

# LIFE AFTER MJDS







## Our Mission

Where academic excellence and Jewish values prepare children for a lifetime of success, leadership and engagement with the world.

## SUCCESSING, LEADING AND ENGAGING

We believe the MJDS experience – rooted in a pioneering tradition, inspired by ongoing professional development, and advancing through student-owned learning and innovation – provides students a unique opportunity to learn and grow. At MJDS, we care about each of our students, instilling a life-long love of learning and the skills to become upstanding citizens. We nurture children entrusted to our care so that they are both good students and good people. At MJDS, they develop the mindset and work ethic needed to collaborate, create and succeed in any environment. Our graduates are leaders among their peers and in the larger community. They are passionate, self-assured, critical thinkers who bring their Jewish values to engage and improve our world.

To date, more than 750 students have graduated from MJDS. I invite you to read the following alumni stories illustrating the incredible young men and women who take their knowledge and experiences from an MJDS education and positively impact the world.

Bivrachah,

Sheryl Primakow  
Head of School  
Milwaukee Jewish Day School



## ISABELLE TASSE //

MJDS Class of 2013  
Shorewood High School Class of 2017

Passions:  
Social justice // Civic action // Leadership // Sportsmanship

Impact:

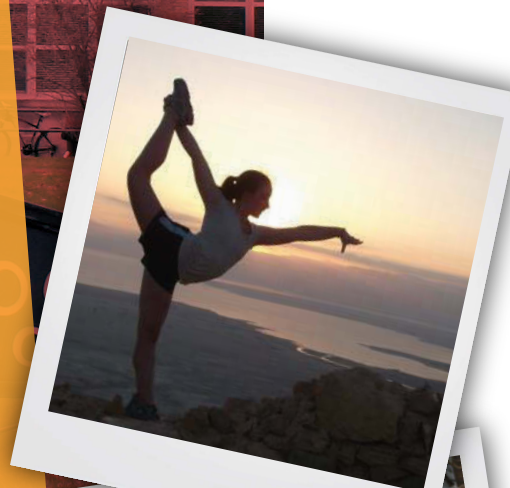
- Shorewood High School Model UN Executive Board Member
- Founder of Book Club for Advanced Readers at Atwater Elementary School
- Shorewood High School Gymnastics Team
- National Honor Society



Through her MJDS education, Izzie learned that it is her duty to be tolerant and respectful of others. She found these core values especially helpful as she transitioned to high school because she

was able to better connect with her peers and teachers. She is a High Honor Roll student and has become very involved in the Shorewood community. Izzie has been a member of the Shorewood High School gymnastics team for the last three years. She feels that it is her responsibility to lead by example and help motivate the younger girls to stay focused and work together as a team.

Giving back to the community is one of Izzie's passions. She started a book club at Atwater Elementary School for fourth grade advanced readers who wanted more from their literature curriculum. Every Friday, Izzie goes to Atwater and leads the children in a group discussion similar to the literature circles she took part in at MJDS. They recently read *Esperanza Rising*, which tells the story of a Mexican immigrant. Through the discussions, Izzie not only helped these fourth graders learn how to empathize with the characters, but she also introduced them to present day immigration issues. Izzie is most passionate about making a difference in the world. As she says, "there's great work being done by influential people and I'd like to be one of those people who's not in it for themselves, but who is there to make changes for the betterment of humanity." While she does not yet know what her contribution will be, Izzie continues to focus on ways she can further develop this passion.



## CONNECT AND CARE FOR OTHERS

**"YOU ARE PLACED ON THIS EARTH TO MAKE IT BETTER. THAT'S WHAT MJDS HAS TAUGHT ME AND THAT'S WHAT I HOPE TO KEEP DOING THROUGHOUT MY LIFE."**

MJDS taught me from a very young age how to be a good person. I learned about respect and tolerance, how to connect with others and the importance of giving back. I realized how much I love to get involved in my community - whether local or global - and how much I enjoy talking with different people and getting to know their state of mind. This is why I was drawn to Student Council and Model UN in high school. These are two outlets that allow me to put myself out there and engage with my community. No matter what, I'm involved with people and with addressing problems which is what I love to do.

Model UN is the opportunity to pretend you are a delegate from a country and debate an international issue with delegates from all over the world. Even though it's not real, you still get the chance to collaborate and come up with resolutions that hopefully help create a better world. Not only do I love dealing with international relations - that's something I might be interested in pursuing in the future - but I also enjoy having the opportunity to get to know students from around the country outside of their roles as delegates.

