

Isaac Shiner

Ms. Goldstein

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## ICJA Offers Students the Opportunity to Become a Licensed Emergency Medical Technician

At Ida Crown Jewish Academy, in collaboration with Hatzazal Chicago, seniors have the opportunity to participate in an Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) approved EMT course that meets the requirements of the National EMS Education Standards. Students who opt to partake in the course spend notable time in class-often after school hours-and multiple lab sessions at the Hatzazal Chicago office. Then, after successfully completing the course and turning 18 years old, the students may take the official licensing examination and put their life-saving skills to use.

The course involves classroom lectures, homework, quizzes, tests, hands-on labs, and in-hospital clinicals. The lectures meet twice a week during the last two periods of the day and often slightly into the post-school hours. Throughout the program, students learn from seasoned emergency medical services (EMS) professionals-including the lead instructor, Chicago Fire Department Paramedic Field Chief Mr. Jake Dickman. The student's study and master life-saving knowledge and skills. Among the many units, some of the material covered includes human anatomy and physiology, assessment skills, CPR, vital signs, medical emergency response, trauma response, and childbirth and neonate care.

Max Miller, '20, who wants to eventually pursue a career in medicine, took the course last year as an introduction to medicine. Max has successfully completed the course and became

a licensed EMT. Now, as a gap year student in Israel, Max is in the process of recognizing his American EMT license with Magen David Adom-Israel's national emergency medical service-to validate his license in Israel. Max described the course as “amazing” and he has “learned to apply those skills to other areas of my life.” Moreover, Max hopes to volunteer as an EMT in Israel and he tentatively plans on serving in the Israeli Defense Forces as a medic.

This year, Liel Shlafrok, a current EMT student elected to take the course as a foreshadow to nursing-the career she hopes to pursue. Liel feels that the course has already taught her the foundations of medicine that will give her a huge advantage when she ultimately begins nursing school. Also, Tehillah David, another current student chose to take the course because she's not sure what career path she wants to pursue. By taking this course, Tehillah hopes to gain a better understanding of what medicine is like to decide if it is the right career path for her. Finally, Ayelet Dallal, also a current student, appreciates the course option as an alternative to the natural hard sciences like physics and chemistry.

The ICJA EMT course is just an example of the variety of unique courses offered to students. At ICJA, students have multiple unique classes to choose from depending on their interests and academic abilities. For me, being part of this exceptional course allows me to look forward to the end of the day where I know I will be learning exciting and powerful life-saving knowledge. Through the EMT course, students get the chance to dive into their interests and feel the satisfaction of taking a rigorous course. Lastly, best of all, this course awards students with the ability to serve their communities-or in Max's case, their homeland-as a life-saving hero.