# Jewish Religious Observances Calendar



This calendar of Jewish holidays has been prepared by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington as an aid for planning and scheduling events (tests, examinations, assemblies, conferences, athletic events, tournaments, open houses, registrations, etc.) to minimize conflicts that involve the absence of Jewish students and personnel. Holidays marked in red indicate days when the most Jewish students will be absent/need accommodations.

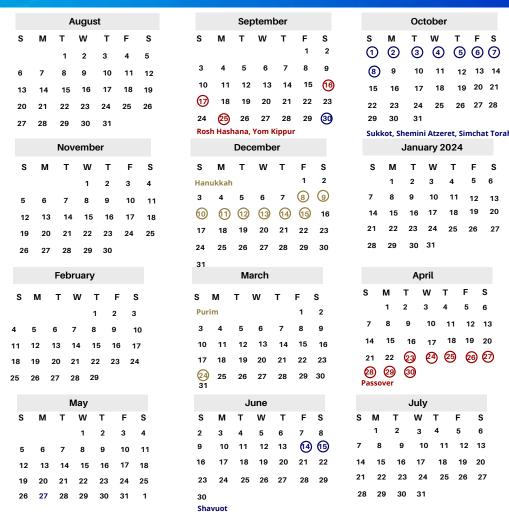
## **NOTES ON JEWISH HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES:**

- 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.

# 2022-2023 School Year



# 2023-2024 School Year



# 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
- 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 Thurs - Thurs, Dec 7- 14, 2023 the second day of the holiday or the day after the holiday • Known as the Festival of Lights. 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

- 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 holidav.

#### **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 holidav.

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.

