

Four-Year Calendar of Jewish Holy Days

| Shabbat <i>Sabbath</i> | Rosh Hashanah <i>Jewish New Year</i> | Yom Kippur <i>Day of Atonement</i> | Sukkot* <i>Festival of Booths</i> | Chanukah <i>Festival of Lights</i> | Pesach* Passover <i>Festival of Freedom</i> | Shavout <i>Festival of Weeks</i> |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| <p>One of the holiest days of the Jewish weekly calendar. Many Jews refrain from work and school activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observance begins at sunset every Friday and extends to sunset Saturday. | <p>Begins 10 days of repentance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IMPORTANT NOTE: ANTICIPATE WIDESPREAD ABSENCE | <p>Most solemn holy day, devoted to praying and fasting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IMPORTANT NOTE: ANTICIPATE WIDESPREAD ABSENCE | <p>Celebrates the harvest, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sukkot is followed by Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah celebrating the conclusion of the reading of the Torah and renewing the cycle. | <p>Festive holiday commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem after a successful revolt against Syrian-Greek conquerors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chanukah, celebrated each night for eight nights, is a minor holiday and REQUIRES NO ABSENCES. | <p>Commemorates the ancient Israelites' deliverance from Egyptian bondage. This 8-day observance includes restrictive dietary rules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The "Seder," a symbolic meal, is held in homes on the first two nights. | <p>Takes place seven weeks after Passover, and marks the giving of the five books of Moses (Torah) on Mt. Sinai.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shavout is Confirmation day for some graduating religious school students. |

| School Year | Shabbat | Rosh Hashanah | Yom Kippur | Sukkot* | Chanukah | Pesach* | Shavout |
|-------------|--|------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 2016-2017 | Sunset Every Friday to Sunset Saturday | October 3-4 | October 12 | October 17,18 and October 24, 25 | December 25-January 1 | April 11-18 | May 31-June 1 |
| 2017-2018 | Sunset Every Friday to Sunset Saturday | September 21-22 | September 30 | October 5,6 and October 12,13 | December 13-20 | March 31-April 7 | May 20,21 |
| 2018-2019 | Sunset Every Friday to Sunset Saturday | September 10-11 | September 19 | September 24,25 and October 1, 2 | December 3-10 | April 20-27 | June 9, 10 |
| 2019-2020 | Sunset Every Friday to Sunset Saturday | September 30-October 1 | October 9 | October 14,15 and October 21,22 | December 23-30 | April 9-16 | May 29, 30 |

*The first day and last two days of these Holy Days have greater religious restrictions attached.
REMEMBER THAT EACH HOLIDAY BEGINS AT SUNSET ON THE DAY BEFORE IT IS LISTED ABOVE.

Observance of Jewish Holidays

By Jewish Students and Teachers During the School Year

One of the great features of our American democracy is the respect our Constitution accords for all religions. Our founding fathers recognized that there is great value in the citizens of our nation following the dictates of their conscience. At the same time our founding fathers recognized how important it is not to impose a unified state religious practice on everyone.

In this spirit, the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee (CRC) hopes that Jewish students and teachers will find a respectful atmosphere for their religious observance.

Each year the response of many schools to Jewish holidays causes discomfort and misunderstanding for many Jewish students and school authorities in the Nashville and Middle Tennessee area. The Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Nashville believes the following information will be helpful in alleviating some of these problems.

According to biblical and rabbinic precepts, there are certain holy days on which Jews are commanded "no manner of work." For Jews, therefore, proper observance of these holy days would preclude their attendance at school. Students will spend these days in religious observance.

Because Jews use a calendar based on 12 lunar months for religious purposes, the secular dates of Jewish holy days may vary from year to year by as much as a month.

School officials should be aware that there are different traditions within Judaism that affect school absences. For example, almost all Jews will observe the first day of Rosh Hashanah as well as Yom Kippur, while some Jews will observe, in addition, four days of Sukkot and Passover and a second day of Rosh Hashanah. The smaller number of students who observe these additional days should not lessen the significance of their absence. Again, we wish to underscore the fact that although Jews have different levels of observance, our concern is that all Jews observing holidays find respect and understanding from the schools which they attend.

If you would like resource materials
or have questions about these holidays,
please contact
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2016-2020
5777-5780

A Service of the
Community Relations Committee



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