



Jewish High Holy Days 2026-2027

A Planning & Scheduling Guide



Please note: all holidays begin at sundown on the first day listed.

Shabbat	Every week from Friday sundown to Saturday sundown	When possible, please avoid programming on Friday evenings, considered sacred for observant Jews as well as important, traditional family time for secular Jews.
Rosh Hashana	Sept. 11 - 13	When possible, please avoid tests, quizzes, and other large assignments & events (auditions, performances).
Yom Kippur	Sept. 20 - 21	When possible, please avoid tests, quizzes, and other large assignments & events (auditions, performances).
Sukkot	Sept. 25 - Oct. 2	More observant students will not be in school for the first two days.
Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah	Oct. 2-4	More observant students will not be in school.
Hanukkah	Dec. 4-12	
Purim	March 22-23	
Passover	April 21-29	More observant students will not be in school for the first or last two days of the holiday..
Shavuot	June 10-12	More observant students will not be in school.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester works to strengthen and enrich Jewish life in and around Monroe County through programs, services, and community partnerships. Our **Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC)** advocates on key issues affecting our diverse community.

To support schools and organizations in our pluralistic society, the JCRC has created this calendar of Jewish holidays. It is intended to help avoid scheduling conflicts that may affect Jewish students, staff, and families. Observance levels vary; some individuals may miss school or work for multiple days. Jewish holidays follow a lunar calendar, so dates shift each year.

Need Help Teaching About Contemporary Judaism, Israel, Jewish History, or the Holocaust?

The Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester's JCRC and Center for Holocaust Awareness and Information (**CHAI**) can connect you with:

- Free, balanced curricular materials on Judaism, Jewish history, and Israel.
- Local Jewish speakers to visit classrooms and share personal stories.
- Holocaust education workshops and teacher trainings.
- First- and second-generation Holocaust survivors are available to speak with students.

For support related to inclusion, Title VI, or antisemitic incidents, please contact 585-241-8634.



Jewish Federation
of Greater Rochester
Jewish Community
Relations Council (JCRC)



Shabbat

One of the holiest days of the Jewish calendar, Shabbat commemorates G-d's day of rest on the 7th day of creation. Shabbat begins at sunset every Friday and extends until sunset on Saturday.

Rosh Hashanah - High Holiday

The Jewish New Year marks the beginning of ten days of repentance and prayer, through Yom Kippur.

Yom Kippur - High Holiday

The Day of Atonement is the most solemn Holy Day on the Jewish calendar. It is spent in prayer, meditation and fasting.

Sukkot

Feast of Tabernacles (Booths) is a harvest festival of thanksgiving.

Shemini Atzeret / Simchat Torah

Concludes Sukkot and celebrates the Torah (5 Books of Moses).

Hanukkah

Commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. It is also known as the Festival of Lights.

Purim

Commemorates the story of the Book of Esther in which the Jewish people living in the ancient Persian empire narrowly escaped destruction.

Passover

Festival of freedom. Commemorates the ancient Hebrews' exodus from Egyptian bondage. This eight day holiday includes special dietary rules. Seders (festive meals) are held in homes on the first two nights.

The last two days are also observed as Holy Days.

Shavuot

Commemorates Moses receiving the Torah, including the Ten Commandments, from G-d on Mt. Sinai.