



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 16, 2021
Re: Jewish Holidays – 2021-2022 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 Monday, September 6 and ends at sunset on Wednesday, September 8, 2021. 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 7 and September 8. 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 Wednesday, September 15 and ending at sunset on Thursday, September 16, 2021. 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 Friday, April 16 and Saturday, April 17, 2022. 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	Monday, September 6 – Wednesday, September 8, 2021
Yom Kippur	Wednesday, September 15 – Thursday, September 16, 2021
Sukkoth	Monday, September 20 – Monday, September 27, 2021
Shemini Atzeret	Monday, September 27 – Tuesday, September 28, 2021
Simchat Torah	Tuesday, September 28 – Wednesday, September 29, 2021
Hanukkah	Sunday, November 28 – Monday, December 6, 2021
Pesach (Passover)	Friday, April 15 – Sunday, April 23, 2022
Shavout	Saturday, June 4 – Monday, June 6, 2022

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

C: Cabinet
Athletic Director
GEA President