

MEANING

- “Head of the year.”
- Jewish New Year.
- Rosh Hashana begins a 10-day period of introspection that culminates with Yom Kippur (the day of atonement).

GREETINGS

- Shana Tova (“A good year.” – Hebrew).
- Chag Sameach (“A good holiday.” – Hebrew).
- Gut Yontif (“A good holiday.” – Yiddish).

WHEN

- Hebrew calendar: 1-2 Tishrei.
- Western calendar: September or October.
- Rosh Hashana begins at sundown. Some Jews observe Rosh Hashana as a 2-day holiday, others as a one-day holiday.

COMMON PRACTICES

- Festive meals with sweet dishes that signify hopes for a sweet new year.
- Special synagogue services featuring blowing of the shofar (ram’s horn). The shofar is said to “wake up” the soul during this season of introspection.
- “Tashlich” – throwing bread into a moving body of water to symbolize casting away sin.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

Email: inclusion@msu.edu

Type of Calendar:

Hebrew (lunisolar)



Rosh Hashana

Hebrew

Rosh Ha·sha·na 

- Rosh Hashana is one of the most important holidays on the Jewish calendar. Many students, staff and faculty will travel to be with family or friends during this festive time. They may also need to leave campus early on the day that Rosh Hashana begins in order to prepare for the holiday before it starts at sundown
- Some Jewish students, staff, and faculty will observe Rosh Hashana as a time when work is prohibited by Jewish law, meaning that they will not be able to use electricity, answer phone calls or text messages, respond to emails, drive, take tests or exams, write or attend work or work-related events.
- Instructors and supervisors should avoid scheduling required tests, exams or other activities on Rosh Hashana.
- Students, staff, and faculty should be given the opportunity to reschedule any tests, exams or study or work activities that must be scheduled on Rosh Hashana.

FOR MORE INFO VISIT:

provost.msu.edu

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY