

Howard County Board of Rabbis
8070 Harriet Tubman Lane
Columbia, Maryland 21044
410-531-5115

September 2010

Dear Principal and/or Teacher,

I am writing to you at this time to ask your assistance. When Jewish holy days fall on weekdays, Jewish students often find themselves torn between showing respect for their religious traditions and meeting school expectations and requirements – it is a tough and uncomfortable position for them. This year many Jewish holy days fall on weekdays. On all holy days, observant Jews are prohibited from writing or working. Below is a schedule of Jewish holy days for the coming school year. It would be greatly appreciated if, to the extent possible, major exams, field trips, performances and special school wide programs not be scheduled on the below days.

This is especially important for Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year), Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement), and the first two nights of Passover.

The Jewish holy days for the coming school year include:

The evening of Sept.8-Sept. 10 – Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)
The evening of Sept. 17- Sept. 18 – Yom Kippur (The Day of Atonement)
The evening of Sept. 22-Sept. 24- The first two days of Sukkot (Tabernacles)
The evening of Sept.29-Oct. 1 – Shemini Atzeret and Simhat Torah
The evening only of Sat. March 19 – Purim
The evening of April 18-April 20 – The first two days of Passover
The evening of June7-June 9 – Shavuot (Pentecost)

Many teachers have an interest in accommodating students but have expressed frustration that they were not aware of the holy day schedule. I hope this letter helps fill that gap in information. We appreciate any and all efforts taken to accommodate the religious needs of the Jewish students in our schools.

If you have any questions, or if I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

On behalf of the Howard County Jewish Clergy, I am, in peace,

Rabbi Susan Grossman

Rabbi Susan Grossman
Beth Shalom Congregation
President

Rabbi Hillel Baron
Ahavat Yisrael Congregation
Community Chaplain

Rabbi Yocheved Heiligman
Shalom Aleichem Congregation

Rabbi Mark Panoff
Temple Isaiah

Rabbi Mark Raphael
Bet Aviv Congregation

Rabbi Amy Scheinerman
Community Hospice Chaplain

Rabbi Sonya Starr
Columbia Jewish Congregation
Immediate Past President

Cantor Marge Auerbach
Bet Aviv Secretary