

**Principals' Offices**  
**Northern Valley Regional High School @ Old Tappan**  
**Northern Valley Regional High School @ Demarest**

**To:** NV-Old Tappan and NV Demarest and Staff  
**From:** Dr. B. Sabatini/Mr. J. Santana  
**Date:** August 2017  
**Re:** Faith-Based Holidays/Assignment Free Time Frames

**Homework Mission Statement**

The Northern Valley Regional High School District strongly supports independent practice and the extension of learning as an integral part of a student's academic program. Student achievement increases when homework is regularly assigned and when students complete it as part of their total program. Homework encourages student self discipline, independence, and responsibility.

Homework assignments can serve to help students practice previously-learned material, learn new material, incorporate higher-order thinking skills, and improve study skills.

Teachers are expected to state clearly the purpose of assignments, explain how the assignments might best be carried out, outline what the student needs to do to demonstrate that the assignment has been completed and how the homework will be incorporated into the student's assessment. Parents are encouraged to access *PowerSchool* on a regular basis to monitor student progress on assignments. Teachers and counselors will work with parents to support satisfactory completion of assignments. Information about assignments is posted on the teachers' *PowerSchool Learning (formerly Haiku)* pages and are accessible by students. The expectations are that teachers will post long-range assignments and due dates, upcoming assessments, stage 1 and 2 of unit plans as they are developed, and support material. No new daily assignments due the next school day are to be posted after school hours unless advanced notice has been communicated directly to students. Additionally, nothing that supports a daily assignment is to be posted after school hours.

Parents are encouraged to provide an environment in which students can complete homework. It is important that parents be aware of the types of assignments given and assignment deadlines so that they can monitor effectively.

**Faith-Based Holidays**

The following will be observed for religious holidays:

**Rosh Hashanah** begins at sundown on Wednesday, September 20, 2017. School is closed on Thursday, Friday: September 21-22. Assignments shall not be due/assessments shall not be administered on Monday, September 25, 2017.

**Yom Kippur** begins at sundown on Friday, September 29, 2017. Assignments shall not be due/assessments shall not be administered on Monday, October 2, 2017.

**Hanukkah** begins at sundown on Tuesday, December 12, 2017. Assignments shall not be due/assessments shall not be administered on Wednesday, December 13, 2017. **Christmas** is on Monday, December 25, 2017. Holiday occurs at beginning of Holiday Recess - no assignment/assessment restrictions.

**Passover** begins at sundown on Friday, March 30, 2018 and continues throughout the week. **Good Friday** is March 30, 2018. **Easter** is April 1. Assignments shall not be due/assessments shall not be administered on Monday, April 2, 2018. **Eastern Orthodox Easter** is on Sunday, April 8, 2018. Assignments shall not be due/assessments shall not be administered on Monday, April 9, 2018.

Thank you for your cooperation.

C: Supervisors, NVD/NVOT Management Teams, District Directors, J. Santana

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/genfo/holidays.htm>