I served as a Sophomore Class Representative on Student Council last year and now am the Secretary of the Executive Board. It's a great opportunity to work with four other upperclassmen and help lead initiatives that directly impact student life. I actually decided to run for Executive Board because I saw that no other incoming juniors were interested in running or as passionate about the organization as me.

Essentially, I saw there was a void and I needed to fill it. I knew I could do a great job and would enjoy getting more involved. I couldn't have made a better decision and I can't wait for the opportunity to run for president next year.





## SELF CONFIDENCE AND AN OPEN MIND

*"THE TIGHT-KNIT ENVIRONMENT AT MJDS TAUGHT ME TO BE VERY OPEN TO EVERYONE BECAUSE THEY WERE ALWAYS SO OPEN TO ME. THAT EXPERIENCE REALLY SHAPED MY SELF-CONFIDENCE AND HAS HELPED ME BE SUCCESSFUL IN HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE AND ON STAGE."*

Two of the big things that define me now are theater and art – both of which I learned about at MJDS. I absolutely loved Gev. Porat. She assigned very specific projects, but was always so open to the idea that art could be whatever I wanted. If I had an idea to change my project to something a little quirky, she was always open to me. She really helped me understand the extent to which art can be created from the self. She had this giant room with all these stacks of materials and we could just come in and create. I remember coming in after school and during recess to work on whatever inspired me.

When I was in the middle school musicals our director, Adon Weissgerber, instilled the idea of theater being fun. It was a very structured environment and we got a lot done during rehearsals, but the way he directed always emphasized how truly enjoyable acting could be. My favorite show at MJDS was Seussical, where I played JoJo the Who. I remember being on stage during a performance and singing a song called 'It's Possible' where JoJo thought about all the things that could be going on in this mysterious pool. I remember standing in the middle of the stage singing the song. The lights were everywhere and the other actors came up and surrounded me as they sang the harmonies. In that moment, I felt so in love with theater. I think that really sparked me and made me realize how much I truly loved acting.



### ZEV WOSKOFF //

MJDS Class of 2011  
Whitefish Bay High School Class of 2015  
University of Pittsburgh Class of 2019  
Double Major in Studio Arts and Theatre Arts with an Emphasis in Directing

Passions:  
Singing // Drawing // Design // Acting // Judaism

Impact:

- Chancellor Scholar at University of Pittsburgh
- Starred in two main stage productions at the University of Pittsburgh freshman year
- Two-time BBYO Regional Board member
- Editor of Whitefish Bay High School newspaper
- Starred in eight productions & directed two shows at Whitefish Bay High School



Zev discovered his passions during his time at MJDS. He was introduced to the arts early on in a nurturing environment that promoted freedom of expression. This strong foundation inspired Zev to study theater arts in college and pursue a career based on what spoke to him. The rigorous curriculum at MJDS helped Zev succeed in high school, qualify as a National Merit Scholar semifinalist and receive a full college scholarship. The tight-knit community at MJDS helped Zev gain confidence and develop strong personal connections that allowed him to stand out, form his identity and make new friends in high school and college.

Zev has maintained a strong connection to Judaism. He used his Hebrew and Jewish studies education as the foundation for his initiatives while serving as BBYO Regional Shaliach (Vice President of Judaism, Community Service and Social Advocacy). At college, Zev continues to educate friends and colleagues about his Jewish background.



# PATIENCE, PASSION AND PERSISTENCE

"I LEARNED THAT LEADERSHIP IS ALL ABOUT PATIENCE, PASSION AND PERSISTENCE DURING MY TIME AT MJDS. THESE QUALITIES HAVE HELPED ME BE SUCCESSFUL IN EVERYTHING I DO AND HAVE BEEN INVALUABLE WHEN I AM HELPING LEAD A GROUP OF MY PEERS."

At MJDS, I gained the confidence to be myself, to ask questions and to search for deeper meaning. If I had a problem, my teachers taught me how to advocate for myself. MJDS fostered my creativity and taught me to explore and find out who I was through different experiences in and out of the classroom. My teachers encouraged a lot of risk-taking, but in a very safe and positive environment. If I made a mistake, I was not embarrassed or afraid to try again. This environment really shaped who I am and helped influence my leadership style.

Leadership is not something that can be taught as a lesson; it is something that is demonstrated. My teachers were passionate about their lesson plans. Seeing that spark in their eyes as they shared information about a topic they loved really inspired me to seek out the things that ignited me in the same way. They were so dedicated and patient with me. If I had trouble with an assignment, they would stay after school to go over it so that I could understand where I went wrong and what I could do next time to be successful.

