



THE GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

**290 Greenwich Avenue • Greenwich, CT 06830 •
(203) 625-7425**

Toni Jones, Superintendent

MEMORANDUM

To: Building Principals
From: Toni Jones
Date: July 10, 2020
Re: Jewish Holidays – 2020-2021 School Year

Accommodating youngsters and their families who celebrate religious holidays other than those celebrated by the majority of our students requires sensitivity, good judgment and some understanding of the significance of the holiday celebration to those students and their families. The main group to whom this applies is our Jewish students.

Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown on Friday, September 18 and ends at sunset on Sunday, September 20, 2020. This holiday is an important celebration of the Jewish New Year. While some Jewish families celebrate this holiday on one day, others celebrate it on two days, September 19 and September 20. Athletic competitions should not be scheduled on these dates and tests or major assignments should not be given, or due, on these dates.

Yom Kippur is a solemn “high holy day” celebrated this year beginning at sundown on Sunday, September 27 and ending at sunset on Monday, September 28, 2020. Athletic competitions should not be scheduled on these dates and tests or major assignments should not be given, or due immediately following these dates.

In addition to testing, athletic competitions, and homework assignments, there should not be school meetings or PTA meetings scheduled during either of these two holidays as these are considered to be the highest Jewish holy days of the year.

The only other Jewish holiday that has particular import relative to school is **Passover**. The first and second evenings of this holiday are typically celebrated with a Seder, a large evening meal with special prayers. This year the first two nights of Passover occur on Saturday, March 27 and Sunday, March 28, 2021. As during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, athletic competitions should not be scheduled on these dates.

Provided below is a list of the major Jewish holidays. The ones which have the greatest significance and affect most students or staff are the ones that are described above. Additional holidays listed below are celebrated by very observant Jews. Please work with the individual families to support their religious practices.

2020-2021 Jewish Holidays*

Rosh Hashanah	Friday, September 18 – Sunday, September 20, 2020
Yom Kippur	Sunday, September 27 – Monday, September 28, 2020
Sukkoth	Friday, October 2 – Friday, October 9, 2020
Shemini Atzeret	Friday, October 9 – Sunday, October 11, 2020
Simchat Torah	Saturday, October 10 – Sunday, October 11, 2020
Hanukkah	Thursday, December 10 – Friday, December 18, 2020
Pesach (Passover)	Saturday, March 27 – Saturday, April 3, 2021
Shavout	Sunday, May 16 – Monday, May 17, 2021

*Jewish Holidays begin at Sundown on the night before the first day

C: Cabinet
Athletic Director
GEA President