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### Intellectually based Extracurriculars

Ida Crown Jewish Academy offers many extracurricular activities to improve your high school experience, including Chess Club, Robotics Club, and Mathletes; three great teams with a supportive atmosphere, enthusiastic teaching staff, and places to be creative and think outside the box. Each club offers an unique but equally thrilling experience. All three clubs meet throughout the year: Mathletes during first semester, Robotics during second semester, and Chess club all year round.

Chess Club is a competitive and frequently played sport at ICJA; no matter what time of day, there is almost always at least one game set up in the Commons between students. During lunch and breakfast, however, the faculty adviser, Rabbi Rosenbaum helps teach students new openings and chess theory. While students are playing, he points out great moves and teaches students how to avoid bad positions. The club loves inviting new members and teaching them how to play, and students have the option to just sit down and play with friends without any commitment. While the team has not yet had any meets with other schools, the players are working to create one.

Robotics Club competes in the international tournament, Botball. Each team is required to build and code a robot from scratch and have it complete tasks around a board, for example moving a foam cube or picking up pom poms. Then around two months from when the competition started, they compete against other Chicagoland area schools to see which team gets more points and build the better robot. Durings its season, the club meets one to three times a week. Depending on how much of a role

you want in the team, time commitment can vary from an hour to even seven hours a week. The faculty head, Mr. Sears, is one of the most supportive and creative teachers at ICJA and he ensures that the team runs smoothly. Students don't need any coding or engineering experience whatsoever as this is one of the several clubs where students can learn engineering principles and learn how to code at ICJA.

Finally, Mathletes hones mathematics skills to compete in competitions with other area high schools. The faculty advisors Mr. Keller and Mrs. Pederson are some of the most positive and funniest teachers in the school, and they make the experience amazing. Students get a chance to learn high level math concepts in a fun way without any pressure. Mathletes meets once a month and practice once every other week during lunch, totaling to around three hours a month. However, if students wish to go more in depth into the material or learn more, that opportunity exists. Also, students get extra credit in their math classes for competing in these competitions!

I have been on all of these teams and founded two of them. These three clubs are what made me excited for every day of school and what made my high school experience extraordinary. Also, if there is a club that you want, but it doesn't already exist, find two friends, go to the administration and present your idea, and create your own unique highschool experience at ICJA.