

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	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Jewish Year	5784	5785	5786	5787
* EREV (EVE OF) ROSH HASHANAH	September 15 Friday	October 2 Wednesday	September 22 Monday	September 11 Friday
* ROSH HASHANAH	Sept. 16 & 17 Sat. & Sun.	October 3 & 4 Thurs. & Fri.	September 23 & 24 Tues. & Wed.	September 12 & 13 Sat. & Sun.
* EREV (EVE OF) YOM KIPPUR	September 24 Sunday	October 11 Friday	October 1 Wednesday	September 20 Sunday
* YOM KIPPUR	September 25 Monday	October 12 Saturday	October 2 Thursday	September 21 Monday
SUKKOT	Sept. 30 – 6 Sat. - Fri.	October 17 – 23 Thurs. – Wed.	October 7 – 13 Tues. – Mon.	Sept. 26 – Oct. 2 Sat. – Fri.
SHEMINI ATZERET	Oct. 7 Saturday	October 24 Thursday	October 14 Tuesday	October 3 Saturday
SIMCHAT TORAH	Oct. 8 Sunday	October 25 Friday	October 15 Wednesday	October 4 Sunday
HANUKKAH	Dec. 8 – 15 Fri. - Fri.	Dec. 26 – Jan 2. Thurs. – Thurs.	Dec. 15 – 22 Mon. – Mon.	Dec. 5 – 12 Sat. – Sat.
PURIM	March 24 Sunday	March 14 Friday	March 3 Tuesday	March 23 Tuesday
* FIRST NIGHT OF PASSOVER	April 22 Wednesday	April 12 Saturday	April 1 Wednesday	April 21 Wednesday
PASSOVER (first 2 days of 8-day holiday)	April 23 & 24 Tues. & Wed.	April 13 & 14 Sun. & Mon.	April 2 & 3 Thurs. & Fri.	April 22 & 23 Thurs. & Fri.
FINAL DAYS OF PASSOVER	April 29 & 30 Mon. & Tues.	April 19 & 20 Sat. & Sun.	April 8 & 9 Wed. & Thurs.	April 28 & 29 Wed. & Thurs.
SHAVUOT	June 12 & 13 Wed. & Thurs.	June 2 & 3 Mon. & Tues.	May 22 & 23 Fri. & Sat.	June 11 & 12 Fri. & Sat.

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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.