My teachers helped me to identify and develop my passions: I love Judaism, I love teaching and I love connecting with others. This is why I got so involved with my youth group in high school and why I was naturally drawn to Hillel. As I got more involved on campus, I came across the organization Gift of Life. Being president of Gift of Life was not something I originally planned on doing, but I was approached by the seniors at the end of my freshman year and asked if I would serve. I was honored that they recognized my passion and leadership ability. In the four years this organization has been on campus, we've had 12 matches and two transplants. It's really rewarding being in charge of an organization where you can directly see that you are changing the lives of others.



## CARLY COHEN //

MJDS Class of 2010  
Nicolet High School Class of 2014  
University of Wisconsin - Madison Class of 2018  
Majoring in Management and Human Resources  
Minor in Leadership and a Minor in Jewish Studies

Passions:  
Leadership // Judaism // Hebrew Language //  
Connecting & Engaging with others

Impact:  
• Gift of Life President  
• Freshman Engagement Intern at Hillel at the University of Wisconsin  
• Two-time President of Shalom Federation of Temple Youth (SHFTY)  
• Branch Manager at College Works Painting



Carly was inspired by her time at MJDS and the strong connection to Judaism that it fostered. As a result, she has taken on Jewish leadership roles throughout high school and college. She served on the board of her youth group at Congregation Shalom and is involved in Hillel at UW Madison. Through Hillel, Carly was recognized as a strong leader and was asked to join the Freshman Va'ad, a group of 15 first-year students who help plan and lead programs. At the end of her freshman year, Carly was invited to lead the group as the Freshman Engagement Intern. In addition, she is currently serving as President of Gift of Life, an umbrella organization of Hillel that helps connect the National Bone Marrow Donor Program with students on campus. Carly models her leadership style from the example of her teachers and experiences at MJDS. Ultimately, Carly has a passion for helping others, which is why she is interested in Human Resources and continuing to lead by example.





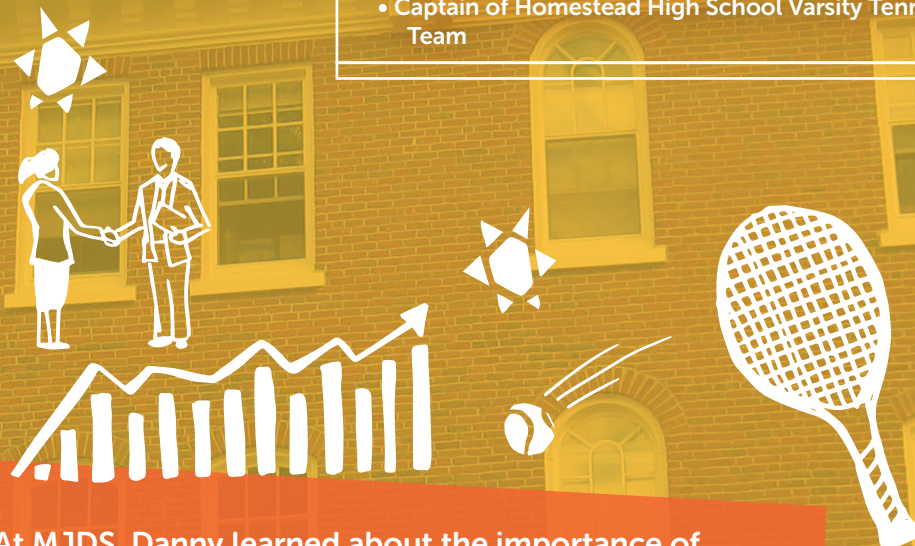
## DANNY CORAN //

MJDS Class of 2010  
Homestead High School Class of 2014  
Tufts University Class of 2018  
Majoring in Economics and Finance

Passions:  
Tennis // Service // Sportsmanship // Start-ups // Family

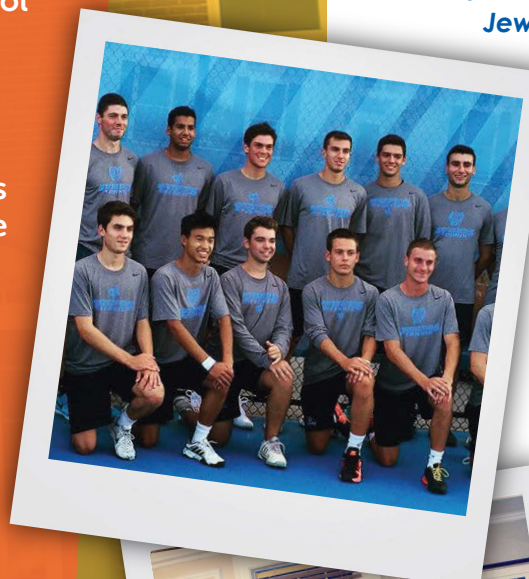
Impact:

- Tufts University Men's Tennis Team
- Israeli Business Club
- Intern for The Parks Group – A Morgan Stanley Team (Summer 2015)
- Graduated as a Distinguished Honors Student from Homestead in top 10 of class
- Captain of Homestead High School Varsity Tennis Team



At MJDS, Danny learned about the importance of having a good work ethic and where hard work can get you. MJDS prepared him to go into high school confident in his ability to succeed. Danny was

named an AP scholar and graduated as a distinguished honors student from Homestead High School. Danny played for the Homestead tennis team all four years and was named captain his senior year. He used the skills he learned about respect, leadership and tolerance at MJDS to help him guide his team. Danny was ranked as one of the top high school tennis players in the WIAA and won multiple tournaments. Outside of school, he was a tutor and tennis professional at Milwaukee Tennis and Education Foundation (MTEF), where he worked with underprivileged children in mathematics and science, taught tennis and organized competitions. Additionally, he has a passion for business, which is what he is focusing on in college. Danny is very involved with the Israeli Business Club at Tufts and spent this year working to get the club sponsored by TAMID, a nonprofit that helps undergraduates develop their professional business skills through the Israeli economy. Danny is currently working on a clothing start-up with three other students at Tufts University.



## RESPECT AND HONOR

**"MJDS TAUGHT ME ABOUT BEING TRUE TO MYSELF, RESPECTING OTHERS AND HOW TO BE AN HONORABLE PERSON."**

*I am well rounded as a student and as a person because of the level of exposure I had to academics and Jewish culture. At MJDS, I learned the importance of respect, tolerance, dedication and putting yourself out there. This has been key to my success in high school, college and on the tennis court.*

*Being a part of the Homestead tennis team was an extremely rewarding experience, especially being captain. To be an effective leader, you have to be respectful of every team member. This is a value that MJDS instilled in me. When teammates came to me for help, whether it was regarding tennis or their personal life, I did my best to help them in any way I could. People felt comfortable approaching me, and this transparency was key to our team's success. Additionally, I was able to speak confidently and with purpose to my team. MJDS taught me how to do this and it greatly impacted our chemistry and morale. I also took the lead on several activities off of the tennis court. I planned team dinners, events and meetings. We were extremely close, and I was able to foster this bond, which made for a great season together. My favorite memory as captain was defeating Marquette University High School. At the time, they were the best team in the state and we were the underdogs. I remember giving a speech before the match to get everyone pumped up and confident. That day, we believed that we could win and we made it happen.*

*While I enjoy watching and playing almost all sports, I am most passionate about the game of tennis. It is a part of who I am, and I am fortunate to be playing the game I love at the collegiate level. My tennis coach at Tufts tells me that I am one of the most hard-working players on his team. I am very focused in practice and want to do my best to improve each day. My goal is to become captain next season.*





# SPIRITUALITY AND DEEPER UNDERSTANDING

"MJDS ALLOWED ME TO EXPLORE AND UNDERSTAND MY JEWISH IDENTITY AND GAVE ME THE TOOLS TO DISCOVER HOW I WANTED TO APPROACH JUDAISM. HAVING THOSE BASICS HAS ALLOWED ME TO BE SPIRITUAL EVEN WHEN I AM NOT IN A JEWISH COMMUNITY OR PLACE OF WORSHIP."

What I learned at MJDS is essential to what I hope to do in a career. The eighth grade Israel trip showed me what a welcoming community Israel is and inspired me to engage with the world. My connection to Israel is very strong and I have become an advocate for this country. I'm most interested in Jewish advocacy as a career path. I want to focus on how Israel education can be more effective for college students.

Serving as a group leader for Stanford Israel Alliance, an organization that shares information about Israel, has been a very important part of my time at Stanford. Being on a campus with a smaller Jewish population has only strengthened my Jewish identity and involvement. This volunteer group provides an opportunity to educate others on what it means to be Jewish. In turn, students develop a better sense of what Judaism represents. This has been extremely influential because it has highlighted to me that there are ways to improve and allow for more discussion-based education similar to what I received at MJDS.

My experience with anti-Semitism while running for student senate further sparked my interest in improving Jewish education and advocacy. I didn't know my views on Israel mattered so much. I never thought someone would question my ability to be a good senator based on my strong connection with Judaism. I think there are people who do things to be anti-Semitic and people who do things by accident with anti-Semitic undertones. This event taught me how important it is to educate each other about these differences and the various ways anti-Semitism can manifest. The Jewish community at Stanford is very isolated, which causes confusion because people don't understand the community or the connection to Israel. I think the issues presenting on college campuses are really important. There is a lot of misunderstanding between Jewish agencies on how to combat this type of anti-Semitism. I want to get involved so that I can help ensure that college students are able to further develop and express their Jewish identity now and in the future.

## MOLLY HORWITZ //

MJDS Class of 2008  
Rufus King International High School Class of 2012  
Stanford University Class of 2016  
Majoring in Religious Studies with a Minor in Jewish Studies

Passions:  
Judaism // Advocacy

Impact:

- Stanford Student Senate
- Stanford Israel Alliance & Cardinal for Israel
- Keynote Speaker – 2015 Jewish Federations of North America General Assembly
- Valedictorian of Rufus King International High School
- Captain of Rufus King Wrestling Team



Molly developed her Jewish identity and strong work ethic during her time at MJDS. At Rufus King, Molly distinguished herself academically. She was a full diploma student in the International Baccalaureate Program and was valedictorian of her class. Molly was very involved in the high school community. She served as President of Jew Crew and President of National Honor Society. Molly was an all-conference wrestler and went on to captain the team for two years. During high school, she developed a passion for rowing and was a member of the Milwaukee Rowing Club. She has continued to row at Stanford.

Molly received national recognition for her experience with anti-Semitism during the election for student senate at Stanford when her competency as a candidate was questioned. What is most exceptional about Molly is that she was not discouraged by this experience. Instead, she let it fuel her passion to improve education and communication about Judaism and Israel. As a result, Molly was asked to speak at the 2016 American Jewish Community Global Jewish Advocacy Conference about anti-Semitism on campus and share her insight on how we should combat this problem.

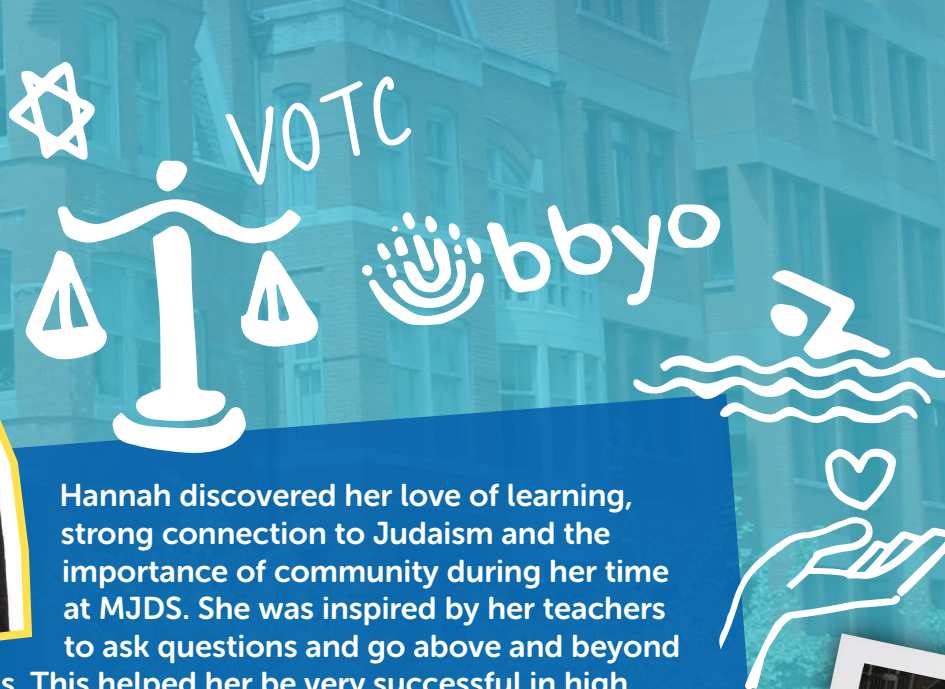


## HANNAH SPRUNG //

MJDS Class of 2011  
Nicolet High School Class of 2015  
George Washington University Class of 2019  
International Affairs Major with International  
Economics Concentration

Passions:  
Social Justice // Judaism // Community // Education

Impact:  
• GW International Affairs Society member  
• SAFI member (GW Student Alliance for Israel)  
• Student Council Representative all four years  
• BBYO Regional Board member  
• Nicolet High School Varsity Swim Team & Senior Captain



Hannah discovered her love of learning, strong connection to Judaism and the importance of community during her time at MJDS. She was inspired by her teachers to ask questions and go above and beyond

in her classes. This helped her be very successful in high school both academically and socially. Hannah was a Dean's List student and a member of National Honor Society. She was on Student Council and the varsity swim team all four years and served as varsity swim captain her senior year.

As a result of the foundation she built at MJDS, Hannah was inspired to further her Jewish identity. In BBYO she served as two-term president of her chapter, coordinated the Winter Regional Convention for all of Wisconsin and served as Regional Sh'licha (Vice President of Judaism, Community Service and Social Advocacy). Because of her strong connection to Israel, Hannah decided to study abroad in Israel her sophomore year. She has continued to stay connected to the Jewish community and Israel in college. Above all, Hannah credits MJDS for igniting her passion for social justice. She continues this pursuit in college through her involvement in GW International Affairs Society and as a student in the Elliott School of International Affairs.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE AND AGENT FOR CHANGE

*"I WANT TO BE AN AGENT FOR CHANGE TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE SO MY CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN CAN LIVE IN A WORLD HOPEFULLY BETTER THAN THE ONE I HAVE."*

There's a huge focus at MJDS on the value of Tikkun Olam. It's there from a very young age and culminates with the Voice of the Children project. This focus gave me the confidence and tools I needed to work with teachers, administrators and school board members to implement a new class about social justice at my high school.

I, along with a few of my peers, saw a hole in our curriculum at Nicolet that we were very passionate about. So many students were talking about the problems in our world, but they didn't have any insight into how to effectively do something about the issues. We decided that education could combat this problem. I was one of the students more involved with the initiative. It took two years before the administration approved our Leadership for Social Justice class. The purpose of the course was to study injustices that occurred throughout history, including where they stem from and what can be done to better them. The ultimate goal of the class was the creation of a social action plan.

As a result of the class, we created a mentoring program with Milwaukee College Prep. We took a group of students from Nicolet outside their comfort zone to the 38th Street School to work with sixth and seventh graders. We helped them with math, reading and grammar. We mixed our two communities together to help tackle the problems. We studied about zip code inequality and educational injustice. It meant the world to me to see the faces of those kids light up as they understood how we were helping them. That was my favorite part of the class because it allowed me to go through the process of developing a social action plan and seeing it in action.

Once you learn how to develop a social action plan, you will be motivated to do more to give back to your community. If everyone has the mindset that we all can make a difference, even in the smallest ways, the world will be a significantly better place.

When you grow up at MJDS, this mindset is woven into your education through our Jewish values. I have carried this with me ever since – it is in the back of my mind at all times.

That is why I wanted to make it possible for my peers to learn about social justice, so they will feel empowered like me and go out and make a difference.



תיקון עולם



*"I want to reiterate how special this community is. After being here for ten years — that moment when you are holding your flowers and walking down the aisle during graduation, standing there with your classmates and looking back at years of hard work, of devotion to a school, of learning experiences. You stand there with your best friends and realize that no matter where life takes you, you will always come back to this place and call it your home."*

*-Carly Cohen, Class of 2010*

The following is a partial listing of the colleges and universities MJDS Alumni have attended:

University of Arizona  
Barnard College  
Boston University  
Bradley University  
Brandeis University  
Brown University  
University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)  
Carleton College  
Carnegie Mellon  
University of Colorado  
Columbia University  
Connecticut College  
Drake University  
Drexel University  
Duke University  
Emory University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
George Washington University  
Grinnell College  
Harvard  
University of Hawaii  
Hebrew Union College  
Indiana University  
Jewish Theological Seminary  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence University  
Macalester College  
Marquette University

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)  
Miami University of Ohio  
University of Michigan  
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities  
University of Minnesota – Rochester  
New York University  
Northeastern University  
University of North Carolina  
Oberlin College  
University Ohr Somayach Yeshiva (Israel)  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Pittsburgh  
Princeton University  
Purdue University  
Reed College  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
University of Southern California (USC)  
Stanford University  
Tufts University  
Tulane University  
University of Vermont  
Washington University  
Wesleyan University  
University of Wisconsin – La Crosse  
University of Wisconsin – Madison  
University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee