

## Transferring as a senior

I transferred into ICJA senior year, and the change was obviously very hard especially since I live in NY and ICJA is located in Chicago. Most of my high school I did not attend a Jewish school, so my parents wanted me to be in a Jewish school for my last year. Junior year my parents were telling me maybe I should go to school in Chicago. My first impression on going to school in Chicago for my senior year was no way!!

My sister lived in Chicago, so that was a place I could stay for the year. Last February, I started to realize Jewish schools in NY were all full and the schools that weren't full did not accept incoming seniors. I decided in February that I would set up an interview with ICJA and see what would happen from there.

The day of my interview I was extremely nervous. I didn't know what Rabbi Matanky would ask me, I didn't know what to expect, and I have never had an interview before. I walked into the school for my interview and right away the administration asked how I was doing, if I needed a drink or anything to make me comfortable, and I started to calm down because I wasn't nervous anymore. I spoke with Rabbi Mantanky, and it was a good interview. Once I left the building, I was very confident that I wanted to attend ICJA next year after I saw how much the teachers and staff care about their students.

The first day of school was obviously a lot different than I expected it to be in February due to Covid 19, but there was one thing that didn't change from what I saw in February and that was how the staff cared about each of their students. The way the teachers and staff cared about me when I was there amazed me and the way the students wanted to be your friend made me so comfortable that I was there. If you want to go to a school that will have your back through all four years of high school, ICJA is the place for you.

Shimon Danan