

PRIMARY JEWISH HOLIDAYS*

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Rosh HaShanah	Wed evening 9/20/2017 Thurs & Fri 9/21-22/2017	Sun. evening 9/9/2018 Mon & Tues 9/10-11/2018	Sun. evening 9/29/2019 Mon. + Tues. 9/30/19-10/1/19
Yom Kippur	Fri evening 9/29/2017 Sat 9/30/2017	Monday evening 9/17/2018 Tues. 9/18/2018	Tues. Evening 10/8/19 Wed. 10/9/19
Sukkot	Wed evening 10/4/2017 Thurs & Fri 10/5-6/2017	Sund evening 9/23/2018 Mond and Tuesd 9/24-25/2018	Sun. Evening 10/13/19 Mon + Tues 10/14/19-10/15/19
Shemini Atzeret/ Simchat Torah	Wed evening 10/11/2017 Thurs & Fri 10/12-13/2017	Sund eve. 9/30/2018 Mond & Tuesd 10/1-2/2018	For Reform the evening of Fri. 10/11/19 and day of 10/12/19 For Conservative , the evening of 10/12/19 and the day of the 10/13/19
Passover	Fri evening 3/30/2018 Sat & Sun 4/1-2/2018	Frid. Even 4/19/2018 Sat & Sun 4/20-21/2018 Thursd 4/25-Sat 4/27/2018	Wed. evening 04/08/20 Thur 04/09/20- Fri 04/10/20
Shavu'ot	Sat evening 5/19/18 Sun & Mon 5/20-5/21/2018	Saturday eve 6/8/2018 Sund & Mon 6/9-10/2018	Tues Evening 05/28/20 Wed 05/29/20- Thur 05/30/20

***Holidays that may interfere with school attendance for most Jewish children.**

(More observant Jewish students taking additional absences will discuss their family's religious observances with their individual teachers.)

For those who are interested, a brief explanation of Jewish holidays appears below:

Rosh Hashanah: the Jewish New Year marks the beginning of a 10-day period of reflection, self-examination and spiritual renewal known as the Jewish High Holy Days. The beginning (Rosh Hashanah) and the end (Yom Kippur) are the most solemn days in the Jewish calendar. Celebration includes worship services during the days and evenings, prayer, blowing of the shofar (ram's horn), resolutions to become a better person and to help create a better world, and holiday meals with family.

Yom Kippur: Day of Atonement, the most solemn day in the Jewish calendar, is devoted to fasting, meditation, prayer, repentance, reconciliation with people and God, and worship directed towards realizing potential for goodness. Attending services throughout the evening and following day at Synagogue and a meal to break the fast after sundown with community or family typifies observance.

Sukkot: This 7-day harvest thanksgiving festival is celebrated with the construction of a sukkah or "booth" of branches decorated with harvest fruits and vegetables. This sukkah serves as a reminder of the history of the Exodus from Egypt when such temporary dwellings were built in the desert. Traditionally, people gather for a service and eat food in the sukkah.

Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah: "Rejoicing of the Torah". The Torah's final verses and opening verses are read with processions and festivities.

Hanukkah: Festival of Lights is an 8-day celebration with candle lighting, song, and exchange of gifts. Dating back to 165 BCE, Hanukkah, meaning “dedication”, commemorates the Jews’ rededication of the Temple as a place to worship and study after the 3-year Maccabean struggle over the Greco-Syrian ruler to regain religious freedom.

Purim: This happy holiday of celebration, often in costume, recounts the Story of Esther.

Passover: This 8-day holiday celebrates and retells the story of the Exodus from Egypt where Jews were enslaved over 3,000 years ago. For the first two evenings a “Seder service” is conducted with family and friends around the dinner table participating together in traditional prayers, foods, and narrative. Family Seders can extend well into the night, traditionally midnight, as the story of the Exodus is retold using food and ritual to symbolize various aspects of the story. The entire 8 days are observed by eating only traditional foods.

Shavu’ot: Known as the Festival of Weeks, (7 weeks following Passover) Shavu’ot celebrates the receiving of the Ten Commandments and the Torah (the 5 Books of Moses) at Mount Sinai. Traditionally the story of Moses on Mount Sinai is told and the Ten Commandments are read in Hebrew and English.

Sabbath or Shabbat: This holy day for prayer and rest is celebrated weekly from sundown Friday through sundown Saturday. Jews may attend services Friday evening, Saturday morning, and/or Saturday afternoon.