



LEARNING SUPPORT SERVICES

TO: Elementary and Secondary Administrators

FROM: Purveen Skinner, Superintendent of Student Achievement
Rheba Moore-Nash, System Principal

SUBJECT: Support For Students Observing Ramadan

DATE: February 14, 2024

Administrators, please see information below regarding suggestions on how to accommodate students observing Ramadan. This year, Ramadan is expected to begin on Sunday, March 10th, or Monday, March 11th 2024, depending on the sighting of the moon and will end around April 09, 2024. Eid will occur on April 09 or April 10 as determined by moon sighting. Muslim students can be expected to be absent from school on Eid.

Ramadan is a month-long observance in which many Muslim students will choose to fast (going without food or water) from dawn to dusk. This means they will be fasting for 12-13 hours, getting up at 4:30-6:20 am to eat food (called suhoor) and pray and ending around 8:00 pm with a meal (called Iftaar). The days will get longer as the month goes on.

Religious and Creed-Based Accommodations for Students Observing Ramadan:

Students observing Ramadan have a legal right to religious and creed-based accommodations.

[The Ontario Human Rights Code](#) and [TVDSB Procedure on the Religious and Creed Based Accommodation of Students](#) make it a requirement that students observing Ramadan receive religious / creed-based accommodations. Accommodations should be provided in good faith based on requests from students and caregivers.

Accommodations requests are unique in nature and may include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Students fasting are provided with an area such as the library to go to during their lunch period
- A prayer room organized for their afternoon prayer, which may fall between 12:30-4:00 pm.
- Students may not be able to participate in all music activities, especially those involving performing and listening to music, during Ramadan. Teachers are encouraged to communicate with all families the music class activities that are

planned during this month. Staff are expected to make arrangements for students prior to Ramadan and should consider inclusive design strategies during Ramadan that limit the need for individual accommodations. Please connect with Lisa Snow or Matthew Sereda if additional support is required.

The following information has been shared by the Muslim Resource Centre. Administrators requesting further information, are invited to contact Yasmin Hussain at yhussain@mrcssi.com.

How schools can be supportive of students observing Ramadan:

- March 11 will be the first day of fasting, which means students that are fasting will have gotten up (or stayed up) until dawn (close to 5 am) in order to partake in suhoor (breakfast during Ramadan).
- Many students stay up for the first sunrise prayer of the day - meaning that they will likely go to sleep close to 6:20 am at the start of Ramadan.
- Those fasting will be fasting from around 4:50 am to 8:13 pm at the start of Ramadan.
- Students will break their fast with iftar (breaking the fast meal).
- Towards the end of Ramadan families will break their fast and have iftar at 8:46 pm and eat suhoor by 4:02 am.
- Typically, students can be expected to be more tired than usual and may not participate in sports and activities as energetically.

Other Considerations for Ramadan, 2024:

Important Considerations for the OSSLT:

- The OSSLT window takes place from March 20- April 24 this year.
- Administrators are encouraged to avoid scheduling the OSSLT for students observing Ramadan and Eid, especially during the last 10 days of Ramadan, as this is when prayers are increased during the night.
- Administrators are encouraged to schedule the OSSLT for students observing Ramadan after Ramadan and Eid. Students observing Ramadan do not need to write the OSSLT with their class, if their class is scheduled to write the OSSLT during Ramadan.

Ramadan School Resource Guide:

The Equity Team is pleased to again provide a Ramadan School Resource Guide to all staff in TVDSB. The guide contains important information about Ramadan, cultural safety and anti-Islamophobia tips and strategies, as well as curriculum content for teaching about Ramadan. The Ramadan Resource Guide can be accessed [here](#) and on the [Equity SharePoint Page](#).

Further Resources:

Excellent information regarding Ramadan and considerations for students can be found in the following articles:

<https://www.learningforjustice.org/magazine/teaching-about-ramadan-and-eid>

<https://www.teachingwhilemuslim.org/teacher-blog/2020/4/18/ramadan-considerations-for-teachers-during-distance-learning>

Should you have any questions or require any further information, please contact Rheba Moore-Nash r.moorenash@tvdsb.ca Matthew Sereda matthew.sereda@tvdsb.ca.