



Columbia
Jewish Federation

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Dear School Administration,

Columbia Jewish Federation is writing to inform you of upcoming Jewish holidays that may impact student attendance during the 2025-2026 school year, particularly those traditionally observed by Jewish Communities that fall on weekdays.

The Jewish calendar is lunar, so holiday dates vary annually. Below are the key holidays for the 2025-2026 school year that fall on weekdays and are traditionally observed, potentially affecting student attendance:

- **Rosh Hashanah:** September 23-24, 2025 (Tuesday-Wednesday) – Jewish New Year, typically observed with synagogue attendance and family gatherings.
- **Yom Kippur:** October 2, 2025 (Thursday) – Day of Atonement, a solemn day of fasting and prayer, widely observed.
- **Sukkot:** October 7-8, 2025 (Tuesday-Wednesday) – Festival of Booths, often involving special meals and synagogue services.
- **Shemini Atzeret:** October 14, 2025 (Tuesday) – Concluding day of Sukkot, typically observed with synagogue attendance.
- **Simchat Torah:** October 15, 2025 (Wednesday) – Celebration of the Torah, marked by synagogue services and joyous gatherings.
- **Passover:** April 2-3 & 8-9, 2026 – First two days & last two days of the festival commemorating the Exodus, often involving seders and synagogue attendance.
- **Shavuot:** May 22, 2026 (Friday) – Festival commemorating the giving of the Torah, typically observed with synagogue services and study.



2711 Middleburg Drive, Suite 101 | Columbia, SC 29204

telephone 803 973-0023

info@jewishcolumbia.org

www.jewishcolumbia.org



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To foster a collaborative relationship between schools, families, and students of all faiths, we provide this information to minimize disruptions. A 5-year Jewish holiday calendar is attached for your reference.

To ensure a smooth school year, we encourage the following:

- **Open Communication:** Promote dialogue between families and teachers about religious observances. We ask that the administration share these dates with teachers to aid planning.
- **Flexibility with Assignments:** Request that teachers provide flexibility for assignments and, if possible, avoid scheduling major assessments on or immediately following these holidays.
- **Resources for Educators:** The Columbia Jewish Federation is available to provide resources on Judaism and Jewish holidays to faculty and staff.
- **All-School Programming:** Please refrain from scheduling all-school events on these holiday dates.
- We appreciate your support and understanding of our Jewish families.

Sincerely,
Columbia Jewish Federation
Columbia, SC



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