



March 15, 2018

Dear Community Partner,

As you and your staff begin to prepare for the coming school year, we would, respectfully, like to bring to your attention the dates of the **Jewish High Holy Days** during September, 2018. These days, **Rosh Hashanah** (The Jewish New Year) and **Yom Kippur** (The Day of Atonement), are among the most holy times of observance for the Jewish community.

This year, **Rosh Hashanah** will be observed beginning the evening of **September 9th** and continuing through **September 10-11, 2018**. **Yom Kippur** falls on **September 18-19, 2018** and could possibly conflict with sporting events, or other extra-curricular activities.

Our observance of these days is focused on prayer, and most of our time is spent with our congregations in worship services.

As such, we would very much appreciate your assistance to ensure that student requests for accommodations due to these religious absences are met. Helpful for all would be if principals would speak with the teachers to:

1. **Avoid scheduling homework, tests/quizzes/field trips/and special projects (make-ups tests put students at a disadvantage)**
2. **Avoid the introduction of new curricular material**
3. **Avoid scheduling special rehearsals or athletic events**
4. **Clearly denote these days on the school calendar**

In our many discussions over the years with teachers and principals, we have found that this reminder, and the information attached with this letter, has been appreciated by all ... and has encouraged a positive and productive atmosphere in the classroom.

We would appreciate it if you would share this letter and the enclosed calendar with your respective staffs. This information is also posted on the Jewish Federation's website, JFSA.org, as well as the Jewish community's website, JewishTucson.org. We would also be happy to provide electronic copies of this letter and calendar, if you will e-mail your request to Jscott@jfsa.org.

Should you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact any of us listed below. Thank you, in advance, for your support.

Sincerely,

Stuart Mellan
President & CEO

Rabbi Robert Eisen, Chair
Synagogue/Federation Dialogue

FIVE-YEAR CALENDAR OF MAJOR JEWISH HOLY DAYS

This calendar has been prepared by the Jewish Community Relations Council to assist you in scheduling events such as major assignments, examinations, assemblies, sporting events, field trips and graduations, as well as school-related programs for parents. Courts, legislative bodies and community organizations may also find this calendar helpful in avoiding scheduling conflicts with major Jewish holy days.

The holidays listed in bold denote the Jewish High Holy Days and the beginning of Passover (the night before the first date listed for Passover is when the first Seder is held), the holidays when Jewish individuals are most likely to be absent from both work and school. Also listed are other Jewish holy days in observance of which labor is traditionally prohibited.

Please note that all of our holy days, including the Sabbath, begin in the evenings at sundown (the night before the date(s) on standard calendars and the calendar below) and run through nightfall the next day. The Jewish Sabbath begins at sunset on Friday of each week and lasts until nightfall on Saturday. For many Jews, travel from the home to a secular event can only start after nightfall at the end of the holy day.

So as not to penalize students or workers for their religious observance, we ask for your assistance to avoid scheduling events, tests, preparation for exams, assignments, assemblies, sports events, etc. on major Jewish holy days and the Jewish Sabbath.

FALL / WINTER HOLY DAYS	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Rosh Hashanah (New Year)	Sept 21-22 Thurs-Fri	Sept 10-11 Mon-Tues	Sept 30-Oct 1 Mon-Tues	Sept 19-20 Sat-Sun	Sept 7-8 Tues-Wed
Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	Sept 30 Sat	Sept 19 Wed	Oct 9 Wed	Sept 28 Mon	Sept 16 Thurs
Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles)	Oct 5-6 Thurs-Fri	Sept 24-25 Mon-Tues	Oct 14-15 Mon-Tues	Oct 3-4 Sat-Sun	Sept 21-22 Tues-Wed
Shemini Atzeret (Eighth Day of Sukkot)	Oct 12 Thurs	Oct 1 Mon	Oct 21 Mon	Oct 10 Sat	Sept 28 Tues
Simchat Torah (Rejoicing of the Law)	Oct 13 Fri	Oct 2 Tues	Oct 22 Tues	Oct 11 Sun	Sept 29 Wed
Hanukkah (Festival of Lights)	Dec 13-20 Wed-Wed	Dec 3-10 Mon-Mon	Dec 23-30 Mon-Mon	Dec 11-18 Fri-Fri	Nov 29 – Dec 6 Mon-Mon
SPRING HOLY DAYS	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Pesach (Passover)	Mar 31–Apr 1 Sat – Sun	Apr 20-21 Sat-Sun	Apr 9-10 Thurs-Fri	Mar 28-29 Sun-Mon	Apr 16-17 Sat-Sun
Concluding Days of Passover	Apr 6–7 Fri-Sat	Apr 26-27 Fri-Sat	Apr 15-16 Wed-Thurs	Apr 3-4 Sat-Sun	Apr 22-23 Fri-Sat
Shavuot (Feast of Harvest)	May 20-21 Sun-Mon	June 9-10 Sun-Mon	May 29-30 Fri-Sat	May 17-18 Mon-Tues	June 5-6 Sun-Mon