

Customary Celebrations & Activities in U.S. Elementary Public Schools



This parent resource supports inclusive participation and awareness for all students in customary celebrations that are typical in many US public schools.

This information about typical school celebrations is provided to further support EL students and their families for a better understanding of school activities they will witness and may choose to be a part of.

Customary Celebration Awareness enables families to choose if and how their students participate, ensuring everyone is included.

Typically, at the beginning of the school year, your student may receive a school or classroom calendar. Sometimes these are sent home in folders for each month of the school year.

On the calendar, you may notice holidays and special celebrations marked or highlighted. We encourage parents and caregivers to ask questions and learn about these customs so that you and your child have the chance to participate, if they so choose, in any upcoming celebrations that might be happening. Often, English learner students miss out on the chance to participate in events because they are unaware of school celebrations happening in the US school and classroom culture.

The following typical celebrations are described to make you aware of activities that might be typically celebrated within the school setting. Be sure to ask your school about any of these and how your school might be celebrating them.



Birthdays

Birthdays are typically personal celebrations, but many schools will have the option for you to bring cupcakes or celebrate your child's birthday in a special way if it falls on a school day. Be sure to ask the front office for their policies on birthdays. If allowed, many parents often

bring cupcakes or a special treat for the class. There is no cultural expectation beyond this. Your child might receive a special sticker or pencil at school or be sung to as a celebration of their birthday.



Federal Holidays

Elementary schools in the US typically observe and celebrate the following federal holidays by closing school for the day and/or by engaging in classroom and school activities such as patriotic music, flag ceremonies, and classroom discussions about the historical significance of the holidays.

Juneteenth (June 19th)

A federal holiday in celebration of the end of slavery in the United States. (No school on this day)

Independence Day (July 4th)

A federal holiday in celebration of United States independence from Britain. (No school on this day)

Memorial Day (May 29th)

A federal holiday honoring fallen soldiers who died while serving the United States. (No School on this day)

Veterans Day (November 11th)

A federal holiday honoring the service of those who have served in the military. (No School on this day)

President's Day (3rd Monday of February)

Celebrates the first president of the United States George Washington and all presidents after. (Usually no school on this day)



Back to School Events

At the beginning of the school year many elementary schools organize events to welcome students and their families. This is done so that parents can have the opportunity to meet teachers, tour the school, and learn about the upcoming year.

Open House

An event which allows parents to come tour the school and meet their children's teachers.

PTO (Parent Teacher Organization)

An organization where parents are given the opportunity to volunteer and work with other parents by organizing and helping their children and their classrooms for school events. This group usually holds monthly meetings for the adults.

Ice-cream and Socials

Events that offer dessert and fun activities for to celebrate and build relationships with the community.



More Celebrations

Black History Month (February)

February is recognized as Black History Month in the US and elementary schools often dedicate time to learning about the achievements and contributions of African Americans throughout history. This may involve classroom projects, presentations, guest speakers, or school performances.

Read Across America (March 2nd)

Read Across America is a celebration of reading (literacy) that happens to also be on the birthday of a well known children's author, Dr. Seuss. Elementary schools often celebrate this day with reading activities and dress up days inspired by characters from children's books. Your child will often be allowed to pick a book character they want to dress up as. Many of these costumes are made with items already in the home. Dressing up is an optional but fun activity that many schools offer. Check with your school about this!

Red Ribbon Week (in the month of October)

This month celebrates the prevention of drugs and violence. Sometimes your child will be allowed to be silly and have fun in their dress on different days of the week during this month. Examples of this might be: on Monday they can wear

silly socks, Tuesday have silly hair, Wednesday wear the color red, and so on. This is usually not mandatory and depends on the school guidelines. You can choose for your child to participate in these optional and fun activities.

Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is in celebration of love, and in school settings, students will often have a party or exchange cards and candy with one another. In some schools, students will be allowed to bring a cardboard shoe box to school and decorate it to hold the cards and candy they have received from their classmates. It is customary to bring a piece of candy or a note for classmates.

