

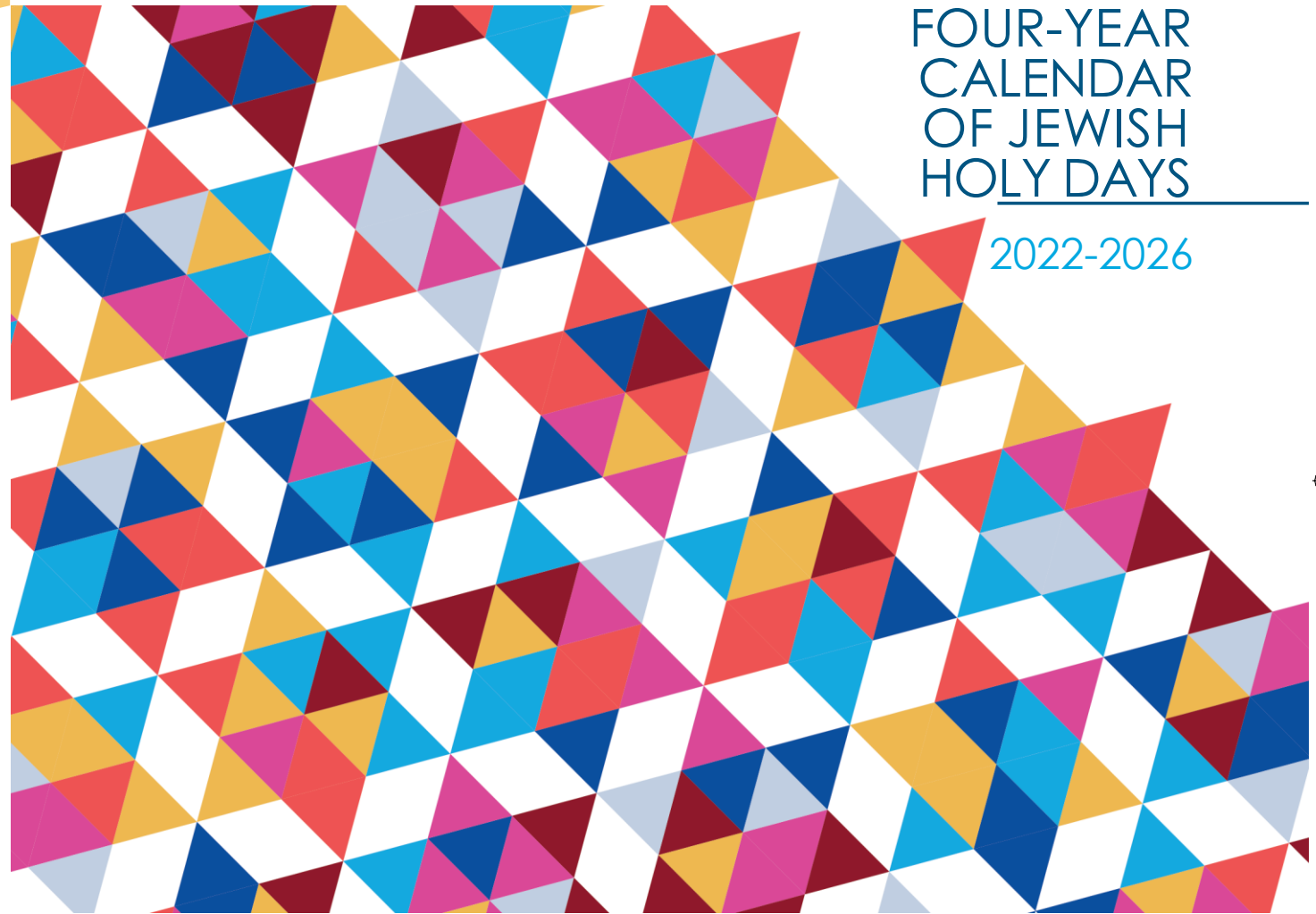
OBSERVANCE OF JEWISH HOLIDAYS

BY JEWISH STUDENTS & TEACHERS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR



FOUR-YEAR CALENDAR OF JEWISH HOLY DAYS

2022-2026



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 Jewish Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Delaware (JCRC) 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 Delaware and the Brandywine Valley area. The JCRC 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 additional resource materials, please contact:
JEWISH FEDERATION OF DELAWARE
302-427-2100 | ShalomDelaware.org



FOUR-YEAR CALENDAR OF JEWISH HOLY DAYS

SHABBAT

One of the holiest days of the weekly Jewish calendar. Many Jews refrain from work and school activities. Observance begins at sunset each Friday and ends at sunset on Saturday.

ROSH HASHANAH

The Jewish New Year. Begins 10 days of Repentance
NOTE: ANTICIPATE WIDESPREAD ABSENCE

YOM KIPPUR

Day of Atonement. Most solemn Holy Day devoted to prayer and fasting. NOTE: ANTICIPATE WIDESPREAD ABSENCE

SUKKOT

The Feast of Tabernacles celebrates the harvest of thanksgiving. Sukkot is followed by Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah celebrating the conclusion of the year-long reading of the Torah (5 books of Moses) and renewing the cycle.

CHANUKAH

8 days Festival of Lights commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem after a successful revolt against Roman conquerors. Chanukah, celebrated for 8 nights, is a minor holiday and REQUIRES NO ABSENCES.

PASSOVER

Festival of freedom of the ancient Israelites from Egyptian bondage. 8-day holiday includes dietary rules. Seder is held on first 2 nights. The last 2 days are observed as Holy Days. The "seder" meal holds great symbolism and is held on the first 2 nights.

SHAVUOT

Festival of weeks (7 weeks after Passover). Marks the giving of the law on Mt. Sinai as written in the 5 Books of Moses (Torah). Shavout is Confirmation day for some graduating religious school students.

Shabbat and all Jewish Holy days begin at sunset on the evening before it is listed below.

	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
ROSH HASHANAH	SEPTEMBER 26-27	SEPTEMBER 16-17	OCTOBER 3-4	SEPTEMBER 23-24
YOM KIPPUR	OCTOBER 5	SEPTEMBER 25	OCTOBER 12	OCTOBER 2
SUKKOT*	OCTOBER 10-11	SEPTEMBER 30 OCTOBER 1	OCTOBER 17-18	OCTOBER 23-24
CHANUKAH	DECEMBER 19-26	DECEMBER 8-15	DECEMBER 26- JANUARY 2	DECEMBER 15-22
PASSOVER*	1ST SEDER APRIL 5 FIRST 2 DAYS: APRIL 6-7 LAST 2 DAYS: APRIL 12-13	1ST SEDER APRIL 22 FIRST 2 DAYS: APRIL 23-24 LAST 2 DAYS: APRIL 29-30	1ST SEDER APRIL 12 FIRST 2 DAYS: APRIL 13-14 LAST 2 DAYS: APRIL 19-20	1ST SEDER APRIL 1 FIRST 2 DAYS: APRIL 2-3 LAST 2 DAYS: APRIL 8-9
SHAVUOT	MAY 26-27	JUNE 12-13	JUNE 2-3	MAY 22-23

* The first day 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.



Jewish Federation
OF DELAWARE

A SERVICE OF THE
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