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Rabbi

Rachel Dvash Schoenfeld

September 25, 2024

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Dear Teachers and School Administrators,

The beginning of school is an exciting time for everyone. I am writing to you now because there are Jewish holidays that occur just after school has gotten started. We ask for your help and support in beginning this new school year successfully for our Jewish students who observe these holidays.

This year, the Jewish holy days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur occur at the beginning of the school year:

Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown on Wednesday, October 2nd and runs through Thursday and Friday nights, October 3rd & 4th. Yom Kippur begins Friday immediately prior to sundown, October 11th and ends at nightfall on Saturday, October 12th. These three days are central holidays of the Jewish year.

They are devoted to synagogue services and home-based ceremonies devoted to reflection and communal and individual repentance.

While not all Jewish students will observe all of these days, those who do will not be in school or be able to participate in extracurricular activities on the applicable dates, and will have less time to devote to homework. In New Jersey, these are to be considered excused absences.

All accommodations you can make to support these students on their return to class would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at the phone number on this letterhead, or email me at rabbi.rachel@cbtbi.org

Blessings,
Rachel Schoenfeld, Rabbi CBTBI