

The Breakfast Table Times

TODAY'S NEWS, MADE FOR KIDS

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TOP STORY

Giants Release Their 2026 Football Schedule

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants released their 2026 football schedule this week. Fans can now see every team the Giants will play. The list includes rival teams like the Dallas Cowboys. It also includes the Philadelphia Eagles and Washington Commanders. These division games often matter most for playoff spots.

Every NFL team gets a new schedule around the same time each year. This helps fans plan which games to watch on TV. Some fans also plan trips to away games. Giants supporters are already circling key dates on their calendars. The season will kick off in just a few weeks.

BACKGROUND

The NFL announces schedules for all 32 teams around the same time each year.

Why it matters: *Knowing the schedule lets fans and families plan which games to watch together.*

Source: NFL.com, New York Giants Schedule 2026, <https://www.nfl.com/schedules/2026/by-team/new-york-giants>; Giants.com, New York Giants release official 2026 schedule, <https://www.giants.com/news/nfl-schedule-2026-new-york-giants-tickets-information-cowboys-eagles-commanders>

SPORTS

Yankees Travel West to Face Padres

SAN DIEGO, CALIF. — The New York Yankees played the San Diego Padres on Friday night. The game took place at Petco Park in San Diego. It was part of a busy stretch of the 2026 season. September games carry extra weight as the season winds down. Teams across baseball are fighting for spots in the playoffs.

Every win or loss can shift the standings quickly now. The Yankees have made deep playoff runs in recent years. Fans on both coasts watched closely to see how the game unfolded. Both teams will continue their schedules through the final weeks of September.

BACKGROUND

The Yankees play in the American League, while the Padres play in the National League.

Why it matters: *Late-season games like this one help set the field for October's playoffs.*

Source: MLB.com, New York Yankees at San Diego Padres Game Story, <https://www.mlb.com/stories/game/823256>; CBS Sports, New York Yankees vs. San Diego Padres Box Score, https://www.cbssports.com/mlb/gametracker/boxscore/MLB_20260904_NYY@SD/

Playoff Races Tighten as MLB Season Nears Its End

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Baseball's regular season is almost over for the year. Teams are fighting hard for playoff spots. Every single game now matters a lot. One win or loss can change the standings fast. Coaches often use their best pitchers during this stretch.

Fans check the standings every single day. Some teams want to win their whole division. Other teams hope to grab a wild card spot. The pressure keeps building as October gets closer. Soon only a few teams will make the playoffs.

BACKGROUND

Major League Baseball splits its season into division races and wild card chases.

Why it matters: *September performance often determines which teams get extra rest or momentum heading into October.*

Source: ESPN, MLB Scores - September 4, 2026, https://www.espn.com/mlb/scoreboard/_/date/20260904; MLB.com, <https://www.mlb.com/stories/game/823256>

NFL Teams Finalize Schedules Ahead of 2026 Season

NEW YORK, N.Y. — All thirty-two NFL teams released their 2026 schedules this week. The announcements came out around the same time. Fans quickly compared schedules to find exciting matchups. Division games, like the Giants versus the Eagles, draw lots of attention.

TV networks also plan big primetime games early. Teams use the schedule to plan travel and practice time. Ticket packages usually go on sale soon after the release. Football fans everywhere are excited for kickoff to arrive. Many families already have games marked on their calendars.

BACKGROUND

NFL schedule releases happen every year in the spring, ahead of training camps in the summer.

Why it matters: *The schedule shapes travel plans, broadcast deals, and fan excitement for the entire season.*

Source: NFL.com, 2026 New York Giants Schedule, <https://www.nfl.com/schedules/2026/by-team/new-york-giants>; FBSchedules.com, 2026 New York Giants Schedule, <https://fbschedules.com/2026-new-york-giants-schedule/>

GOVERNMENT

Maine Education Department Shares Weekly Update

AUGUSTA, MAINE — Maine's Department of Education shared its weekly update on September 4. These updates go out regularly during the school year. They often include news for teachers and families. Topics can include safety tips and funding news too.

The department posts each update on its website. Anyone can read the update at any time. Families can check it to stay informed. Local schools often share the same news in their own newsletters. Staying informed helps schools run smoothly this fall.

BACKGROUND

Maine's Department of Education regularly publishes updates throughout the school year to keep communities informed.

Why it matters: *These updates help parents and teachers stay current on state guidance as students return to class.*

Source: Maine DOE Update - September 4, 2026,
<https://mainedoenews.net/2026/09/04/maine-doe-update-september-4-2026/>

SOUTHERN MAINE

Maine Students Return to Classrooms for New School Year

PORTLAND, MAINE — Students across Maine went back to school this week. Hallways and buses filled up again after summer break. Teachers spent weeks getting classrooms ready for kids. Many schools welcomed several new students this fall.

The first days focus mostly on routines, not hard work. Bus schedules and lunch programs are starting back up. Parents help out by packing lunches each morning. Kids are slowly getting used to earlier bedtimes now. Communities across the state feel busier again this week. Everyone is settling into a new fall routine.

BACKGROUND

Maine's public schools typically begin their year in late August or early September.

Why it matters: *A smooth start to the school year helps students settle into routines that support learning.*

Source: Maine DOE Update - September 4, 2026,
<https://mainedoenews.net/2026/09/04/maine-doe-update-september-4-2026/>

Maine Communities Prepare for Fall Festival Season

PORTLAND, MAINE — Fall is a busy time for towns across Maine. Many places plan harvest fairs and festivals. Families enjoy local food, crafts, and music together. Some fairs also have animals and fun rides.

Apple picking and pumpkin patches open up too. Farms welcome visitors during September and October. Cooler weather makes outdoor events more fun. The state's tourism office helps people find local events. Fall festivals remain a favorite Maine tradition each year. Local businesses look forward to busy fall weekends.

BACKGROUND

Maine's tourism office keeps an online calendar listing festivals and events happening statewide each season.

Why it matters: *Fall festivals support local economies and give families fun ways to enjoy the season together.*

Source: Visit Maine, Festivals & Events in Maine, <https://visitmaine.com/festivals-events/>

State Calendar Tracks Maine Farm and Fair Events

AUGUSTA, MAINE — Maine's agriculture department keeps a public online calendar. It lists fairs, farm programs, and nature events. Many entries focus on fall fairs happening now. People can search for events near their own town.

The calendar also covers forestry and conservation news. Farmers sometimes use it to promote their own events. Workers update the calendar often with new listings. Families check it before planning weekend trips. It helps connect people with Maine farms and fairs. The website is free for anyone to use.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry oversees farming, forestry, and land conservation programs across Maine.

Why it matters: *Public calendars like this one help residents find local events and support Maine farms and conservation efforts.*

Source: Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Event Calendar, <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/about/calendar/event.shtml>

Maine's Fall Colors Begin to Appear

PORTLAND, MAINE — Maine's trees are starting to change color. Cooler nights help trigger the fall colors. Maple trees usually turn red and orange first. Oak and birch trees follow with yellow leaves.

Visitors travel from other states to see the colors. Maine is famous for its bright fall foliage. Local shops and inns get busy this season. Tourism officials track the colors each week. The best colors usually arrive in the coming weeks. Families often take walks to enjoy the view.

BACKGROUND

Maine is well known nationally for its scenic fall foliage each autumn.

Why it matters: *Fall foliage tourism supports many small businesses across the state during September and October.*

Source: Visit Maine, Festivals & Events in Maine, <https://visitmaine.com/festivals-events/>