

Calendar of Jewish Holidays

This guide is designed to inform you about the Jewish calendar and cycle of holidays. Jews observe these holidays according to their family traditions and personal preferences.

Dates in **red** are the High Holy Days; expect almost all Jewish students and employees to be absent and avoid scheduling events when possible. Dates in **blue** are Holy Days; expect some Jewish students and employees to be absent. It is respectful to avoid scheduling events when possible. Hanukkah and Purim are major holidays, but generally do not necessitate absence, though you may want to take them into consideration when planning evening events. Some Jews will not participate in events on Shabbat, which begins every Friday night at sundown and concludes Saturday evening at sundown.

The Jewish calendar follows the lunar cycle, which runs shorter than the solar cycle used for the standard calendar. Thus, most Jewish holidays do not fall on the same date each year.

Jewish holidays begin and end at sundown. Therefore, all holidays begin at sundown on the first day and end at nightfall on the last day shown in the calendar below.

Following the Five-Year-Calendar are descriptions of each holiday. The JCRC is here to help! Reach out to margaretn@bjf.org with questions.

Although some of this guidance primarily addresses the needs of Jewish students, it is equally valuable for employers and community organizations in planning and showing sensitivity to holiday observances among employees and the wider community.

Key Components of Sensitivity:

- Avoid scheduling conflicts when possible (including evening special events).
- Respect preparation times, especially the afternoon going into a holiday.
- For teachers, schedule a lesson or test that is easy to makeup.
- Be mindful of homework and assignments.
- Be aware of fast days and dietary restrictions.
- Be inclusive; acknowledge that these are important days for Jewish individuals and families.

Five-Year Academic Calendar of Jewish Holidays

2025-2026

Holiday	Start Date	End Date
Shabbat	Weekly, Friday sunset	Saturday night
Rosh Hashanah	Monday sunset, September 22, 2025	Wednesday night, September 24, 2025
Yom Kippur	Wednesday sunset, October 1, 2025	Thursday night, October 2, 2025
Sukkot	Monday sunset, October 6, 2025	Monday night, October 13, 2025
Shemini Atzeret	Monday sunset, October 13, 2025	Tuesday sunset, October 14, 2025
Simchat Torah	Tuesday sunset, October 14, 2025	Wednesday night, October 15, 2025
Hanukkah	Sunday night, December 14, 2025	Monday night, December 22, 2025
Purim	Monday sunset, March 2, 2026	Tuesday night, March 3, 2026
Passover	Wednesday sunset, April 1, 2026	Thursday night, April 9, 2026
Shavuot	Thursday sunset, May 21, 2026	Saturday night, May 23, 2026

2026-2027

Holiday	Start Date	End Date
Shabbat	Weekly, Friday sunset	Saturday night
Rosh Hashanah	Friday sunset, September 11, 2026	Sunday night, September 13, 2026
Yom Kippur	Sunday sunset, September 20, 2026	Monday night, September 21, 2026
Sukkot	Friday sunset, September 25, 2026	Friday night, October 2, 2026
Shemini Atzeret	Friday sunset, October 2, 2026	Saturday sunset, October 3, 2026
Simchat Torah	Saturday sunset, October 3, 2026	Sunday night, October 4, 2026
Hanukkah	Friday night, December 4, 2026	Saturday night, December 12, 2026
Purim	Monday sunset, March 22, 2027	Tuesday night, March 23, 2027
Passover	Wednesday sunset, April 21, 2027	Thursday night, April 29, 2027



Shavuot	Thursday sunset, June 10, 2027	Saturday night, June 12, 2027
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2027-2028

Holiday	Start Date	End Date
Shabbat	Weekly, Friday sunset	Saturday night
Rosh Hashanah	Friday sunset, October 1, 2027	Sunday night, October 3, 2027
Yom Kippur	Sunday sunset, October 10, 2027	Monday night, October 11, 2027
Sukkot	Friday sunset, October 15, 2027	Friday night, October 22, 2027
Shemini Atzeret	Friday sunset, October 22, 2027	Saturday sunset, October 23, 2027
Simchat Torah	Saturday sunset, October 23, 2027	Sunday night, October 24, 2027
Hanukkah	Friday night, December 24, 2027	Saturday night, January 1, 2028
Purim	Saturday sunset, March 11, 2028	Sunday night, March 12, 2028
Passover	Monday sunset, April 10, 2028	Tuesday night, April 18, 2028
Shavuot	Tuesday sunset, May 30, 2028	Thursday night, June 1, 2028

2028-2029

Holiday	Start Date	End Date
Shabbat	Weekly, Friday sunset	Saturday night
Rosh Hashanah	Wednesday sunset, September 20, 2028	Friday night, September 22, 2028
Yom Kippur	Friday sunset, September 29, 2028	Saturday night, September 30, 2028
Sukkot	Wednesday sunset, October 4, 2028	Wednesday night, October 11, 2028
Shemini Atzeret	Wednesday sunset, October 11, 2028	Thursday sunset, October 12, 2028
Simchat Torah	Thursday sunset, October 12, 2028	Friday night, October 13, 2028
Hanukkah	Tuesday night, December 12, 2028	Wednesday night, December 20, 2028
Purim	Wednesday sunset, February 28, 2029	Thursday night, March 1, 2029



