

# 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:** August 2023  
**Re:** Jewish Holidays – 2023-2024 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 15 and ends at sunset on Sunday, September 17, 2023. 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 16 and September 17. 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 24 and ending at sunset on Monday, September 25, 2023. 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 Monday, April 22 and Tuesday, April 23, 2024. 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.

**2023-2024 Jewish Holidays\***

Rosh Hashanah	Friday, September 15 – Sunday, September 17, 2023
Yom Kippur	Sunday, September 24 – Monday, September 25, 2023
Sukkoth	Friday, September 29 – Friday, October 6, 2023
Shemini Atzeret	Friday, October 6 – Sunday, October 8, 2023
Simchat Torah	Saturday, October 7 – Sunday, October 8, 2023
Hanukkah	Thursday, December 7 – Friday, December 15, 2023
Pesach (Passover)	Monday, April 22 – Tuesday, April 30, 2024
Shavout	Tuesday, June 11 – Thursday, June 13, 2024

C: Cabinet  
Athletic Director  
GEA President