

# CALENDAR OF JEWISH HOLIDAYS 2010-2011 5771

## LEVELS OF OBSERVANCE

There are three major branches within Judaism: Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform. All three consider the holy days to be special religious events. Each has its own degree of observance regarding work and school on holy days. As a result, the number of days which a holy day may be observed varies from person to person, depending on the level of religious observance.

**The Jewish Sabbath (Shabbat) begins each week at sunset on Friday and ends at sunset on Saturday.**

**All Jewish holidays begin at sunset of the previous evening.** It is important that schools avoid conflicts on the eve and the day of the holiday.

**STUDENTS AND STAFF WILL PROBABLY BE ABSENT FOR THESE HOLY DAYS, AND SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO PREPARE ASSIGNMENTS OR FOR EXAMS.**

## **ROSH HASHANAH** – Jewish New Year

*Sunset Wednesday evening – September 8, 2010 through sunset Friday – September 10, 2010*

Rosh Hashanah is the beginning of the Jewish year. It is the first of the High Holy Days and marks the start of the ten-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal.

## **YOM KIPPUR** – Day of Atonement

*Sunset Friday evening – September 17, 2010 through sunset Saturday – September 18, 2010*

This is the most holy day in the Jewish year. It is devoted to fasting and prayer, as people ask G-d and each other for forgiveness.

## **PASSOVER** (Seders - first two evenings)

*Sunset Monday evening – April 18, 2011 (First Seder) and Sunset Tuesday, April 19 (Second Seder) through sunset Tuesday, April 26, 2011*

Passover celebrates the liberation of the Jews from Egyptian bondage. During this eight-day holiday, many Jews refrain from eating bread products and eat matzah (unleavened bread) instead. **The Seder is a ritual service that occurs on the first two evenings of Passover. Students should not be expected to prepare assignments or for exams on these nights.** The first two and last two days of Passover are holy days, when students may be absent.

## **STUDENTS AND STAFF MAY BE ABSENT FOR THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:**

### **SUKKOT**

*Sunset Wednesday evening – September 22, 2010 through sunset Friday – September 24, 2010*

Sukkot is the Jewish festival of thanksgiving and harvest.

### **SHEMINI ATZERET**

*Sunset Wednesday evening – September 29, 2010 through sunset Thursday – September 30, 2010*

Shemini Atzeret is the eighth day of Sukkot, on which special memorial prayers are said.

### **SIMCHAT TORAH**

*Sunset Thursday evening – September 30, 2010 through sunset Friday – October 1, 2010*

Simchat Torah celebrates the conclusion of the yearly cycle of reading the Five Books of Moses and its beginning anew, thus demonstrating that study is a never-ending process.

### **PASSOVER** – Last two days

*Sunset Sunday evening – April 24, 2011 through sunset Tuesday – April 26, 2011*

The last two days of Passover conclude the celebration of Passover.

### **SHAVUOT**

*Sunset Tuesday evening – June 7, 2011 through Sunset Thursday – June 9, 2011*

Shavuot celebrates the covenant established at Mount Sinai between G-d and Israel, and the revelation of the Ten Commandments.



**JCRB | AJC**

5801 W. 115TH STREET, SUITE 203  
OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS 66211

P: 913.327.8126 F: 913.327.8280  
JCRBAJC@JEWISHKC.ORG

# CALENDAR OF JEWISH HOLIDAYS 2010-2011 5771

## LEVELS OF OBSERVANCE

There are three major branches within Judaism: Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform. All three consider the holy days to be special religious events. Each has its own degree of observance regarding work and school on holy days. As a result, the number of days which a holy day may be observed varies from person to person, depending on the level of religious observance.

**The Jewish Sabbath (Shabbat) begins each week at sunset on Friday and ends at sunset on Saturday.**

**All Jewish holidays begin at sunset of the previous evening.**  
It is important that schools avoid conflicts on the eve and the day of the holiday.

## FESTIVALS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE MISSING WORK OR SCHOOL:

**HANUKKAH** – The eight-day Festival of Lights  
*Sunset Wednesday evening – December 1, 2010 through sunset Thursday – December 9, 2010*

Hanukkah celebrates the triumph of religious liberty and the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem by the Maccabees in 165 BCE.

**PURIM** – Feast of Lots  
*Sunset Saturday evening – March 19, 2011 through sunset Sunday – March 20, 2011*

A joyous festival commemorating the time when the Jews of ancient Persia were saved from extermination through the intervention of Queen Esther.

## TWO-YEAR CALENDAR OF MAJOR JEWISH HOLIDAYS

2011-2012 5772

2012-2013 5773

<b>ROSH HASHANAH</b>	<b>Sept. 28-30, 2011 (sunset Wed. – sunset Fri.)</b>	<b>Sept. 16-18, 2012 (sunset Sun. – sunset Tues.)</b>
<b>YOM KIPPUR</b>	<b>Oct. 7-8, 2011 (sunset Fri. – sunset Sat.)</b>	<b>Sept. 25-26, 2012 (sunset Tues. – sunset Wed.)</b>
Sukkot	Oct. 12-14, 2011 (sunset Wed. – sunset Fri.)	Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2012 (sunset Sun. – sunset Tues.)
Shemini Atzeret	Oct. 19-20, 2011 (sunset Wed. – sunset Thurs.)	Oct. 7-8, 2012 (sunset Sun. – sunset Mon.)
Simchat Torah	Oct. 20-21, 2011 (sunset Thurs. – sunset Fri.)	Oct. 8-9, 2012 (sunset Mon. – sunset Tues.)
Hanukkah	Dec. 20-28, 2011 (sunset Tues. – sunset Wed.)	Dec. 8-16, 2012 (sunset Sat. – sunset Sun.)
Purim	March 7-8, 2012 (sunset Wed. – sunset Thurs.)	Feb. 23-24, 2013 (sunset Sat. – sunset Sun.)
<b>PASSOVER (First 2 days)</b>	<b>April 6-8, 2012 (sunset Fri. – sunset Sun.)</b>	<b>March 25-27, 2013 (sunset Mon. – sunset Wed.)</b>
Passover (Last 2 days)	April 12-14, 2012 (sunset Thurs. – sunset Sat.)	March 31-April 2, 2013 (sunset Sun. – sunset Tues.)
Shavuot	May 26-28, 2012 (sunset Sat. – sunset Mon.)	May 14-16, 2013 (sunset Tues. – sunset Thurs.)

## WE WANT TO HELP

We provide this information to familiarize area educators with the major holidays of the Jewish faith. We hope it will be valuable to you in understanding Jewish holiday observances and their effect on student and staff absences and classroom planning.

**PLEASE CALL US FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE JEWISH CALENDAR OR RELATED SUBJECTS.**

SERVING KANSAS AND WESTERN MISSOURI  
JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS BUREAU  
AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

5801 W. 115TH STREET, SUITE 203  
OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS 66211

P: 913.327.8126 F: 913.327.8280  
JCRBAJC@JEWISHKC.ORG



JCRB | AJC