Easter

This holiday, at the school level, is a celebration of spring and, sometimes, the Easter bunny. The Easter bunny is a warm and fluffy character that may bring children plastic decorated eggs filled with candy. Your child might receive or make these easter eggs at school or even have an easter egg hunt. An easter egg hunt is where the adults hide the eggs for students to find and collect – often in a bucket or basket. This is done for fun and in celebration of spring.



School Activities

Science Fair

Organized event where your child creates and presents a science project for their classmates and the school community. Often times they award projects based on first, second, and third place.

Field Trips

Enriching activities for classes outside of school, that require parent permission. These often include trips to the zoo, museum and other educational places. Often parents can volunteer and join their child and class on these trips. Be sure to ask if this is a possibility at your school!

Winter Holiday Celebrations

Many elementary schools hold winter holiday celebrations to acknowledge various cultural traditions. These celebrations may include songs,

school performances, and displays that represent different winter holidays such as Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or Diwali. There is typically a winter break off of school, in celebration of this that is about a period of two weeks. Your child will be able to be at home with family celebrations during this time. The week before the break there are celebrations on designated days where kids make crafts or art work, and can even come to school in their pajamas for winter snacks and movies!

Class parties

A school day with a party that is organized by the teacher for the class.



End-of-Year Celebrations

Towards the end of the school year, elementary schools will often organize events to commemorate students' achievements. These celebrations may include the following:

Award/graduation ceremonies

A school wide celebration that parents can attend that has a ceremony of your student graduating to the next grade level and/or that presents awards of their character or academics recognized throughout the year.

Talent Shows

A school wide celebration that parents can attend where your student has signed up to participate in showcasing their talent like singing or dancing.

Field Day

An all-day school wide celebration that parents can attend that has multiple outdoor activities and games your child's class can participate in. There are often fun snacks that can be bought, or that are given, at these events.

It is important to note that celebrations may vary across different schools and districts, as they reflect the cultural diversity and local preferences of the communities they serve.

Selebrasyon ak Aktivite Abityèl nan Lekòl piblik Elemantè Etazini



Resous paran sa a sipòte patisipasyon enklizif ak konsyantizasyon pou tout elèv nan selebrasyon òdinè ki tipikman fet nan anpil lekòl piblik US.

Yo bay enfòmasyon sa yo sou selebrasyon tipik lekòl yo pou plis sipòte elèv EL yo ak fanmi yo pou yon pi bon konpreyansyon sou aktivite lekòl yo ke yo pral temwen epi yo ka chwazi patisipe nan

Konsyantizasyon Selebrasyon òdinè a pèmèt fanmi yo chwazi si ak ki jan elèv yo patisipe, asire tout moun enkli.

Nòmman, nan kòmansman ane lekòl la, elèv ou a ka resevwa yon kalandriye eskolè oswa yon kalandriye sal deklas. Pafwa yo voye yo lakay ou nan katab pou chak mwa nan ane lekòl la.

Nan kalandriye a, ou ka remake jou ferye ak selebrasyon espesyal ki make oswa souliye. Nou ankouraje paran yo ak moun kap bay swen yo pou poze kesyon epi aprann sou koutim sa yo pou ou mem ak pitit ou a ka patisipe, si yo vle, nan nenpòt selebrasyon ki ta gen pou fèt. Souvan, elèv k ap aprann Angle yo pèdi chans pou yo patisipe nan evènman yo paske yo pa okouran de selebrasyon lekòl k ap fèt nan lekòl etazini ak kilti sal deklas yo.

Yo dekri selebrasyon òdinè sa yo pou mete ou okouran de aktivite ki ta ka nòmman selebre nan anviwònman lekòl la. Asire ou ke ou poze lekòl ou a kesyon sou nenpòt nan sa yo ak kijan lekòl ou a ta ka selebre yo.



Anivèsè nesans

Anivèsè nesans yo nòmman se selebrasyon pèsònèl, men anpil lekòl ap gen opsyon pou ou pote ti gato oswa selebre anivèsè nesans pitit ou a nan yon fason espesyal si li tonbe nan yon jou lekòl. Asire w ou mande nan biwo devan sou règleman sou anivèsè nesans yo.

Si yo pèmèt, anpil paran souvan pote ti gato oswa yon bagay espesyal pou klas la. Pa gen okenn atant kiltirèl pi lwen pase sa a. Pitit ou a ka resevwa yon fich espesyal oswa kreyon nan lekòl la oswa yo ka chante pou li kòm selebrasyon anivèsè nesans yo.



