

FOUR-YEAR CALENDAR OF MAJOR JEWISH HOLIDAYS

This calendar has been prepared and designed to assist school superintendents, boards, administrators, and teachers in planning and scheduling examinations, assemblies, field trips, sporting events, graduations, and other school-related events, activities, and programs. Businesses, organizations, government agencies, and the media may also find this calendar helpful in their planning. Each Jewish holiday is explained following the calendar below.

Jewish holidays begin at sundown on the preceding evening and conclude on the night of the dates noted.

(*) We have indicated with an asterisk those Jewish holidays that are most commonly observed by synagogue attendance and/or family gatherings. During these observances and many others, as well as on the Sabbath—sundown on Friday evening through sundown on Saturday evening—work is traditionally prohibited. As a result, Jewish individuals may be absent from both school and work. **For these holidays, we have also included a separate line for the prior evenings' observances, as they are generally times of worship and family gatherings.**

Secular/School Year	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Jewish Year	5779	5780	5781	5782
* EREV (EVE OF) ROSH HASHANAH	September 9 Sunday	September 29 Sunday	September 18 Friday	September 6 Monday
* ROSH HASHANAH	Sept. 10 & 11 Mon. & Tues.	Sept. 30 & Oct. 1 Mon & Tues	Sept. 19 & 20 Sat. & Sun.	Sept. 7 & 8 Tues. & Wed.
* EREV (EVE OF) YOM KIPPUR	September 18 Tuesday	Oct. 8 Tuesday	September 27 Sunday	September 15 Wednesday
* YOM KIPPUR	September 19 Wednesday	Oct. 9 Wednesday	September 28 Monday	September 16 Thursday
SUKKOT	Sept. 24 – 30 Mon. – Sun.	Oct. 14 - 20 Mon. - Sun.	Oct. 3 - 9 Sat. - Fri.	Sept. 21 – 27 Tues. - Mon.
SHEMINI ATZERET	October 1 Monday	Oct. 21 Monday	Oct. 10 Saturday	Sept. 28 Tuesday
SIMCHAT TORAH	October 2 Tuesday	Oct. 22 Tuesday	Oct. 11 Sunday	Sept. 29 Wednesday
HANUKKAH	Dec. 3 -10 Mon. – Mon.	Dec. 23-30 Mon. - Mon.	Dec. 11 - 18 Fri. - Fri.	Nov. 29 – Dec 6 Mon. - Mon.
PURIM	March 21 Thursday	March 10 Tuesday	Feb. 26 Friday	March 17 Thursday
* FIRST NIGHT OF PASSOVER	April 19 Friday	April 8 Wednesday	March 27 Saturday	April 15 Friday
PASSOVER (first 2 days of 8-day holiday)	April 20-21 Sat. & Sun.	April 9 & 10 Thurs. & Fri.	March 28 & 29 Sun. & Mon.	April 16 & 17 Sat. & Sun.
FINAL DAYS OF PASSOVER	April 26 – 27 Fri. & Sat.	April 15 & 16 Wed. & Thurs.	April 3 & 4 Sat. & Sun.	April 22 & 23 Fri. & Sat.
SHAVUOT	June 9-10 Tue. & Wed.	May 29 & 30 Fri. & Sat.	May 17 & 18 Mon. & Tues.	June 5 & 6 Sun. & Mon.



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Summary Explanation of the Jewish Holidays

The Jewish calendar is based on a lunar calendar. For that reason, each holiday is celebrated at approximately the same time every year, but not necessarily on the same date of the Gregorian calendar. All Jewish holidays begin the evening *before* the date specified on most calendars. This is because a Jewish "day" begins and ends at sunset, rather than at midnight. **Many Jews do not work or attend school on Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, the first and second days of Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, Simchat Torah, Shavuot, and the first, second, seventh, and eighth days of Passover.**

* ROSH HASHANAH (Jewish New Year)	Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year. Traditions include eating apples dipped in honey and blowing the <i>shofar</i> (ram's horn). Most Jews attend synagogue on these days and the preceding evening.
* YOM KIPPUR (Day of Atonement)	Yom Kippur is considered by Jews to be the holiest and most solemn day of the year. Fasting begins at sundown and ends after nightfall the following day. Most Jews attend synagogue on this day and the preceding evening.
SUKKOT (Feast of Tabernacles)	Sukkot is a seven-day festival, also known as the Feast or Festival of Booths, the Feast of Tabernacles, or just Tabernacles. It is one of the three pilgrimage festivals mentioned in the Bible. Sukkot is celebrated by the building of a <i>sukkah</i> , or temporary dwelling, outdoors.
SHEMINI ATZERET (Eighth Day of Sukkot)	This holiday immediately follows the conclusion of the holiday of Sukkot.
SIMCHAT TORAH (Rejoicing of the Law)	This holiday immediately follows the holidays of Sukkot and Shemini Atzeret. It concludes and begins anew the annual reading cycle of the <i>Torah</i> , the Five Books of Moses that make up a portion of the Jewish Bible.
HANUKKAH (Festival of Lights)	Hanukkah (or Chanukah) is an eight-day festival marked by the lighting of candles—one on the first night, two on the second and so on—using a special candle holder called a <i>menorah</i> or <i>chanukiah</i> . Although not a major Jewish holiday, its popularity has increased in recent years, especially among American Jews. Traditions include a game involving the spinning of <i>dreidels</i> (tops), eating potato <i>latkes</i> (pancakes) and gift-giving.
PURIM	Purim is one of the most joyous Jewish holidays. Purim commemorates the events that took place in the Book of Esther. Traditions include masquerading in costumes and giving care packages to those in need.
* PASSOVER (Pesach)	Passover (or Pesach) commemorates the liberation of the Hebrew slaves from Egypt. A feast called a <i>seder</i> is held on the first two nights and sometimes on the final two nights of the eight-day holiday. No leavened food (e.g., bread, cake) is eaten during Passover. <i>Matzah</i> (unleavened bread) is consumed instead.
CONCLUDING DAYS OF PASSOVER (Pesach)	During the last two days of Passover, no work is permitted.
SHAVUOT (Feast of Weeks)	Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks, is also known as "Pentecost." According to Rabbinic tradition, the Ten Commandments were given on this day. It is traditional to eat meals containing dairy during Shavuot.