

# 2024-2026

## Jewish Holiday and Observances Calendar



### Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday Evening, October 2-  
 Friday, October 4 **2024**

Monday Evening, September 22-  
 Wednesday, September 24 **2025**

### Yom Kippur

Friday Evening, October 11-  
 Saturday, October 12 **2024**

Wednesday Evening, October 1-  
 Thursday, October 2 **2025**

### Sukkot

Wednesday Evening, October 16-  
 Wednesday, October 23 **2024**

Monday Evening, October 6-  
 Monday, October 13 **2025**

### Shmini Atzeret & Simchat Torah

Wednesday Evening, October 23-  
 Friday, October 25 **2024**

Monday Evening, October 13-  
 Wednesday, October 15 **2025**

### Hanukkah

Wednesday Evening, December  
 25 **2024**- Thursday, Januar 2 **2025**

Friday Evening, December 14-  
 Saturday, December 22 **2025**

### Purim

Thursday Evening, March 13-  
 Friday, March 14 **2025**

Monday Evening, March 2-  
 Tuesday, March 3 **2026**

### Passover

Saturday Evening, April 12-  
 Sunday, April 20 **2025**

Wednesday Evening, April 1-  
 Thursday, April 9 **2026**

### Shavuot

Sunday Evening, June 1- Tuesday,  
 June 3 **2025**

Thursday Evening, May 21-  
 Saturday, May 23 **2026**

Jews vary in their religious practice; therefore, some students and staff may be absent for religious purposes more often than others.

Widely Observed Holidays

Major Holidays

Minor Holidays

## Rosh Hashanah

- Jewish New Year; begins a 10-day period of repentance and prayer, called the High Holidays.
- Most students will be spending a significant portion of each day(s) in prayer at synagogue.
- **For schools that are in session, almost all Jewish students and teachers will be absent on the first day; some will also be absent on the second day.**
- Assignments, deadlines, and exams on the second day or the day after are problematic.

## Yom Kippur

- The holiest day in the Jewish year begins at sundown the night before with a sacred Kol Nidre service; many, if not most Jews, will be unavailable starting late afternoon.
- Marked by fasting, praying, and seeking forgiveness.
- **Almost all Jewish students and teachers will be absent.**
- Assignments, deadlines, and exams on the day of or the day after are problematic.

## Shabbat

- The weekly holy day of rest, whose strict observance is central to traditional Jews.
- Begins at sunset every Friday and lasts until sunset on Saturday.
- Marks G-d's day of rest on the seventh day of creation.

**This holiday is a time of elevated holiness.**

## Sukkot & Simchat Torah

- An eight-day Jewish festival of harvest and thanksgiving; celebrations are held in a temporary structure known as a sukkah.
- Ends with Simchat Torah, a festival celebrating the conclusion of the annual cycle of weekly readings from the Torah.

**The 1st, 2nd, 7th, and 8th days of the holidays are considered days of elevated holiness.**

## Hanukkah

- Eight-day holiday known as the Festival of Lights.
- Commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.
- Family celebrations and festival-related meals take place in the evenings.

**Does NOT involve a holy day requiring students to miss school for religious observance.**

## Purim

- One of the most joyous and entertaining holidays on the Jewish calendar.
- Commemorates the triumph of the Jewish people over Persian aggressors who sought to annihilate them.
- The central prayer service and celebration take place on the first evening of the holiday.

## Passover

- Passover (or Pesach) commemorates the ancient Hebrews' exodus from Egyptian bondage.
- During the eight-day festival, there are dietary restrictions and matzah is eaten.
- The Seder is a ritual meal observed by most Jews on the first night and many Jews on the second night as well. Avoid scheduling proms or special events on those evenings.

**The 1st, 2nd, 7th, and 8th days of the holiday are considered days of elevated holiness.**

## Shavuot

- Celebrates the covenant established at Mount Sinai between G-d and the Jewish people, and the giving of the Torah to Moses and the Jewish people.
- Many synagogues hold their high school confirmation graduation ceremonies during Shavuot services to honor the culmination of students' religious studies.
- Avoid holding graduation ceremonies during this holiday.

**This holiday is a time of elevated holiness.**

During days of elevated holiness, some Jews refrain from attending work or school, using electronics, doing homework, or driving, and may therefore require accommodations.

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