Jou ferye federal yo

Lekòl elemantè nan peyi Etazini yo nòmman obsève epi selebre jou ferye federal sa yo nan fèmen lekòl pou jounen an ak/oswa yo konn fè aktivite nan sal deklas lekòl yo tankou mizik patriyotik, seremoni drapo, ak diskisyon nan sal deklas yo sou siyifikasyon istorik jou ferye yo.

10 Jen (19 Jen)

Yon jou ferye federal nan fen esklavaj Etazini. (Pa gen lekòl jou sa a)

Jou endepandans (4 Jiyè)

yon jou ferye federal pou selebrasyon endepandans Etazini sou Grann Bretay. (Pa gen lekòl jou sa a)

Jou Memoryal (29 Me)

Yon jou ferye federal ki te onore sòlda ki te mouri pandan y ap sèvi Etazini. (Pa gen lekòl jou sa a)

Jou Veteran (11 novanm)

Yon jou ferye federal pou onore militè ki tap bay sèvis nan lame Etazini an. (Pa gen lekòl jou sa a)

Jou Prezidan an (3e Lendi nan Fevrye a)

Yo selebre premye prezidan Etazini George Washington ak tout lòt prezidan aprè yo. (Jeneralman pa gen lekòl jou sa a)



Retounen nan Evènman Lekòl yo

Nan kòmansman ane lekòl la anpil lekòl elemantè òganize evènman pou akeyi elèv yo ak fanmi yo. Yo fèt sa pou paran yo ka gen opòtinite pou yo rankontre ak pwofesè yo, vizite lekòl la, epi aprann sou ane kap vini an.

Open House.

Yon evènman ki pèmèt paran yo vizite lekòl la epi reyini ak pwofesè pitit yo.

PTO (Òganizasyon Paran Pwofesè)

Yon òganizasyon kote yo bay paran yo opòtinite pou yo sèvi kòm volontè epi travay avèk lòt paran pou òganize epi ede pitit yo ak sal deklas yo pou evènman lekòl yo. Gwoup sa a jeneralman toujou fè reyinyon chak mwa pou adilt yo

Glas-krèm ak Sosyal

Nan evènman sa yo yo desè ak aktivite amizman pou selebre epi etabli yon relasyon ak kominote a.



Lot selebrasyon

Mwa Istwa Nwa (Fevriye)

Yo chwazi Fevriye kòm Mwa Istwa Nwa nan peyi Etazini ak lekòl elemantè yo souvan bay yon tan pou aprann de reyalizasyon ak kontribisyon Afro Ameriken yo nan tout listwa. Ka genyen pwojè sal deklas yo, prezantasyon, oratè envite, oswa aktivite nan lekòl la.

Read Across America (2 Mas)

Read Across America se yon selebrasyon de lekti (alfabetizasyon) sa se anivèsè nesans yon timoun ki se te konn ekri liv(otè) ki te popilè anpil, Dr Seuss. Lekòl elemantè yo souvan selebre jou sa a ak aktivite lekti epi abiye tankou timoun ki ekri liv yo . Nomalman Pitit ou ap ka chwazi yon moun ki ekri yon liv pou li abiye tankou li. Anpil nan kostim sa yo fèt ak atik ki deja nan chanm nan. Abiye a se yon aktivite se si ou vle men ki amizan ke anpil lekòl ofri. Pale ak lekòl ou a sou sa a!

Red Ribbon Week (nan mwa Oktòb la)

Mwa sa a selebre prevansyon dwòg ak vyolans. Pafwa pitit ou a fè bagay ki komik epi pran plezi nan rad yap mete nan difran jou nan semèn pandan mwa sa a. Men kèk egzanp : Lendi yo ka mete chosèt komik, Madi yo ka fè cheve yo yon

fason ki komik, Mèkredi mete koulè wouj, elatriye. Nòmalman se pa yon obligasyon epi sa depann de règ lekòl la. Ou ka chwazi pou pitit ou a patisipe nan aktivite amizansa yo ki pa obligatwa.

Jou Sen Valanten.

