Equity, Diversity, & Inclusivity

Shenendehowa Cultural Calendar



2025-2026

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 7110 Student Attendance and Absence.

<u>Click here</u> to add the 2025-2026 Cultural Calendar to your Google Calendar.

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

Why do we have a cultural calendar?

Developing a Cultural Calendar can offer numerous benefits to schools, including the following:

Cultural Awareness: A Cultural Calendar helps students, staff, and the broader school community become more aware of the diversity of cultures represented within the school. It provides opportunities for learning about different traditions, customs, and celebrations.

Inclusivity: By recognizing a wide range of cultural holidays and events, schools can create a more inclusive environment where students from all backgrounds feel valued and respected.

Education: Cultural calendars can serve as educational tools, providing opportunities for students to learn about different cultures, histories, and traditions. This fosters cultural literacy and understanding among students.

Community Engagement: Sharing the Cultural Calendar with the broader community demonstrates a commitment to inclusivity and diversity. It can also foster stronger connections between the school and the community.

Respect and Empathy: Developing and using a Cultural Calendar encourages respect and empathy for people of different cultural backgrounds. It helps staff and students develop a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the experiences and perspectives of others.

Support for Equity: Recognizing diverse cultural holidays and events aligns with principles of equity and social justice, promoting fairness and inclusivity within the school community.

September



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Labor Day	2	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 Rosh Hashanah	24	25	26	27
28	29	30		National	ALL MONTH age Month Starts African American Heritage Month Paksha (Sept. 7 - S	1

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.

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. A 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.

Pitru Paksha - 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.

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.

October



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ALL MONTH LGBT+ History Month Hispanic Heritage Month Ends (Oct. 15)			1 2 Dussehra Yom Kippur		3	4
·	, in the second		Yom	Kippur		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Sukkot				
					1	
12	13 Indigenous People's Day	14	15	16	17	18
	Sukkot					
19	20 Diwali	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween	

LGBT+ History Month - Observance of LGBTQIA+ history and the related civil rights movements. Helps all students see themselves reflected in the curriculum and feel valued.

Dussehra - Dussehra is a major Hindu festival celebrated every year at the end of Durga Puja and Navarahtri. It is observed on the tenth day of the month of Ashvin, the seventh in the Hindu lunisolar calendar.

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.

Sukkot - Also known as the Feast of Tabernacles or Feast of Booths, Sukkot 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.

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. A Federal and School Holiday.

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 and streets with diyas and candles, dressing up in new clothes, exchanging gifts, and eating traditional food.

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



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ALL MONTH National Native American Heritage Month						1 Day of the Dead
2 Day of the Dead	3	4 Election Day	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving	Native American Heritage Day	29

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.

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. A 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. A 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. Promotes greater awareness and appreciation of their ongoing presence and impact on American society. A District and School Holiday.

December





12	13
19	20
26	27
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ALL MON	
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Advent - Advent starts December 1, 2025 and ends December 24, 2025. 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.

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 date varies based on the lunar calendar.

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 include lighting of candles at nightfall.

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. A 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. A District and School Holiday.

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, 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. A District and School Holiday.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 New Year's Day Kwanzaa	2	3
4	5	6	7 Orthodox Christmas Day	8	9	10
11	12	13 Maghi	14	15	16	17
18	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	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, and sporting events. A 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. Those celebrating may fast before Christmas Day.

Maghi - Maghi is celebrated one day before the famous Hindu festival, Makara Sankranti, and is observed on the same day as Lohri. Maghi is the Punjabi festival and mainly observed by Sikh community. It is traditional to eat sweet rice porridge with milk, which is known as Kheer, on the day of Maghi.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day - 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. A Federal and School Holiday.

February



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 National Freedom Day	2	3	4	5	ALL MONTH Black History Month Ramadan (Feb. 17 - Mar. 19)	
8	9	10	11	12	13	Valentine's Day
					Maha S	Shivratri
15	16 President's Day	17 Lunar New Year Ramadan	18 Ash Wednesday Lent Begins	19	20	21
Maha	Shivratri	Begins				
22	Orthodox Lent Begins	24	25	26	27	28

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.

National Freedom Day - Commemorating the end of the transatlantic slave trade.

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.

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.

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. A 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. A New York State Public School Holiday.

Ramadan - Begins February 17, 2026 and ends March 19, 2026. 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.

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.

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

March



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	P	urim	Holi	Lent Begins		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Laylat al- Qadr	17	18	19 Ramadan Ends	20 al-Fitr	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	00		ALL MONTH men's History M merican Heritag	

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.

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.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<u>ALL MONTH</u> Arab American Heritage Month			1	2	3 Good Friday	4
				Pass	sover	
5 Easter	6	7	8	9	10	11 Orthodox Lent Ends
		Passover				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Yom H	ashoah				
19	20	21	22	23	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). A 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.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ALL MONTH 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 Shavuot	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26 Eid al	27 I-Adha	28	29	30

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.

Shauvot - 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.

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

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.





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Flag Day	15	16	17	18	19 Juneteenth	20
21	22	23	24	25 As	26 shura	27
28	29	30		Caribbea	ALL MONTH GBTQ+ Pride Moi n American Herit nigrant Heritage I	age Month

LQBTQ+ 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.

Flag Day - Commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress.

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. A 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.





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ALL MONTH Disability Pride Month French American Heritage Month			1	2	3	1 Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Tisha	23 1 B'Av	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.

French-American Heritage Month - In the United States, July is designated as National French-American Heritage Month and was established to honor the significant contributions made to the country by people of French descent. Teaching about the French-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.

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. A Federal and School Holiday.

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.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Na	ALL MONTH tional Civility Mo	nth			1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 World Humanitarian Day	20	21	22	23
24	25	Women's Equality Day	27	28	29	30

National Civility Month - This holiday was founded to help the world remember to treat others the way we wish to be treated ourselves — with kindness, empathy, and respect.

World Humanitarian Day - An international day dedicated to recognize humanitarian personnel and those who have died working for humanitarian causes.

Women's Equality Day - Women's Equality Day is celebrated in the United States on August 26 to commemorate the 1920 adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment (Amendment XIX) to the United States Constitution, which prohibits the states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of sex.