

<p>Shabbat <i>Sabbath</i></p> <p>One of the holiest days of the Jewish weekly calendar. Many Jews refrain from work and school activities.</p>	<p>*Passover <i>Festival of Freedom</i></p> <p>Commemorates the ancient Israelites' deliverance from Egyptian bondage. This 8-day observance includes restrictive dietary rules.</p>	<p>Shavout <i>Festival of Weeks</i></p> <p>Takes place seven weeks after Passover, and marks the giving of the five books of Moses (Torah) on Mt. Sinai.</p>	<p>Rosh Hashanah <i>Jewish New Year</i></p> <p>Begins 10 days of repentance.</p>	<p>Yom Kippur <i>Day of Atonement</i></p> <p>Most solemn holy day, devoted to praying and fasting.</p>	<p>*Sukkot <i>Festival of Booths</i></p> <p>Celebrates the harvest, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah.</p>	<p>Chanukah <i>Festival of Lights</i></p> <p>Festive holiday commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem after a successful revolt against Syrian-Greek conquerors.</p>
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**FOUR YEAR
CALENDAR OF
JEWISH HOLY DAYS**

Observance begins at sunset every Friday and extends to sunset Saturday.

The "Seder," a symbolic meal, is held in homes on the first two nights.

Shavout is Confirmation day for some graduating religious school students.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:
ANTICIPATE WIDESPREAD ABSENCE**

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Sukkot is followed by Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah celebrating the conclusion of the reading of the Torah and renewing its cycle.

Chanukah, celebrated each night for eight nights, is a minor holiday and **REQUIRES NO ABSENCES**

	Shabbat	*Passover	Shavout	Rosh Hashanah	Yom Kippur	*Sukkot	Chanukah
2009	Sunset Every Friday to Sunset Saturday	April 9, 10 April 15, 16	May 29- May 30	September 19- September 20	September 28	October 3, 4 October 10, 11	December 12- December 19
2010	Sunset Every Friday to Sunset Saturday	March 30, 31 April 5, 6	May 19 - May 20	September 9- September 10	September 18	September 23, 24 September 30, October 1	December 2- December 9
2011	Sunset Every Friday to Sunset Saturday	April 19, 20 April 25, 26	June 8- June 9	September 29- September 30	October 8	October 13,14 October 20,21	December 21- December 28
2012	Sunset Every Friday to Sunset Saturday	April 7, 8 April 13,14	May 27- May 28	September 17- September 18	September 26	October 1,2 October 8,9	December 9 - December 16

***The first and last two days of these Holy Days have greater religious restrictions attached.**
REMEMBER THAT EACH HOLIDAY BEGINS AT SUNSET ON THE DAY BEFORE IT IS LISTED ABOVE.

OBSERVANCE OF JEWISH HOLIDAYS

By Jewish Students and Teachers
During the School Year

One of the great features of our American democracy is the respect our Constitution accords for all religions. Our founding fathers recognized that there is great value in the citizens of our nation following the dictates of their conscience. At the same time our founding fathers recognized how important it is not to impose a unified state religious practice on everyone.

In this spirit, the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee (CRC) hopes that Jewish students and teachers will find a respectful atmosphere for their religious observance.

Each year the response of many schools to Jewish holidays causes discomfort and misunderstanding for many Jewish students and school authorities in the Nashville and Middle Tennessee area. The Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Nashville believes the following information will be helpful in alleviating some of these problems.

According to biblical and rabbinic precepts, there are certain holy days on which Jews are commanded "no manner of work." For Jews, therefore, proper observance of these holy days would preclude their attendance at school. Students will spend these days in religious observance.

Because Jews use a calendar based on 12 lunar months for religious purposes, the secular dates of Jewish holy days may vary from year to year by as much as a month.

School officials should be aware that there are different traditions within Judaism that affect school absences. For example, almost all Jews will observe the first day of Rosh Hashanah as well as Yom Kippur, while some Jews will observe, in addition, four days of Sukkot and Passover and a second day of Rosh Hashanah. The smaller number of students who observe these additional days should not lessen the significance of their absence. ***Again, we wish to underscore the fact that although Jews have different levels of observance, our concern is that all Jews observing holidays find respect and understanding from the schools which they attend.***

If you would like resource materials or have questions about these holidays, please call our Jewish Community Resource Center at 615-354-1655

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Four Year Calendar Of Jewish Holy Days 2009-2012 5770-5773

A Service of the

Community Relations Committee

 **JEWISH
FEDERATION**
Of Nashville and Middle Tennessee

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