



THE GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

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Ralph Mayo, Interim Superintendent

MEMORANDUM

To: Building Principals
From: Ralph Mayo
Date: July 16, 2018
Re: Jewish Holidays – 2018-19 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 Sunday, September 9 and ends at sunset on Tuesday, September 11, 2018. 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 10 and September 11. 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 Tuesday, September 18 and ending at sunset on Wednesday, September 19, 2018. 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 19, 2019 and Saturday, April 20, 2019. 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.

2018-19 Jewish Holidays*

Rosh Hashanah	Sunday, September 9 – Tuesday, September 11, 2018
Yom Kippur	Tuesday, September 18 – Wednesday, September 19, 2018
Sukkoth	Sunday, September 23 – Sunday, September 30, 2018
Shemini Atzeret	Sunday, September 30 – Tuesday, October 2, 2018
Simchat Torah	Tuesday, October 12 – Wednesday, October 13, 2018
Hanukkah	Sunday, December 2 – Monday, December 10, 2018
Pesach (Passover)	Friday, April 19 – Saturday, April 27, 2019
Shavout	Saturday, June 8 – Sunday, June 9, 2019

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

C: Cabinet
Athletic Director
GEA President