absence.

\*Please note that Holiday dates or ranges may change year to year

# SEPTEMBER



# Shen Cultural Calendar

# 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 Labor Day	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Patriot Day & National Day of Service & Remembrance	12	13	14
15	16	17 Constitution Day	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	<b>ALL MONTH</b> Hispanic Heritage Month Starts (Sept.15 - Oct 15) National African Immigrant Heritage Month Pitru Paksha				

**Hispanic Heritage Month** - Celebrates the cultural contributions and achievements of Hispanic and Latino Americans in the U.S. It commemorates the diverse histories, cultures, and traditions of individuals with roots in Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America.

**National African Immigrant Heritage Month** - Celebrates Americans who are of African immigrant heritage in the U.S.. Honors the diversity of the African immigrant communities, while also identifying that African immigrants need to be classified more accurately and not as the ethnic group African Americans.

**Pitru Paksha** - Also spelled Pitri Paksha, is a 16-lunar day period in the Hindu calendar when Hindus pay homage to their ancestors (Pitrs), especially through food offerings. Hindus use this time to remember and reflect.

**Labor Day** - A tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers. It also symbolizes the labor movement's historical struggles and successes in advocating for fair labor practices, worker rights, and improved working conditions. - Federal and School Holiday

**Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance** - Commemorates the victims of the terrorist attacks in New York City, Pennsylvania and Washington D.C. on Sept. 11. Sensitivity to trauma suffered by those who witnessed the terrorist attacks or suffered a personal loss.

**Constitution Day** - Commemorates the September 17, 1787 signing of the U.S. Constitution. Each educational institution that receives Federal funds for a fiscal year is required to hold an educational program about the U.S. Constitution for its students on September 17.

# OCTOBER



## Shen Cultural Calendar

2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>ALL MONTH</b> LGBT History Month Hispanic Heritage Month Ends (Oct 15)		1	2 Rosh Hashanah	3 Rosh Hashanah	4 Rosh Hashanah	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Yom Kippur	12 Yom Kippur
13	14 Indigenous People's Day (Columbus Day)	15	16 Sukkot	17 Sukkot	18 Sukkot	19 Sukkot
20 Sukkot	21 Sukkot	22 Sukkot	23 Sukkot	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween	<b>LGBT History Month</b> - Observance of LGBTQIA+ history, & the related civil rights movements. Helps all students see themselves reflected in the curriculum & feel valued.	

**National Coming Out Day** - A day when the Queer community celebrates and honors the act of “coming out.” Be aware of and support students who may choose to come out on October 11.

**Rosh Hashanah** - Celebrated on the first two days of Tishrei, the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar. The Jewish New Year, marks a time of reflection, renewal, observed with prayers, festive meals, and the sounding of the shofar (ram's horn). It symbolizes the beginning of the High Holy Days. Either Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur will be a School Holiday but not a District Holiday. Students/staff may be absent from school, if it is not already a day off.

**Yom Kippur** - Celebrated on the 10th day of the lunar month Tishri. Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement in the Jewish faith, is a solemn and reflective day observed through fasting, prayer, and repentance. It serves as a time for introspection, seeking forgiveness, and reconciliation.

**Indigenous Peoples' Day** (Columbus Day) - Meant to recognize the painful history Indigenous people have faced and to celebrate their communities. Indigenous Peoples' Day is shared with Columbus Day, which celebrates Christopher Columbus's arrival in the Americas - Federal and School Holiday

**Sukkot** - Also known as the Feast of Tabernacles or Feast of Booths, is a Jewish holiday commemorating the Israelites' wandering in the desert after the Exodus from Egypt. During Sukkot, Jews build temporary shelters called sukkahs and eat meals inside them to remember the experience of living in temporary dwellings. The holiday is marked by festive meals, prayers, and the waving of the lulav and etrog (four species) as part of religious rituals.

**Halloween** - The eve of the Western Christian feast of All Hallows' Day. It is dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints (hallows), martyrs, and all the departed. In popular culture, the day has become a celebration of the macabre and the supernatural. Students may be out late this night participating in “trick or treating.”

# NOVEMBER



## Shen Cultural Calendar

# 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>ALL MONTH</b> National Native American Heritage Month					1 <b>Diwali</b> Day of the Dead	2 Day of the Dead
3	4	5 <b>Election Day</b>	6	7	8	9
10	11 <b>Veterans Day</b>	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 <b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	29 <b>Native American Heritage Day</b>	30

**National Native American Heritage Month** - Recognizes the history, culture, and contributions of Indigenous people. Teaching Native American history helps all students see themselves reflected in the curriculum and feel valued as full citizens.

**Diwali** - Diwali is the Hindu festival of lights, with variations celebrated in other Indian religions. The full holiday is celebrated over 5 days. People celebrate Diwali by lighting up their homes & streets with diyas and candles, dressing up in new clothes, exchanging gifts, & eating traditional food.

**Day of the Dead** - The Day of the Dead, or Día de los Muertos, is a Mexican holiday celebrated to honor deceased loved ones. Families create colorful altars, offer food and drink, and participate in ceremonies to welcome the spirits of the departed back to the earthly realm for a reunion.

**Election Day** - Election Day in the U.S. allows citizens to exercise their democratic right to vote and participate in the electoral process, shaping the nation's leadership and policies. It symbolizes the core principles of democracy, civic engagement, and the collective voice of the people in determining the future direction of the country. Registered students and staff should be encouraged to find time to vote.

**Veterans Day** - Dedicated to honoring and expressing gratitude to all military veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. It serves as a reminder of the sacrifices and bravery of veterans. - Federal and School Holiday

**Thanksgiving Day** - Families and communities come together, express gratitude, and share a festive meal. It commemorates the shared harvest feast between Native Americans and Pilgrims in 1621. - Federal and School Holiday

**Native American Heritage Day** - A day dedicated to honoring and celebrating the cultural heritage, history, and contributions of Native American peoples to the U.S. -- promoting greater awareness and appreciation of their ongoing presence and impact on American society. - District and School Holiday

# DECEMBER



# Shen Cultural Calendar

# 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Hanukkah	26 Kwanzaa Hanukkah	27 Kwanzaa Hanukkah	28 Kwanzaa Hanukkah
29 Kwanzaa Hanukkah	30 Kwanzaa Hanukkah	31 New Year's Eve Kwanzaa Hanukkah		ALL MONTH Advent (Dec. 1-24)		

**Advent** - Advent starts December 1, 2024 and ends December 24, 2024. Advent, (from Latin adventus, “coming”), in the Christian church calendar, is the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas and also of preparation for the Second Coming of Christ. In Western churches, Advent begins on the Sunday nearest to November 30.- Use of Advent calendars, special significance of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas.

**Christmas Eve** - Christmas Eve holds significance as it marks the anticipation and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, bringing families and communities together in anticipation and reflection on the spirit of giving, and togetherness. - Federal and School Holiday

**Christmas** - Celebrated worldwide as the day when Christians commemorate the birth of Jesus, emphasizing themes of love, peace, and goodwill towards all, while also serving as a time for families to come together, exchange gifts, and share in festive traditions. - Federal and School Holiday

**Hanukkah** - Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, holds deep significance in Jewish tradition, commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and the miracle of the oil that burned for eight days. It symbolizes resilience, faith, and the triumph of light over darkness, celebrated through the lighting of the menorah, traditional foods, and gatherings with family and friends. - Evening celebrations, including lighting of candles at nightfall.

**Kwanzaa** - A cultural holiday that honors African heritage and principles such as unity, self-determination, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. It serves as a time for reflection, community building, and reaffirmation of African values and traditions. Families celebrating Kwanzaa decorate their households with objects of art, colorful African cloth such as kente, especially the wearing of kaftans by women, and fresh fruits that represent African idealism.

**New Year's Eve** - Marks the transition from the old year to the new, often celebrated with parties, fireworks, and countdowns, symbolizing hope, reflection on the past year, and anticipation for the possibilities of the year ahead. - District and School Holiday



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			New Year's Day 1	2	3	4
			Kwanzaa Hanukkah	Hanukkah		
5	6	7 Orthodox Christmas Day	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Bodhi Day
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	28	29 Lunar New Year	30	31	

**New Year's Day** - The first day of the year in the Gregorian Calendar. Celebrations include making New Year's resolutions, church services, parades, parties, sporting events. - Federal and School Holiday

**Orthodox Christmas** - Many Orthodox Christians in the United States celebrate Christmas Day, the birth of Jesus Christ, based on the Gregorian calendar. Many Orthodox Christians fast before Christmas Day.

**Bodhi Day** - This holiday commemorates the day that Buddha is said to have attained Enlightenment. Celebrations include chanting of Buddhist texts and acts of kindness towards others. This holiday is celebrated in China, Korea, Vietnam and Philippines. The day may vary based on the lunar calendar.

