

JCRC
JEWISH COMMUNITY
RELATIONS COUNCIL
OF GREATER WASHINGTON

NOTES ON JEWISH HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES:

- All Jewish religious observances begin on the evening before the date indicated on calendars below and conclude at nightfall on the last evening.
- Jews vary in their religious practice; therefore some students and staff may be absent for religious purposes more often than others.
- The exact dates of Jewish holidays and observances differ each year because the Jewish calendar is lunar-based.

2023-2024 School Year

August 2022							September							October								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
	1	2	3	4	5	6						1	2	3	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	1	30	31	Yom Kippur						
							Rosh Hashana							Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, Simchat Torah								
November							December							January 2023								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
			1	2	3	4	Hanukkah						1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31						
February							March							April								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
				1	2	3	Purim						1	2	3	4	2	3	4	5	6	7
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
26	27	28					26	27	28	29	30	31	1	30	Passover							
May							June							July								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
	1	2	3	4	5	6						1	2	3	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	1	30	31							
Shavuot																						

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	31			

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur						

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Hanukkah					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Purim					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
Passover						

Shavuot

Jewish Religious Observances Calendar

SHABBAT

- The weekly holy day of rest, whose strict observance is central to traditional Jews.
- One of the holiest days observed.
- Commemorates G-d's day of rest on the 7th day of creation.
- Begins at sunset every Friday and extends until sunset on Saturday.

ROSH HASHANA

Mon- Tues, Sept 26 - 27, 2022

Sat - Sun, Sept 16 - 17, 2023

- Jewish New Year, beginning a ten-day period of repentance and prayer, called the High Holidays, to signify the elevated importance of this period
- Most students will be spending a significant portion of each day(s) in prayer at synagogue.
- Almost all Jewish students and teachers will be absent on the first day, while some will choose to attend school on the 2nd day.

Avoid scheduling events on the evening before or on those days. Assignment deadlines and exams on the second day of the holiday or the day after the holiday are also problematic.

YOM KIPPUR

Tues, Oct 5, 2022

Sun, Sept 25, 2023

- Holiest day in the Jewish year, occurring 10 days after Rosh Hashanah.
- The day is marked by fasting and prayers. People atone, asking forgiveness from both G-d and fellow humans.
- Almost all Jewish students and teachers will be absent.

Avoid scheduling events on the evening before or on those days. Assignment deadlines and exams on the day after the holiday are also problematic.

SUKKOT, SHEMINI ATZERET

AND SIMCHAT TORAH

Mon- Tues, Oct 10 - 18, 2022

Sat - Sun, Sept 30 - Oct 8, 2023

- Eight day Jewish festival of harvest and thanksgiving.
- Associated with celebrations held in a temporary booth known as a sukkah.
- Ends with Simchat Torah, a festival celebrating the conclusion of the annual cycle of weekly readings from the *Torah*, Jewish Holy Scriptures (Old Testament).

The 1st, 2nd, 7th, and 8th days of the holidays are considered days of elevated holiness when some Jews refrain from attending work and school, and from using electronics, doing homework, or driving. A small number of students or teachers may need accommodations to complete assignments and exams.

HANUKKAH

Sun - Sun, Dec 18 - 25, 2022

Thurs - Thurs, Dec 7 - 14, 2023

- Known as the Festival of Lights.
- Commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem;

Does NOT involve a holy day requiring students to miss school for religious observance. Family celebrations and festival-related meals take place in the evenings during the holiday.

PURIM

Tues, March 7, 2023

Sun, March 24, 2024

- One of the most joyous and fun-filled holidays on the Jewish Calendar.
- Commemorates the Jewish people in Persia being saved from extermination.
- The central prayer service and celebration takes place in the evening of the day before the holiday.

Students observing the holiday may not be able to complete homework assignments or study for exams scheduled for the next day. Some students may miss school the next morning to attend holiday services.

PASSOVER

Thurs - Thurs, April 6 - 13, 2023

Tues - Tues, April 23 - 30, 2024

- Passover (or Pesach) commemorates the ancient Hebrews' exodus from Egyptian bondage.
- During this eight day festival, there are dietary restrictions and matzah (unleavened bread) is eaten.
- The Seder is a ritual meal that occurs on the evening of the first two days of Passover and is most widely observed.
- Almost all Jewish students and teachers will be unavailable the first evening of Passover and many will also be unavailable the 2nd evening of Passover.

Avoid scheduling proms or special events on the evening before and the first 2 days of the holiday. The 1st, 2nd, 7th, and 8th days of the holiday are considered days of elevated holiness when some Jews refrain from attending work and school, and from using electronics, doing homework, or driving. Some students or teachers may need accommodations to complete assignments and exams.

SHAVUOT

Fri - Sat, May 26 - 27, 2023

Wed - Thurs, June 14 - 15, 2024

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

The holiday is a time of elevated holiness, when some Jews refrain from attending work and school, and from using electronics, doing homework, or driving. Avoid scheduling end-of-year or graduation-related events on days coinciding with this festival.

**WIDELY OBSERVED
HOLIDAYS**

**MAJOR
HOLIDAYS**

**MINOR
HOLIDAYS**