



Gaby Ecanow (SSDS '14):

Schechter alumna Gaby Ecanow (SSDS '14) is pursuing a graduate degree in Engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) following her graduation from MIT in 2022 with a B.S. in Computer Science and Engineering. When she completes her master's program, Gaby plans to work as a Software Engineer in the Technology Development Group at Apple in San Francisco, CA.

With all of her graduate courses relating to computer algorithms and systems completed, Gaby's day-to-day responsibilities include TAing and researching. Her thesis project, an automated and interactive debugging tutor, was recently deployed for an undergraduate Software Construction course. "It was used by almost 500 students and shows promising results for improving debugging skills," Gaby said.

Gaby traces her passion for Engineering and Computer Science back to Schechter, when she attended the Code Club at the Sager School which met on Sunday evenings. "Initially, I wasn't sure I wanted to give up my Sunday evenings," she said. "However, before the first session, my friend, Amia Ross, called me and said she thought I should come with her because she didn't want to be the only girl in the Club. I reluctantly agreed. An hour in, and I was hooked! I remember I went home that night and wrote a program to pick out clothes in the morning. I couldn't wait for Sunday evenings to come around; I loved watching my ideas and games come to life, and I loved sharing it with friends and family even more."

Gaby said she is grateful for the fantastic STEM education she received at Schechter. "Every year at Schechter, starting around 2nd grade, I remember having opportunities to learn advanced math. In middle school, Herbert Lichtman (the same parent volunteer who ran the Code Club) started a MathCounts club. We learned how to think outside the box to solve interesting math challenges, and Mr. Lichtman made the club a really fun, enthusiastic environment. One friend who was in MathCounts, Hadar Halivni, and I later became co-presidents of RZJHS's math team. A lot of the ideas and strategies we introduced to the RZJHS's math team can be traced to what we had learned at MathCounts."

Gaby added that she is also grateful that Schechter instilled the importance of leading a Jewish life -- not just in the classroom but also through meaningful experiences and traditions shared with the community. "Kabbalat Shabbat on Friday evenings always set a peaceful and community-oriented tone at the end of the week," Gaby said. "Those feelings of togetherness and a shared deep connection to our Jewish tradition is something I still make sure to actively seek out no matter where I am, and I always look forward to Shabbat after a stressful week of homework and exams."

In her free time, Gaby loves exploring Boston, kickboxing, catching up with friends, and participating in Jewish life at MIT. "Boston is awesome," she said. "The winters can be brutal, but I love living right on the Charles River and catching up with the hub of Schechter alumni who are in the area."

Gaby's sister, Naomi Ecanow (SSDS '11), attended University of Illinois medical school and is currently completing a residency in Radiation Oncology at the University of Chicago. Gaby's twin brother, Elijah Ecanow (SSDS '14), is currently pursuing a master's of Management at Duke University.

