

# 2023-2024 Jewish Holidays and Observances Calendar

## KEY

-  = Widely Observed Holidays
-  = Major Holidays
-  = Minor Holidays

### September 2023

**Rosh Hashanah**   
 Friday evening, Sept. 15th -  
 Sunday, Sept. 17th

**Yom Kippur**  
 Sunday evening, Sept. 24th -  
 Monday, Sept. 25th

### October 2023

**Sukkot and  
Simchat Torah**  
 Friday evening, Sept.  
 29th - Sunday, Oct. 8th



### December 2023

**Hanukkah**   
 Thursday evening, Dec. 7th -  
 Friday, Dec. 15th



### March 2024

**Purim**  
 Saturday evening, March  
 23rd - Sunday, March 24th

### April 2024

**Passover**   
 Monday evening, April  
 22nd - Tuesday, April 30th

### June 2024

**Shavuot**   
 Tuesday evening, June  
 11th - Thursday, June 13th

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

**As with Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Shavuot and the first two and last two days of Passover and Sukkot are days of elevated holiness. Some Jews refrain from attending work or school, using electronics, doing homework, or driving on those days, and may therefore require accommodations.**

## 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.

## 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.**

## Sukkot and 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.**

## 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.**

## 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.