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** - This holiday celebrates the life and achievements of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It provides an opportunity for students to learn about social justice issues and reflect on the importance of equality and diversity.- Federal and School Holiday

**Lunar New Year** - This holiday is celebrated in China and other countries with large Chinese populations (Vietnam, South Korea, etc.) celebrating the phases of the moon and marks the end of winter months and the beginning of warmer months and fresh starts. There is no set date and can last for 2 weeks depending on the moon. - New York State Public School Holiday

# FEBRUARY



## Shen Cultural Calendar

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
ALL MONTH Black History Month						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15
16	17 Presidents' Day	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Maha Shivratri	27	28 Ramadan begins	

**Black History Month** - Black History Month is an opportunity to understand Black histories, going beyond stories of racism and slavery to spotlight Black achievement and accomplishments. Teaching Black history helps all students see themselves reflected in the curriculum and feel valued as full citizens. Representation matters for building self-esteem and reducing stereotypes.

**Valentine's Day** - Valentine's Day can bring excitement and social interactions among students. Educators can use this holiday to teach about friendship, kindness, and inclusivity. However, it can also evoke feelings of exclusion for some students.

**Presidents' Day** - Initially a day to commemorate George Washington's Birthday. The date went on to include Abraham Lincoln's birthday. Many states voted in the early 1980's to adopt Presidents' Day as the official name of the holiday. - Federal and School Holiday

**Maha Shivratri** - A Hindu holiday to commemorate the Hindu goddess Shiva. The day is a solemn event noted for its focus on fasting and all night vigils at Shiva temples. Students/staff may be fasting and participating in evening activities with family.

# MARCH



# Shen Cultural Calendar

# 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>ALL MONTH</b> Women's History Month Irish-American Heritage Month Ramadan (Feb.28 - March 30)						1
2	3 Start of Orthodox Lent	4	5 Ash Wednesday & Lent Begins	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Purim	14 Holi	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Laylat al-Qadr	28	29
30 Ramadan ends	31 Eid al-Fitr	<b>Ramadan</b> - Begins February 28, 2025, Ends March 30, 2025. It's a time of fasting, reflection, prayer and community. It is a commemoration of Mohammad's first revelation. It is one of the five pillars of Islam. It is observed from one crescent moon to the next. Students are not drinking water and are fasting during daylight hours. They are spending more time praying and are likely getting less sleep.				

**Women's History Month** - Women's History Month provides students, especially young girls, with positive role models and a more complete understanding of the past. Seeing women's achievements and perspectives represented helps students recognize the value and importance of women in society. Inspires positive change and greater gender equality in the present and future.

**Irish-American Heritage Month** - To honor the achievements and contributions of Irish Americans. The heritage month is in March to coincide with Saint Patrick's Day, the Irish national holiday on March 17.

**Orthodox Lent** - In Greek, this is called Kathara Deftera, or Clean Monday. It begins six week of fasting, and prayer.

**Ash Wednesday and Lent Begins** - Lent is 40-days of fasting and prayer in the Christian church. As part of the Ash Wednesday Observance the sign of the Christian cross is made with ashes on worshippers' foreheads. You may see students and staff with ashes on their foreheads in school.

**Purim** - Jewish holiday of celebration that commemorates the saving of Jewish people from annihilation. Students may be celebrating in the evening with their families.

**Holi** - Hindu festival celebrated as the festival of colors, love and spring. Additionally the day signifies the triumph of good over evil.

**Laylat al-Qadr** - This is the night that Muslims believe that the Quran was revealed to the prophet Muhammad. This day falls within the last 10 days of Ramadan and for Muslims is the holiest day of the year.

**Eid al-Fitr** - This is the festival of "breaking the fast" and marks the end of Ramadan. Muslim students may be absent from school as the day is celebrated with family and friends.



APRIL



Shen Cultural Calendar

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
ALL MONTH Arab American Heritage Month		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Passover
13 Passover	14 Passover	15 Passover	16 Passover	17 Passover	18 Good Friday Passover	19 Passover
20 Easter	21	22	23 Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

**Arab American Heritage Month** - Celebrates the Arab American heritage and culture and pays tribute to the contributions of Arab Americans. Teaching about the culture of Arab Americans helps students see themselves reflected in the curriculum and feel valued.

**Passover** - A Jewish holiday that celebrates the exodus of the Israelites from slavery in biblical Egypt. The first and last days are celebrations and are often school absences for students.

**Good Friday** - Christian holy day observing the crucifixion of Jesus and his death. It is observed during Holy Week as part of the Paschal Triduum. It is also known as Black Friday, Holy Friday, Great Friday, Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord, Great and Holy Friday (also Holy and Great Friday) - School Holiday

**Easter** - Easter Sunday is a significant Christian holiday commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Educators can acknowledge this holiday in a respectful and inclusive manner, recognizing its cultural and religious importance.

**Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)** - Honors the victims of the Holocaust and educates about the atrocities of genocide.

