

CALENDAR OF JEWISH HOLIDAYS

2020-2021 5781

DESCRIPTION OF OBSERVANCE

There are three major branches within Judaism: Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform. All three consider the holy days to be special religious events. Each has its own practice of observance regarding work and school on holy days. As a result, the number of days which a holy day may be observed varies from person to person.

The Jewish Sabbath (Shabbat) begins each week before sunset on Friday and ends after sunset on Saturday.

All Jewish holidays begin before sunset of the previous evening. It is important that schools avoid conflicts on the eve and the day of the holiday.

STUDENTS AND STAFF WILL PROBABLY BE ABSENT FOR THESE HOLY DAYS, AND SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO PREPARE ASSIGNMENTS OR FOR EXAMS.

ROSH HASHANAH – Jewish New Year YOM KIPPUR – Day of Atonement

*Sunset Friday evening – September 18, 2020
through sunset Sunday – September 20, 2020*

Rosh Hashanah is the beginning of the Jewish year. It is the first of the High Holy Days and marks the start of the ten-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal.

*Sunset Sunday evening – September 27, 2020
through Monday evening – September 28, 2020*

This is the most holy day in the Jewish year. It is devoted to fasting and prayer, as people ask G-d and each other for forgiveness.

PASSOVER (Seders – first two evenings) – Festival of Freedom

Sunset Saturday evening, March 27, 2021 (First Seder) and sunset Sunday evening, March 28, 2021 (Second Seder).

*First two days of Passover: Sunset Saturday, March 27 through sunset Monday, March 29, 2021
(full Passover holiday sunset March 27 through sunset April 4, 2021).*

The Seder is a family ritual service that occurs on the first two evenings of Passover. Students should not be expected to prepare assignments or for exams on these nights. The first two and last two days of Passover are holy days, when students and staff may be absent. Passover celebrates the liberation of the Jews from Egyptian bondage. During this eight-day holiday, many Jews refrain from eating bread products and eat matzah (unleavened bread) instead.

STUDENTS AND STAFF MAY BE ABSENT FOR THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:

SUKKOT – First two days

*Sunset Friday evening – October 2, 2020
through sunset Sunday – October 4, 2020*

Sukkot is the Jewish festival of thanksgiving and harvest.

SHEMINI ATZERET

*Sunset Friday evening – October 9, 2020
through sunset Saturday – October 10, 2020*

Shemini Atzeret is the eighth day of Sukkot, on which special memorial prayers are said.

SIMCHAT TORAH

*Sunset Saturday evening – October 10, 2020
through sunset Sunday – October 11, 2020*

Simchat Torah celebrates the conclusion of the yearly cycle of reading the Five Books of Moses and its beginning anew, thus demonstrating that study is a never-ending process.

PASSOVER – Last two days

*Sunset Friday evening – April 2, 2021
through sunset Sunday – April 4, 2021*

(full Passover holiday sunset March 27-April 4, 2021 - see above)

The last two days of Passover conclude the celebration of Passover.

SHAVUOT

*Sunset Sunday evening – May 16, 2021
through sunset Tuesday – May 18, 2021*

Shavuot celebrates the covenant established at Mount Sinai between G-d and Israel, and the revelation of the Ten Commandments.

CALENDAR OF JEWISH HOLIDAYS

2020-2021 5781

DESCRIPTION OF OBSERVANCE

There are three major branches within Judaism: Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform. All three consider the holy days to be special religious events. Each has its own practice of observance regarding work and school on holy days. As a result, the number of days which a holy day may be observed varies from person to person.

The Jewish Sabbath (Shabbat) begins each week before sunset on Friday and ends after sunset on Saturday.

All Jewish holidays begin before sunset of the previous evening. It is important that schools avoid conflicts on the eve and the day of the holiday.

FESTIVALS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE MISSING WORK OR SCHOOL:

HANUKKAH – The eight-day Festival of Lights
Sunset Thursday evening - December 10, 2020 through sunset Friday - December 18, 2020

Hanukkah celebrates the triumph of religious liberty and the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem by the Maccabees in 165 BCE.

PURIM – Feast of Lots

Sunset Thursday evening - February 25, 2021 through sunset Friday - February 26, 2021

A joyous festival commemorating the time when the Jews of ancient Persia were saved from extermination through the intervention of Queen Esther.

TWO-YEAR CALENDAR OF MAJOR JEWISH HOLIDAYS

2021-2022 5782

2022-2023 5783

ROSH HASHANAH	Sept. 6-Sept.8, 2021 (sunset Mon.–sunset Weds.)	Sept. 25-27, 2022 (sunset Sun.–sunset Tues.)
YOM KIPPUR	Sept. 15-16, 2021 (sunset Wed.–Thurs. evening)	Oct. 4-5, 2022 (sunset Tues.–Wed. evening)
Sukkot (First 2 days)	Sept. 20-22, 2021 (sunset Mon.–sunset Wed.)	Oct. 9-11, 2022 (sunset Sun.–sunset Tues.)
Shemini Atzeret	Sept. 27-28, 2021 (sunset Mon.–sunset Tues.)	Oct. 16-17, 2022 (sunset Sun.–sunset Mon.)
Simchat Torah	Sept. 28-29, 2021 (sunset Tues.–sunset Wed.)	Oct. 17-18, 2022 (sunset Mon.–sunset Tues.)
Hanukkah	Nov. 28-Dec. 6, 2021 (sunset Sun.–sunset Mon.)	Dec. 18-26, 2022 (sunset Sun.–sunset Mon.)
Purim	March 16-17, 2022 (sunset Wed.–sunset Thurs.)	March 6-7, 2023 (sunset Mon.–sunset Tues.)
PASSOVER (First 2 days)	April 15-17, 2022 (sunset Fri.–sunset Sun.)	April 5-7, 2023 (sunset Wed.–sunset Fri.)
Passover (Last 2 days)	April 21-23, 2022 (sunset Thurs.–sunset Sat.)	April 11-13, 2023 (sunset Tues.–sunset Thurs.)
Shavuot	June 4-6, 2022 (sunset Sat.–sunset Mon.)	May 25-27, 2023 (sunset Thurs.–sunset Sat.)

WE WANT TO HELP

We provide this information to familiarize area educators with the major holidays of the Jewish faith. We hope it will be valuable to you in understanding Jewish holiday observances and their effect on student and staff absences and classroom planning.

PLEASE CALL US FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE JEWISH CALENDAR OR RELATED SUBJECTS.

JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS BUREAU|AJC

SERVING KANSAS AND WESTERN MISSOURI

5801 WEST 115TH STREET, SUITE 203
OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS 66211

JCRB | AJC Kansas City

P: 913.327.8127 F: 913.327.8280
WWW.JCRBAJC.ORG JCRBAJC@JEWISHKC.ORG

Side 2