PUBLIC SCHOOL EXCUSE LETTER 2020

Dear public school teachers, coaches, and administrators,

Please excuse\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from required attendance or participation in any school event or school-related class, event, or competition occurring Sept. 18-19 and 27-28, as these are Rosh ha-Shanah and Yom Kippur, the most sacred days of the year on the Jewish calendar.

Because this is a constitutionally protected religious practice, I ask that you also defer the completion of any assignment, refrain from penalizing\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or requiring any extra school work from them because they are absent that day.

Also, please refrain from attempting to judge the appropriateness of this excuse or measure this against any abstract standard of what constitutes Jewish observance you may have read about or seen online. The Public schools are not the arbiter of a student's religious commitments or obligations.

The Jewish community appreciates the respect and cooperation your district always shows in matters of religious practice and conscience.

Please call me if you have any questions or concerns.

Faithfully,

Rabbi Geoffrey Dennis

Congregation Kol Ami

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