

CALENDAR OF JEWISH HOLIDAYS

2022-2023 5783

DESCRIPTION OF OBSERVANCE

There are three major branches within Judaism: Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform. All three consider the holy days to be special religious events. Each has its own practice of observance regarding work and school on holy days. As a result, the number of days which a holy day may be observed varies from person to person.

The Jewish Sabbath (Shabbat) begins each week before sunset on Friday and ends after sunset on Saturday.

All Jewish holidays begin before sunset of the previous evening. It is important that schools avoid conflicts on the eve and the day of the holiday.

STUDENTS AND STAFF WILL PROBABLY BE ABSENT FOR THESE HOLY DAYS, AND SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO PREPARE ASSIGNMENTS OR FOR EXAMS.

ROSH HASHANAH – Jewish New Year

Sunset Sunday evening – September 25, 2022 through sunset Tuesday – September 27, 2022

Rosh Hashanah is the beginning of the Jewish year. It is the first of the High Holy Days and marks the start of the ten-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal.

YOM KIPPUR – Day of Atonement

Sunset Tuesday evening – October 4, 2022 through Wednesday evening – October 5, 2022

This is the most holy day in the Jewish year. It is devoted to fasting and prayer, as people ask G-d and each other for forgiveness.

PASSOVER (Seders – first two evenings) – Festival of Freedom

Sunset Wednesday evening, April 5 (First Seder) and sunset Thursday evening, April 6, 2023 (Second Seder). (First two days: sunset April 5 through sunset April 7. Full Passover holiday sunset April 5 through sunset April 13, 2023).

The Seder is a family ritual service that occurs on the first two evenings of Passover. Students should not be expected to prepare assignments or for exams on these nights. The first two and last two days of Passover are holy days, when students and staff may be absent. Passover celebrates the liberation of the Jews from Egyptian bondage. During this eight-day holiday, many Jews refrain from eating bread products and eat matzah (unleavened bread) instead.

STUDENTS AND STAFF MAY BE ABSENT FOR THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:

SUKKOT – First two days

Sunset Sunday evening – October 9, 2022 through sunset Tuesday – October 11, 2022

Sukkot is the Jewish festival of thanksgiving and harvest.

SHEMINI ATZERET

Sunset Sunday evening – October 16, 2022 through sunset Monday – October 17, 2022

Shemini Atzeret is the eighth day of Sukkot, on which special memorial prayers are said.

SIMCHAT TORAH

Sunset Monday evening – October 17, 2022 through sunset Tuesday – October 18, 2022

Simchat Torah celebrates the conclusion of the yearly cycle of reading the Five Books of Moses and its beginning anew, thus demonstrating that study is a never-ending process.

PASSOVER – Last two days

Sunset Tuesday evening – April 11, 2023 through sunset Saturday – April 13, 2023

(full Passover holiday sunset April 5-April 13, 2023- see above)

The last two days of Passover conclude the celebration of Passover.

SHAVUOT

Sunset Thursday evening – May 25, 2023 through sunset Saturday – May 27, 2023

Shavuot celebrates the covenant established at Mount Sinai between G-d and Israel, and the revelation of the Ten Commandments.

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FESTIVALS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE MISSING WORK OR SCHOOL:

HANUKKAH – The eight-day Festival of Lights

Sunset Sunday evening - December 18, 2022 through sunset Monday - December 26, 2022

Hanukkah celebrates the triumph of religious liberty and the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem by the Maccabees in 165 BCE.

PURIM – Feast of Lots

Sunset Monday evening - March 6, 2023 through sunset Tuesday - March 7, 2023

A joyous festival commemorating the time when the Jews of ancient Persia were saved from extermination through the intervention of Queen Esther.

TWO-YEAR CALENDAR OF MAJOR JEWISH HOLIDAYS

2023-2024 5784

2024-2025 5785

ROSH HASHANAH	Sept. 15-17, 2023 (sunset Fri.–sunset Sun.)	Oct. 2-4, 2024 (sunset Wed.–sunset Fri.)
YOM KIPPUR	Sept. 24-25, 2023 (sunset Sun.–Mon. evening)	Oct. 11-12, 2024 (sunset Fri.–Sat. evening)
Sukkot (First 2 days)	Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2023 (sunset Fri.–sunset Sun.)	Oct. 16-18, 2024 (sunset Wed.–sunset Fri.)
Shemini Atzeret	Oct. 6-7, 2023 (sunset Fri.–sunset Sat.)	Oct. 23-24, 2024 (sunset Wed.–sunset Thurs.)
Simchat Torah	Oct. 7-8, 2023 (sunset Sat.–sunset Sun.)	Oct. 24-25, 2024 (sunset Thurs.–sunset Fri.)
Hanukkah	Dec. 7-15, 2023 (sunset Thurs.–sunset Fri.)	Dec. 25, 2024-Jan. 1, 2025 (sunset Wed.–sunset Wed.)
Purim	March 23-24, 2024 (sunset Sat.–sunset Sun.)	March 13-14, 2025 (sunset Thurs.–sunset Fri.)
PASSOVER (1st 2 days)	April 22-24, 2024 (sunset Mon.–sunset Wed.)	April 12-14, 2025 (sunset Sat.–sunset Tues.)
Passover (Last 2 days)	April 28-30, 2024 (sunset Sun.–sunset Tues.)	April 18-20, 2025 (sunset Fri.–sunset Sun.)
Shavuot	June 11-13, 2024 (sunset Tues.–sunset Thurs.)	June 1-3, 2025 (sunset Sun.–sunset Tues.)

WE WANT TO HELP

We provide this information to familiarize area educators with the major holidays of the Jewish faith. We hope it will be valuable to you in understanding Jewish holiday observances and their effect on student and staff absences and classroom planning.

PLEASE CALL US FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE JEWISH CALENDAR OR RELATED SUBJECTS.

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