

SAMPLE LETTER—Jewish Holiday Accommodations

Dear [School Staff and/or School Administrator],

I hope this finds you well and that the school year is going smoothly.

I wanted to reach out to introduce myself. My name is [your name] and my child is [child's name] who is in [grade] at your school, [name of school] School.

As the parent of a Jewish student, I wanted to let you know that there are various Jewish holidays for which the religious practices of some Jewish students, teachers and parents may obligate them not to attend classes or other school events. Some or all of these holidays may require day-long attendance at synagogue and abstaining from all work. Some of these holidays include: [**A note to parents/caregivers:** *select the relevant holidays to you and your family from the list below.*]

- Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)--September 12-13, 2026
- Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)--September 21, 2026
- Sukkot (Feast of Booths)--September 26 - October 2, 2026
- Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah (Eighth Day of Assembly/Rejoicing in the Torah)--October 3 and 4, 2026
- Purim (Celebration of Jewish people's rescue in ancient Persia)
--March 23, 2027
- Passover (Celebrates Jewish people's exodus from Egyptian enslavement)
--April 22-29, 2027
- Shavuot (Feast of Weeks)--June 11-12, 2027

Many Jewish students and teachers will be out of school on some or all of these days, depending on their level of religious observance. If students do miss school on these days, I expect that their absence will be excused, without penalty, as a religious accommodation. Please be mindful that students should be allowed to make up their work and that if important exams are given on these days, excused students should receive the necessary time to make them up.

Holidays, celebrations and observances are often integrated into the school calendar and are an important way to help the school community enhance understanding of different people, cultures and communities. If helpful, please visit ADL's comprehensive [Calendar of Observances](#) to learn more. This calendar covers many faiths, including a full list of Jewish holidays and when they fall during the school year. It can be useful in increasing awareness and sensitivity about religious obligations, as well as ethnic and cultural festivities. In addition, ADL offers an accompanying resource, [9 Classroom Activities for Exploring](#)

[the Calendar of Observances](#) to help bring those conversations into the classroom in a constructive and educational way.

Please reach out if you need further guidance on Jewish holidays or related topics. Thank you for all the important work you do to make school a positive learning environment that is inclusive, safe and equitable for all students.

Sincerely,

[Name, Email, Phone #]