



## TEMPLE BETH HATFILOH

— A CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE —

September, 2019

Dear School Teacher/Administrator:

On the Jewish calendar, the High Holidays are the focal point of the year and the most sacred of days. The holidays of Rosh Hashanah (the New Year) and Yom Kippur (The Day of Atonement) constitute a period in which we reflect on our past behaviors, make atonement for our transgressions and focus on our ability to change and grow as individuals.

Each fall during the holiday season is also the time in which the Jewish community comes together in its greatest numbers, and we have the opportunity to reconnect, to join in song and prayer together and to wish each other peace and prosperity in the coming year. As we focus on our individual transitions, so too do we focus on our communal ones as well.

Because the Jewish holiday calendar is based on the lunar cycle, the dates of these holidays on the Gregorian calendar shift from year to year. This year, Rosh Hashanah falls on Monday and Tuesday, September 30-October 1, and Yom Kippur falls on Wednesday, October 9.

I ask that you please excuse \_\_\_\_\_ from school attendance on any or all of these days to observe the holidays and attend services, and that you are mindful about assignments and tests on those days. Also note that Jewish holidays begin the evening before, so school events scheduled on Sunday and Monday evening, September 29-30 and Tuesday evening, October 8 also create a conflict.

Your consideration is most appreciated. By nurturing the spiritual lives of our children, we partner in their development as whole human beings. If you have any questions, or if I can help you with anything, please do not hesitate to contact me at (360) 754-8519 or [rabbi@bethhatfiloh.org](mailto:rabbi@bethhatfiloh.org).

Very truly yours,

Rabbi Seth Goldstein

