

Arielle Fontheim

Arielle ('07) loved the traditions at JPDS-NC like “the Veterans Day performances, Philadelphia trip, New York trip, the Purim shpiel, baking challah, receiving my first siddur and chumash, and everything in between.” Arielle hopes the school continues to grow in the best way possible. “I want every Jewish child in Washington, DC to be able to feel the closeness and uniqueness that is JPDS.”

Arielle continued in Jewish day school for middle and high school. Sports have always been a significant part of Ari's life, so she played a sport every season. Arielle just finished her junior year at the University of Michigan. She is pre-med with a major in Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience (BCN) and ultimately hopes to attend medical school. Arielle says: “ my decision to pursue a career in medicine comes from my desire to give back to the world and improve the lives of others. JPDS instilled in me the belief that I am capable of achieving anything I put my mind to... All of the teachers at JPDS had the utmost confidence that all of their students were capable of achieving anything, and that was reflected onto us.”

On the Michigan campus, Arielle is on the board of Dance Marathon a student-run philanthropy organization that raises money for local children's hospitals. Arielle has maintained links with Judaism by taking Hebrew classes and she regularly attends events at Hillel, especially during the High Holidays. She remains close to her JPDS-NC friends from the early years.