Passover	Friday sunset, March 30, 2029	Saturday night, April 7, 2029
Shavuot	Saturday sunset, May 19, 2029	Monday night, May 21, 2029

2029-2030

Holiday	Start Date	End Date
Shabbat	Weekly, Friday sunset	Saturday night
Rosh Hashanah	Sunday sunset, September 9, 2029	Tuesday night, September 11, 2029
Yom Kippur	Tuesday sunset, September 18, 2029	Wednesday night, September 19, 2029
Sukkot	Sunday sunset, September 23, 2029	Sunday night, September 30, 2029
Shemini Atzeret	Sunday sunset, September 30, 2029	Monday night, October 1, 2029
Simchat Torah	Monday sunset, October 1, 2029	Tuesday night, October 2, 2029
Hanukkah	Saturday night, December 1, 2029	Sunday night, December 9, 2029
Purim	Monday sunset, March 18, 2030	Tuesday night, March 19, 2030
Passover	Wednesday sunset, April 17, 2030	Thursday night, April 25, 2030
Shavuot	Thursday sunset, June 6, 2030	Saturday night, June 8, 2030

Shabbat

Description: Shabbat is the weekly day of rest for the Jewish faith, when Jewish people refrain from typical weekday behaviors and participate in restful activities. **Shabbat is considered by many to be the most important day in the Jewish faith.** Shabbat meals are typically celebrated with a cup of wine and challah, a special braided bread.

Practice: Shabbat is marked by attending synagogue Friday night, Saturday morning, and Saturday afternoon, in addition to three festive meals. Students who observe Shabbat traditionally will also refrain from working, traveling, spending money, and using electronics, and will engage in restful activities.

What to expect: While Shabbat falls over the weekend, so students will not have to miss school, some may miss any extracurriculars that occur between Friday and Saturday at sundown. Community organizations can be mindful of Shabbat when scheduling major events.



Rosh Hashanah

Description: One of the "High Holy Days," Rosh Hashanah means "head of the year" and is the beginning of the Jewish New Year. Orthodox and Conservative Jews observe the traditional two-day holiday, while Reform Jews observe only the first day. Rosh Hashanah is one of the three most observed holidays by all Jewish families. The central observance of Rosh Hashanah is listening to the blowing of the shofar (ram's horn) during prayer services. Rosh Hashanah meals traditionally include round challah bread and apples dipped in honey that symbolize our wishes for a sweet year.

Practice: Jewish students will likely attend prayer services and convene with their families. Rosh Hashanah is considered a day of rest; therefore, some students will refrain from working, traveling, spending money, and using electronics,

What to expect: Most Jewish students will miss school and extracurricular activities. Employees may request off for religious observance. Community organizations should try to avoid scheduling major events.

How to support your Jewish students: We encourage teachers to avoid scheduling lessons or activities that would be hard to make up and to allow extra time to make up tests and homework. It is respectful to avoid scheduling school pictures, field trips, pep rallies or other such special events.

Yom Kippur

Description: One of the "High Holy Days" Yom Kippur translates to "Day of Atonement" and is the holiest days of the year in the Jewish calendar. It is focused on atonement and repentance through prayer, fasting and acts of charity. Yom Kippur is a fast day, where Jewish people over the age of 13 do not drink or eat anything for 25 hours. The holiday is spent in synagogue and is concluded by the blowing of the shofar.

Practice: Jewish students will likely attend prayer services and convene with families. Yom Kippur is considered a day of rest; therefore, some students will refrain from working, traveling, spending money, and using electronics.

What to expect: Most Jewish students will miss school and extracurricular activities. Employees may request off for religious observance. Community organizations should try to avoid scheduling major events.

How to support your Jewish students: We encourage teachers to avoid scheduling lessons or activities that would be hard to make up and to allow extra time to make up tests and homework. It is respectful to avoid scheduling school pictures, field trips, pep rallies or other such special events.



Sukkot

Description: Sukkot, which means “festival of booths,” is a week-long holiday commemorated by dwelling in huts called ‘sukkot,’ which the Israelites lived in after the Exodus from Egypt. The festival of Sukkot also references the types of dwellings that farmers would live in during harvesting, making Sukkot important both as a holiday recognizing the Exodus from Egypt and a harvest festival. Another important feature of Sukkot is making a blessing over the four species, four different types of leaves, and the etrog, a type of citrus.

