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.

SHABBAT
The Jewish Sabbath is observed every Saturday. Like other Jewish holidays, it begins at sunset of the prior day – in this case Friday evening – and ends at sunset on Saturday. It reflects God's rest on the seventh day of the week following the Creation and is considered to be a day dedicated to prayer, reflection and rest. Observant Jews are unable to participate in secular events occurring between sunset on Friday and sunset on Saturday.

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

USE OF THE JEWISH HOLIDAY CALENDAR

This calendar can help Teachers and School Administrators schedule:

- Exams/Tests
- Assemblies
- Field trips
- Graduation
- Sporting events
- Other school-related programming

Government agencies, performing arts groups and other community organizations will also find this calendar helpful.

The Jewish calendar has both lunar and solar elements and as such, the dates for holiday observances vary from year to year. All Jewish holidays begin at sundown on the evening preceding the holiday.

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

To learn more about Jewish holidays, culture or the Jewish community, contact the Jewish Community Relations Council 414-390-5781
jcrc@milwaukeejewish.org

Visit
Jewish Museum Milwaukee
1360 N. Prospect Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-390-5742
info@jewishmuseummilwaukee.org
www.jewishmuseummilwaukee.org

Jewish Museum Milwaukee is a program of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation.

5 Year Jewish Holiday Calendar 2011-2016

Jewish Community Relations Council
MILWAUKEE JEWISH FEDERATION

1360 North Prospect Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-3094
414-390-5781
www.milwaukeejewish.org/jcrc

Safeguarding rights and pursuing social justice since 1938.

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.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
ROSH HASHANAH *Jewish New Year*	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)	September 25, 26 Thurs. & Fri. (begins at sunset Sept. 24)	September 14, 15 Mon. & Tues.. (begins at sunset Sept. 13)
YOM KIPPUR *Day of Atonement*	October 8 Saturday (begins at sunset Oct. 7)	September 26 Wednesday (begins at sunset Sept. 25)	September 14 Saturday (begins at sunset Sept. 13)	October 4 Saturday (begins at sunset Oct. 3)	September 23 Wednesday (begins at sunset Sept. 22)
SUKKOT *Feast of Tabernacles*	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)	October 9, 10 Thurs. & Fri. (begins at sunset Oct. 8)	September 28, 29 Mon. & Tues. (begins at sunset Sept. 27)
SHEMINI ATZERET & SIMCHAT TORAH *Closing of High Holiday season*	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)	October 16, 17 Thurs. & Fri. (begins at sunset Oct. 15)	October 5, 6 Mon. & Tues. (begins at sunset Oct. 4)
HANUKKAH * *Festival of Lights*	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)	December 17-24 Wed.-Wed. (begins at sunset Dec. 16)	December 7-14 Mon.-Mon. (begins at sunset Dec. 6)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
PURIM * *Festival of Esther*	March 8 Thursday (begins at sunset March7)	February 24 Sunday (begins at sunset Feb. 23)	March 16 Sunday (begins at sunset March 15)	March 5 Thursday (begins at sunset March 4)	March 24 Friday (begins at sunset March 23)
PASSOVER *Commemorates Exodus of Jewish people from Egypt*	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)	April 4-11 Sat.-Sat. (begins at sunset April 3)	April 23-30 Sat.-Sat. (begins at sunset April 22)
SHAVUOT *Feast of Weeks*	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)	May 24, 25 Sun. & Mon. (begins at sunset May 23)	June 12, 13 Sun. & Mon. (begins at sunset June 11)

***It is permissible to go to work and attend school on these holidays.**
Find this calendar online at www.milwaukeejewish.org/jcrc.