

Use of Holiday Calendar

This calendar has been prepared to assist you in planning and should be used in scheduling events and activities such as examinations, assemblies, field trips, graduations, and school related programs for parents. Courts, legislative bodies, and executive and administrative groups may also find it helpful in order to avoid scheduling conflicts.

Major Jewish religious holidays and observances are indicated in red. **HOLIDAYS BEGIN AT SUNDOWN ON THE PRECEDING EVENING and conclude after sunset on the dates noted with the evenings being as sacred as the days themselves. THE SABBATH BEGINS AT SUNSET ON FRIDAY EVENINGS and concludes after sunset on Saturdays. During these observances, work is traditionally prohibited. As a result, Jewish individuals may be absent from both school and work.**

No person, regardless of religion, should be penalized for one's religious observances and beliefs.

5 Year Calendar of Major Jewish Holidays

IMPORTANT NOTE: HOLIDAYS BEGIN AT SUNDOWN ON THE EVENINGS PRECEDING THE DATES SHOWN.

	2009 (5770)	2010 (5771)	2011 (5772)	2012 (5773)	2013 (5774)
Rosh Hashanah (New Year)	Sept. 19-20* Saturday-Sunday	Sept. 9-10* Thursday-Friday	Sept. 29-30* Thursday-Friday	Sept. 17-18* Monday-Tuesday	Sept. 5-6* Thursday-Friday
Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	Sept. 28 Monday	Sept. 18 Saturday	Oct. 8 Saturday	Sept. 26 Wednesday	Sept. 14 Saturday
Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles)	Oct. 3-4* Saturday-Sunday	Sept. 23-24* Thursday-Friday	Oct. 13-14* Thursday-Friday	Oct. 1-2* Monday-Tuesday	Sept. 19-20* Thursday-Friday
Shemini Atzeret** (Eighth Day of Sukkot)	Oct. 10 Saturday	Sept. 30 Thursday	Oct. 20 Thursday	Oct. 8 Monday	Sept. 26 Thursday
Simchat Torah** (Rejoicing of the Law)	Oct. 11** Sunday	Oct. 1** Friday	Oct. 21** Sunday	Oct. 9 Tuesday	Sept. 27 Friday
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Pesach (Passover)	March 30-31* Tuesday-Wednesday	April 19-20* Tuesday-Wednesday	April 7-8* Saturday-Sunday	March 26-27* Tuesday-Wednesday	April 15-16* Tuesday-Wednesday
Concluding Days of Pesach	April 5-6* Monday-Tuesday	April 25-26* Monday-Tuesday	April 13-14* Friday-Saturday	April 1-2* Monday-Tuesday	April 21-22* Monday-Tuesday
Shavuot (Feast of Weeks)	May 19-20* Wednesday-Thursday	June 8-9* Wednesday-Thursday	May 27-28* Sunday-Monday	May 15-16* Wednesday-Thursday	June 4-5* Wednesday-Thursday

* Some Reform Congregations do not observe this day. ** Reform Judaism observes Simchat Torah on the Eighth day of Sukkot. *** Year in Jewish Calendar.

Rosh Hashanah (New Year)

Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)

These holidays are considered the High Holy Days in Judaism. The majority of Jewish students and teachers observe these holidays and will be absent from school.

Sukkot (Festival of Harvest)

Simchat Torah (Rejoicing in the Law)

The holiday of Sukkot lasts eight days and is immediately followed by Simchat Torah on the ninth day (outside of Israel). Jewish students and teachers may be absent from school on the first and second day of Sukkot and on Simchat Torah.

Purim (Feast of Esther)

Chanukah (Festival of Lights)

These are minor Jewish holidays that do not require absence from daytime work or school. Evening school activities should be avoided on the evening preceding Purim and the eve of Chanukah, as special synagogue services and holiday family gatherings are held.

Passover (Festival of Freedom)

This holiday lasts eight days, of which the first two days and the last two days are the most important. Jewish students and teachers may be absent from school. Special dietary laws are observed at home and in school during all eight days.

Shavuot (Feast of Weeks)

This is a major holiday and Jewish students and teachers may be absent. In particular, confirmation exercises may require daytime synagogue attendance for 9th and 10th graders and their families.