Jou Valentine an se selebrasyon lanmou, epi nan anviwònman lekòl la, ap souvan gen yon fèt pou elèv yo oswa echanj kat ak sirèt youn ak lòt. Nan kèk lekòl, elèv yo pral gen dwa pote yon bwat katon soulye nan lekòl la epi dekore li pou yo mete kat ak sirèt yo te resevwa nan men kamarad de klas yo. Se toujou yon abidid pou pote kek sirèt oswa ekri yon ti lèt pou kamarad klas yo.

Easter.

Jou ferye sa a, nan lekòl la, se yon selebrasyon nan prentan epi pafwa, Lapen Pak la. Lapen Pak la se yon moun ki angete epi gonfle ki ka pote ze dekore ak plastik plen ak sirèt ladan yo. Pitit ou a ka resevwa oswa fè ze Pak sa yo nan lekòl la oswa ka menm gen yon lachas ze Pak. Yon lachas ze Pak se lè adilt yo sere ze yo pou elèv yo cheche epi pran yo- souvan yo nan yon bokit oswa panye. Yo fè sa a pou plezi ak nan selebrasyon prentan an.



Aktivite lekòl yo

Fwa sou Syans

Yo òganize evènman sa a pou pitit ou a kreye epi prezante yon pwojè syans pou kamarad lekòl yo ak kominote lekòl la. Souvan yo bay prim pou pwojè ki gen premye, dezyèm ak twazyèm plas.

Chan Pwomnad

Aktivite anrichisman pou klas la ki fet lòt kote ki pa nan lekòl la, pou sa yo bezwen pèmision paran yo. Sa yo souvan gen ladan yo vizite zou, mize ak lòt milye edikatif. Souvan paran yo ka sèvi kòm volontè epi akonpanye pitit yo ak klas la nan vwayaj sa yo. Asire w ou mande si sa posib nan lekòl ou a!

Selebrasyon Jou Ferye an Ivè.

Anpil lekòl elemantè fete selebrasyon sezon fredi yo pou rekonèt divès tradisyon kiltirèl yo.

Selebrasyon sa yo ka gen ladan chante, pèfòmans lekòl, epi montre ki diferan jou ferye sezon fredi tankou Nwèl, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, oswa Diwali. Nòmalman gen yon period de poz ivè nan lekòl la, pou yo selebre li yo bay anviwon 2 semèn. Pitit ou a ap ka rete lakay li ak fanmi an pou fete pandan peryòd sa. Semèn avan repo a ap gen selebrasyon nan kèk jou yap chwazi pou pitit ou a ka fe desen manyèl ak travay atistik, e yo ka menm vin lekòl a pijama pou ti goute pou sezon ivè a epi sinema! Pati klas Yon jounen lekòl ak yon fèt ke pwofesè a òganize pou klas la.

Fèt Klas.

Yon jou lekòl kote pwofesè yo òganize yon fèt pou klas la.



Selebrasyon fen ane

Nan fen ane lekòl la, lekòl elemantè yo souvan òganize evènman yo pou komemore akonplisman elèv yo. Selebrasyon sa yo ka gen ladan l:

Seremoni prim/gradyasyon

Se yon gwo selebrasyon nan lekòl la ke paran yo ka ale nan seremoni

elèv ou gradye pou antre nan yon lòt klas ak/oswa kote yo bay moun sa yo prim oswa rekonesans travay akademik yo pandan tout ane a.

Deminstrasyon Talan

Yon gwo selebrasyon nan lekòl la ke paran yo ka ale kote elèv ou an te siyen pou patisipe prezantasyon pou demontre talan yo tankou chante oswa danse.

Jounen Teren

Yon selebrasyon pandan tout jounen lekòl la ke paran yo ka ale ki gen plizyè aktivite kap fèt deyò lekòl la ak jwèt ke klas pitit ou a ka patisipe ladan yo. Souvan gen ti goute amizan ou ka achte, oswa yo kapab bay nan evènman sa yo.

Li enpòtan pou konnen ke selebrasyon yo ka varye atravè diferan lekòl ak distri yo, kòm yo refilete divèsite kiltirèl ak preferans lokal kominote yap sèvi yo.