MAY



Shen Cultural Calendar

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>ALL MONTH</b> Jewish American Heritage Month Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month Haitian Heritage Month				1	2	3
4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31

**Jewish American Heritage Month** - Celebrating the vibrant and varied Jewish American experience from the dawn of our nation to the present day. Teaching about the Jewish American experience helps all students see themselves reflected in the curriculum and feel valued as full citizens. Representation matters for building self-esteem and reducing stereotypes.

**Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month** - Recognizing and celebrating the contributions, cultures, and histories of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Teaching about the Asian American and Pacific Islander experience helps all students see themselves reflected in the curriculum and feel valued as full citizens. Representation matters for building self-esteem and reducing stereotypes.

**Haitian Heritage Month** - An expansion of the Haitian Flag Day, a major patriotic day celebration in Haiti and the Diaspora. Teaching about the Haitian experience helps all students see themselves reflected in the curriculum and feel valued as full citizens. Representation matters for building self-esteem and reducing stereotypes.

**Cinco de Mayo** - Also known as Battle of Puebla Day. It celebrates the Mexican Army's victory over France at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, during the French-Mexican War.

**Memorial Day** - A holiday honoring U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the U.S. Armed Services. - Federal and School Holiday

# JUNE



## Shen Cultural Calendar

### 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Shavuot	2 Shavuot	3 Shavuot	4	5	6 Eid al-Adha	7 Eid al-Adha
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Juneteenth	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30		<b>ALL MONTH</b> LGBTQ+ Pride Month Caribbean American Heritage Month Immigrant Heritage Month			

**LGBTQ+ Pride Month** - Honors the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan, New York. The purpose of the commemorative month is to recognize the impact that Queer individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally. Teaching about the LGBTQIA+ experience helps all students see themselves reflected in the curriculum and feel valued as full citizens.

**Caribbean-American Heritage Month** - The achievements and contributions of the Caribbean-American community are recognized and celebrated with music, parades, educational events, music and time spent with family and friends. Teaching about the Caribbean-American experience helps all students see themselves reflected in the curriculum and feel valued as full citizens. Representation matters for building self-esteem and reducing stereotypes.

**Immigrant Heritage Month** - Celebrated to honor and recognize the contributions and diverse cultures of immigrants to the country. Teaching about the immigrant experience helps all students see themselves reflected in the curriculum and feel valued as full citizens. Representation matters for building self-esteem and reducing stereotypes. This is also a chance to celebrate the diversity of the Shenendehowa community.

**Eid al-Adha** - The feast of sacrifice and the 2nd of the 2 main holidays of Islam. Potentially an increased amount of prayer amongst Muslim students.

**Shavuot** - Jewish holiday marking 50 days from the first day of Passover. It is traditionally celebrated as a public holiday in Israel. Students may be celebrating or reading the Torah in the evening with families.

**Juneteenth** - A commemoration of the end of slavery with the enforcement of the emancipation proclamation in Texas in 1865. "The celebration of Juneteenth today is important because it helps initiate difficult conversations and raises awareness about the country's complicated and tragic history of slavery and racial injustice," Erin Stewart Mauldin - Federal and School Holiday

JULY



Shen Cultural Calendar

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
ALL MONTH Disability Pride Month		1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5 Ashura
6 Ashura	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**Disability Pride Month** - Occurs worldwide, usually in July. It originated in the United States to commemorate the passing of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in July 1990. People with disabilities make up 15% of the world's population representing all ages, races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, religions, and socio-economic backgrounds. This month seeks to change the way people think about and define disability. It's a chance for people with disabilities to come together and celebrate being themselves, no matter their differences. It's also a chance to raise awareness of the challenges they still face every day to be treated equally. Recognizing disability pride month helps all students see themselves reflected in the curriculum and feel valued. Representation matters for building self-esteem and reducing stereotypes.

**Independence Day** - Holds significant historical importance as it marks the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, declaring the United States' independence from British rule and laying the foundation for the nation's democratic principles and values. It is commemorated with festivities, fireworks, and a spirit of patriotism, reflecting the country's journey toward freedom and self-governance. - Federal and School Holiday.

**Ashura** - Ashura holds deep significance in Islamic tradition, particularly among Shia Muslims, commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, at the Battle of Karbala. It is a time for reflection, mourning, and self-sacrifice, emphasizing principles of justice, compassion, and standing against oppression.

AUGUST



Shen Cultural Calendar

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Tisha B'Av
3 Tisha B'Av	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

**Tisha B'Av** - Tisha B'Av is considered the saddest day of the Hebrew calendar, as many disastrous events occurred on that date, including the destruction of the first two Holy Temples in Jerusalem. Jews fast and pray on Tisha B'av in mourning and remembrance of various tragedies in the history of Judaism.