JEWISH FEDERATION
OF SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY

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HOLIDAY CALENDAR 2009-2010

SEPTEMBER 2009

- 7 Monday - **Labor Day**. Observed in honor of American labor.
- 17 Wednesday - **Citizenship Day**. Commemorates signing of the United States Constitution in 1787.
- 20** Sunday - **Eid-al-Fitr** - Islamic festival marks end of Ramadan, holy month of fasting during daylight hours, celebrating when Allah (God) revealed the first verses of the Qu'ran, the holy book of Islam. It is a time for spiritual reflection, prayer, doing good deeds, charity and spending time with loved ones. It teaches self-discipline, self-restraint, generosity and understanding of those less fortunate.
- 19-20* Saturday-Sunday - **Rosh Hashanah** (Jewish New Year). Begins Jewish New Year 5770 and inaugurates ten days of penitence closing with Day of Atonement.
- 19-27 Saturday-Sunday - **Navratri** - One of the most celebrated festivals of the Hindu calendar. Nine day celebration associated with the fertility of Mother Earth.
- 28* Monday - **Yom Kippur** (Day of Atonement). Most holy of Jewish Holy Days, devoted to prayer, fasting and repentance. Many Jewish students absent.

OCTOBER 2009

- 3-4* Saturday-Sunday - **Sukkot** (Feast of Tabernacles). First 2 days festival of harvest, thanksgiving and remembrance of the Jews wandering in the wilderness, and living in booths, or tabernacles, after their exodus from Egypt. This biblical holiday was the basis of the Pilgrims' Thanksgiving.
- 10* Saturday - **Shemini Atzeret** (Eighth Day of Sukkot). Marks climax of Jewish holy season. (Reform Judaism observes Simchat Torah on the eighth day of Sukkot).
- 11* Sunday - **Simchat Torah** (Rejoicing of the Law). Reading the Law (Torah) is completed and begun anew in the synagogue. Day marked with festivity and a spirit of reverence.
- 12 Monday - **Columbus Day**. Marks Columbus' discovery of America in 1492. Most schools closed.
- 17 Saturday - **Diwali**. (hindu) Festival of lights observed by Hindus to celebrate the triumph of good over evil, by Jains to mark the passing of Lord Mahavir and by Sikhs to celebrate the release of Guru Hargobind from imprisonment.
- 31 Friday - **Reformation Day**. Observed in many Protestant churches to mark beginning of Protestant Reformation in 1517. In Lutheran churches observed on last Sunday of October as Reformation Sunday.

NOVEMBER 2009

- 1 Sunday - **All Saints Day**. Christian Holy Day of obligation commemorating all lesser saints as well as holy men and martyrs whose records have not survived.
- 5-6 Thursday-Friday - **New Jersey Education Association Days**. Schools closed.
- 11 Wednesday - **Veteran's Day**. Honors those who fought in the United States Armed Services. Legal holiday.
- 26 Thursday - **Thanksgiving Day**. Marks Pilgrims' celebration during first winter in the New World. Legal Holiday (schools also closed on Friday, November 27).
- 27-29** Friday-Sunday **Eid-al-Adha** - Three day religious festival celebrated by Muslims and Druze as commemoration of Ibrahim's (Abraham's) willingness to sacrifice his son at God's command. (Muslim tradition names Ishmael as the son who was to be sacrificed; Judeo-Christian tradition names Isaac). Occurs at the conclusion of the annual Hajj, or pilgrimage to Mecca. Some students may arrive late after morning prayers.

DECEMBER 2009

- 8 Tuesday - **Bodhi Day**. Buddhist celebration of the Enlightenment of Buddha, ca. 596 B.C.E.
- 8 Tuesday - **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**. Catholic Holy Day of obligation, celebrating Mary's pilgrimage of freedom from sin from moment of her conception.
- 10 Thursday - **Human Rights Day**. Marks UN adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.
- 12-19 Saturday-Saturday - **Chanukah** (Festival of Lights). 8 day festival marking first recorded battle for religious liberty and rededication of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem by the Maccabees. Candles are lit for 8 nights to commemorate the religious and historical significance of the holiday. School events should be avoided on the evening preceding the first day. Many families observe the holiday at home or in the synagogue during all eight days.
- 15 Tuesday - **Bill of Rights Day**. Marks ratification of first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution in 1791.
- 18 Friday - Islamic New Year's Day - The day when Mohammad began his migration from Mecca to Medina in Islamic year 1 (1 AH), in 622 CE.
- 25¹ Friday - **Christmas Day**. One of the most important and widely celebrated events of the Christian year, marking the birth of Jesus. Legal holiday, all schools closed.
- 26-1/1 Saturday-Friday - **Kwanzaa**. African-American holiday, founded in 1966, that celebrates family life and African-American traditions. It is a cultural rather than a religious or political holiday, based on the harvest festivals of Africa.
- 27** Sunday - **Ashura**. Islamic holy day. A major festival for Shi'ite Muslims marking the martyrdom of the Prophet's grandson, Hussein.

