

EXPLANATION OF HOLIDAYS



ROSH HASHANAH

Marks the beginning of the Jewish year and the period considered the High Holy Days.



YOM KIPPUR

Day of Atonement and the holiest day of the Jewish year.



SUKKOT

Eight day harvest and thanksgiving festival.



SHEMINI ATZERET

Eighth and final day of Sukkot.



SIMCHAT TORAH

Concludes the High Holy Days observance.



HANUKKAH *

Eight day festival of lights.



PURIM *

Festive holiday celebrates the rescue of the Jewish community recounted in the Book of Esther.



PASSOVER

Eight day festival commemorates the Jewish exodus from Egypt.



SHAVUOT

Commemorates the receiving of the Torah by the Israelites on Mt. Sinai.

***It is permissible to work or attend school on these holidays.**

USE OF THE JEWISH HOLIDAY CALENDAR

This calendar has been prepared to assist teachers and school administrators in scheduling activities such as exams, tests, assemblies, field trips, graduation, sporting events and other school-related programming. Government agencies, performing arts groups and other community organizations will also find this calendar helpful. If you have any questions about scheduling or would like additional information about Jewish holidays or celebrations, please contact the Milwaukee Jewish Council for Community Relations by phone at 414-390-5781 or email to info@mjccr.org.

The Jewish calendar has both lunar and solar elements. As such, the date for holiday observances vary from year to year. All Jewish holidays begin at sundown on the evening preceding the holiday. This is also true for the Jewish Sabbath, which begins at sundown on Friday and ends at sundown on Saturday.

Depending on the degree of personal observance, the Jewish holidays and Sabbath might include abstention from regular work day activities, a ban on driving, taking an SAT exam or participation in an athletic tournament.

SHABBAT



The Jewish Sabbath is observed weekly on Saturday. Like other Jewish holidays, it begins at sunset of the prior day – in this case Friday evening – and ends at sunset on Saturday. Since it reflects God's rest on the seventh day of the week following the events of the creation, Shabbat is considered to be a day different from the work week, dedicated to prayer, reflection and rest.

The Milwaukee Jewish Council for Community Relations strongly urges planners, when scheduling weekend events, to understand that observant Jews are unable to participate in secular events occurring between sunset on Friday and sunset on Saturday.

5 YEAR JEWISH HOLIDAY CALENDAR 2009-2014

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JEWISH HOLIDAYS

During observance of these major holidays, work is traditionally prohibited. As a result, Jewish individuals may be absent from work and school.
Jewish holidays begin at sunset on the evening preceding the holiday.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
ROSH HASHANAH Jewish New Year	September 19, 20 Sat. & Sun. (begins at sunset Sept. 18)	September 9, 10 Thurs. & Fri. (begins at sunset Sept. 8)	September 29, 30 Thurs. & Fri. (begins at sunset Sept. 28)	September 17, 18 Mon. & Tues. (begins at sunset Sept. 16)	September 5, 6 Thurs. & Fri. (begins at sunset Sept. 4)
YOM KIPPUR Day of Atonement	September 28 Monday (begins at sunset Sept. 27)	September 18 Saturday (begins at sunset Sept. 17)	October 8 Saturday (begins at sunset Oct. 7)	September 26 Wednesday (begins at sunset Sept. 25)	September 14 Saturday (begins at sunset Sept. 13)
SUKKOT Feast of Tabernacles	October 3, 4 Sat. & Sun. (begins at sunset Oct. 2)	September 23, 24 Thurs. & Fri. (begins at sunset Sept. 22)	October 13, 14 Thurs. & Fri. (begins at sunset Oct. 12)	October 1, 2 Mon. & Tues. (begins at sunset Sept. 30)	September 19, 20 Thurs. & Fri. (begins at sunset Sept. 18)
SHEMINI ATZERET & SIMCHAT TORAH Closing of High Holiday season	October 10, 11 Sat. & Sun. (begins at sunset Oct.9)	September 30, October 1 Thurs. & Fri. (begins at sunset Sept. 29)	October 20, 21 Thurs. & Fri. (begins at sunset Oct. 19)	October 8, 9 Mon. & Tues. (begins at sunset Oct. 7)	September 26, 27 Thurs. & Fri. (begins at sunset Sept. 25)
HANUKKAH * Festival of Lights	December 12-19 Sat.-Sat. (begins at sunset Dec. 11)	December 2-9 Thurs.-Thurs. (begins at sunset Dec. 1)	December 21-28 Wed.-Wed. (begins at sunset Dec. 20)	December 9-16 Sun. - Sun. (begins at sunset Dec. 8)	November 28-December 5 Thurs. - Thurs. (begins at sunset Nov. 27)
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
PURIM * Festival of Esther	February 28 Sunday (begins at sunset Feb. 27)	March 20 Sunday (begins at sunset March 19)	March 8 Thursday (begins at sunset March7)	February 24 Sunday (begins at sunset Feb. 23)	March 16 Sunday (begins at sunset March 15)
PASSOVER Commemorates Exodus of Jewish people from Egypt	March 30-April 6 Tues.-Tues. (begins at sunset March 29)	April 19-26 Tues.-Tues. (begins at sunset April 18)	April 7-14 Sat.-Sat. (begins at sunset at April 6)	March 26-April 2 Tues.-Tues. (begins at sunset March 25)	April 15-22 Tues.-Tues. (begins at sunset April 14)
SHAVUOT Feast of Weeks	May 19, 20 Wed. & Thurs. (begins at sunset May 18)	June 8, 9 Wed. & Thurs. (begins at sunset June 7)	May 27, 28 Sun. & Mon. (begins at sunset May 26)	May 15, 16 Wed. & Thurs. (begins at sunset May 14)	June 4, 5 Wed. & Thurs. (begins at sunset June 3)

***It is permissible to go to work or attend school on these holidays.**