Practice: The first two days are considered days of rest, therefore, some students will refrain from working, traveling, spending money, and using electronics. While many Jewish students may not observe the holiday restrictions, some will attend prayer services and convene with family. As a festive holiday, it is common for people to gather in Sukkot for meals and celebrations. During the intermediate days of the festival, the use of electricity, writing, etc. are permitted, but many Jewish people still use these days as a time to rest and enjoy the holiday. Nonetheless, students can participate fully in academic activity during the intermediate days. Please note that the intermediate days often include a Shabbat (see above) when work is prohibited.

What to expect: For the first two of Sukkot, Jewish students may miss school and extracurricular activities. (Reform Jews generally observe only one day at the beginning of the holiday.)

Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah

Description: Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah are two holidays that occur at the end of the week-long holiday of Sukkot. Shemini Atzeret is a celebration of the end of the high holiday season in the Jewish calendar, and occurs on the last day of Sukkot. Simchat Torah is the celebration of when the Jewish people finish their annual Torah (Hebrew bible) reading cycle, and the holiday is often joyous, with much singing and dancing.

Practice: Jewish students may attend prayer services and festive events. These two days are considered days of rest, therefore, some students will refrain from working, traveling, spending money, and using electronics.

What to expect: Jewish students may miss school and extracurricular activities, and may also refrain from working, traveling, spending money, and using electronics. Be aware of potential evening celebrations for Simchat Torah.



Hanukkah

Description: Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish holiday that usually falls in December. It commemorates the re-dedication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and the miracle of the oil that lasted eight days instead of one.

Practice: The central tradition is lighting the menorah each night, adding one candle until all eight are lit. Families often celebrate with songs, games like spinning the dreidel, eating fried foods such as latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiyot (jelly donuts), and exchanging small gifts. There are no work restrictions or daytime prayer services to attend.

How to support your Jewish students: Incorporate educational material about Hanukkah into your holiday curriculum! Jewish students may often feel left out if there is curriculum about other winter holidays without including Hanukkah, so incorporating information about Hanukkah into lesson plans or holiday celebrations is a great way to support and include Jewish students.

Purim

Description: Purim is a joyful Jewish holiday that celebrates the story from the Book of Esther, in which Queen Esther and her cousin Mordechai saved the Jewish people from a plot to destroy them in ancient Persia. It is observed with the public reading of the Megillah (Book of Esther), during which listeners cheer for the heroes and use noisemakers to drown out the name of the villain, Haman. Traditions include wearing costumes, giving gifts of food (mishloach manot), donating to those in need, and enjoying festive meals.

Practice: The day before Purim is a fast day. On Purim, Jewish students will likely attend prayer services at night, and may dress up in costumes. They may also participate in Purim parades, and eat festive cookies.

What to expect: Jewish students will attend all extracurriculars and school during this holiday, but will likely be busy after the school day ends. Teachers can be mindful of the amount of homework knowing there are evening celebrations.



Passover

Description: Passover (Pesach) is an eight-day Jewish holiday in the spring that commemorates the Israelites' escape from slavery in ancient Egypt. The central observance is the Passover Seder, a festive meal held on the first night (or first two nights in some communities). During the Seder, families retell the story of the Exodus, read from a book called the Haggadah, and eat symbolic foods such as matzah (unleavened bread), bitter herbs, and charoset (a sweet mixture representing mortar used by enslaved Israelites).

Practice: Throughout Passover, Jewish people avoid leavened bread and eat matzah instead, remembering the haste with which the Israelites left Egypt, without time for their bread to rise. The holiday is both solemn and joyful—celebrating freedom, resilience, and renewal. As this is one of the most central family holidays of the year, many Jewish college students will make every effort to go home prior to Passover to join in their family seder. Campus organizations also host seders for students who cannot get home for the holiday. Many Jewish students will not eat any bread or other food items made with wheat, oats, spelt, barley or rye, along with other prohibited food items. The first two and last two days are considered rest days; therefore, some Jews will refrain from working, traveling, spending money, and using electronics.

What to expect: Some students will miss days with work restrictions and many members of the Jewish community will be observing dietary laws during this time.

How to Support: Whether you are a school or community organization, please be particularly mindful of scheduling major events on the evening of the first Seder. You can also be intentional about serving food during this time, ensuring there are Passover-friendly options that avoid leavened bread products in any school or community meal.



Shavuot

Description: is a Jewish holiday that takes place seven weeks after Passover. It celebrates the giving of the Torah (the Ten Commandments) to the Jewish people at Mount Sinai.

Practice: Shavuot lasts for two days in traditional communities, with many Jewish families celebrating one day. Traditionally, it is observed by staying up late to study Jewish texts, attending synagogue services, and hearing the reading of the Ten Commandments. These two days are considered days of rest, therefore, some students will refrain from working, traveling, spending money, and using electronics.

Many families also enjoy dairy foods such as cheesecake, blintzes, or cheese-filled pastries, a custom connected to the sweetness of Torah learning.

What to expect: Jewish students may miss school and extracurricular activities and some will observe work restrictions.