JANUARY 2010

- 1¹ Friday - **New Year's Day**. Protestant, Catholic and Greek Orthodox holy day marking Feast of Circumcision. Also known as Octave Day of Christmas. Legal holiday, all schools closed.
- 1 Friday - **Emancipation Proclamation**. Issued by President Lincoln in 1863 to free slaves in states which were in rebellion.
- 6¹ Wednesday - **Feast of the Epiphany**. "Three Kings Day" Commemorates the baptism of Jesus, the visit of the three wise men to Jerusalem and the miracle of Cana.
- 18 Monday - **Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday**. (January 15, 1929). Commemorates birth of the civil rights leader. Observed third Monday of January. Legal holiday, most schools closed.

FEBRUARY 2010

- 12 Friday - **Lincoln's Birthday** (1809).
- 14 Sunday - **Chinese New Year** (Confucian, Daoist/Buddhist).
- 15 Monday - **President's Day** (observed).
- 22 Monday - **Washington's Birthday** (1732).
- 15 Monday - **Eastern Orthodox Lent begins**.
- 17 Wednesday - **Ash Wednesday**. Opens penitential Lenten season - forty days, not counting Sundays, preceding Easter; observed by Catholics and many Protestant denominations. Catholic ceremonies include marking forehead with ashes from palms burned after Palm Sunday of previous year. In the Byzantine rite, Lent begins on the Monday before Ash Wednesday.
- 26 Friday - **Birthday of Prophet Mohammad**. Shia Muslims celebrate 5 days later, March 3.
- 28 Sunday - **Purim** (Feast of Esther). Jewish holiday marking defeat of ancient Persian tyrant Haman, who sought to secure his power by tynking scapegoats of the

Jews. This is an important holiday celebrated in the synagogue when the Book of Esther is read in synagogue and gifts of food are exchanged and distributed to the poor. Do not schedule evening activities on the eve of this date, when the holiday begins.

MARCH 2010

- 17 Friday - **St. Patrick's Day**. Traditional festivities honor the Patron Saint of Ireland.
- 28 Sunday - **Eastern Orthodox Palm Sunday**. First day of Eastern Orthodox Holy Week.
- 28 Sunday - **Palm Sunday**. Opens Holy Week. Each day from Palm Sunday to Easter has special significance for Christians, as relating to the last week of Jesus' life.
- 7** Tuesday - **Muslim New Year**. Moharram 1, Hijri 1428
- 30-31* Tuesday-Wednesday - **First Two Days of Pesach** (Passover) Eight-day celebration marking deliverance of Jews from slavery in Egypt. "Seder" services in Jewish homes on the eve and first night of Passover recount the story of the Exodus. **Special Dietary Laws are observed at home and in schools during all eight days. Some Jewish children absent. Avoid extra-curricular activities on eve of the holiday (3/30) and first day (3/31). Afternoons are important family preparation times for the holiday.**

APRIL 2010

- 1 Thursday - **Holy Thursday**. Christian holy day marking last supper.
- 1 Thursday - **Eastern Orthodox Holy Thursday**. Some Eastern Orthodox children absent.
- 2 Friday - **Good Friday**. Commemorates last day of Jesus' life. The three hours of crucifixion from noon to 3 p.m. are observed with special services of silence and devotion by most churches. All schools are closed.
- 2 Friday - **Eastern Orthodox Holy Friday**.
- 4 Sunday - **Easter**. Commemorates the resurrection of Jesus.
- 5-6* Monday-Tuesday - **Concluding Days of Pesach** (Passover). Some Jewish children absent.
- 11 Sunday - **Yom Hashoah** (Holocaust Memorial Day).
- 19 Sunday - **Pascha** (Eastern Orthodox Easter).
- 19 Monday - **Yom Ha'atzmaut** (Israel Independence Day).

MAY 2010

- 13 Thursday - **Ascension of Our Lord Day**
- 13 Thursday - **Eastern Orthodox Ascension of Our Lord Day**. Some Eastern Orthodox children absent.
- 19-20* Wednesday-Thursday - **Shavuot** (Feast of Weeks). Marks giving of the Law (Torah) on Mount Sinai. Also called Pentecost, because it is the fiftieth day after Passover. Post Bar/Bat Mitzvah Confirmation ceremony in the synagogue. Teen-age rite of passage. Some Jewish children absent.
- 23 Sunday - **Pentecost** (Whit Sunday). Christian Holy Day commemorating descent of Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, fifty days after resurrection, and first Christian baptism.
- 7 Sunday - **Pentecost** (Eastern Orthodox).
- 30 Sunday - **All Saints Day** (Eastern Orthodox).
- 31 Monday - **Memorial Day**. Honors those who died in all wars. Legal holiday. All schools closed.

* Jewish Holidays which are major observances. All Jewish Holidays begin at sundown of the preceding evening. ¹ Some Eastern Orthodox Churches adhere to the Julian calendar and observe this holiday 13 days later.

**Muslim holidays celebrated subject to sighting of the moon; above dates may vary by 1 or 2 days.