

Solomon Schechter Day School



Tali Eisenstadt (SSDS '2010)

Current Position: 4th Grade Teacher at Jensen Elementary

Hometown: Deerfield, IL

Camp: Camp Interlaken JCC

Current City: Windsor Heights, Iowa

Undergraduate University: Drake University

Tali Eisenstadt has wanted to be a teacher ever since middle school, when she helped out in the kindergarten classroom at the Sager School. In fact, her Schechter teachers are some of the people who inspired her to pursue the field of education. She is living her dream as a fourth grade teacher in a public elementary school in Iowa, where she teaches every academic subject and also helps students develop social and emotional skills.

Recently, she has begun teaching students about the Holocaust. She describes the personal story of her grandparents, shares what she learned at Schechter, and sings "I Still Believe," a song about Anne Frank that she learned from Roz Ebstein z"l, her beloved Schechter choir teacher.

During college, Tali had a class assignment to watch other teachers and reflect on what she learned. Tali chose to come back to Schechter to watch her former teachers in action. She is grateful that she had the opportunity to learn from some of the best.

Tali also credits Schechter with her love of Jewish education and her strong sense of Jewish identity. "Schechter made me proud of who I am as a person and as a Jew," she said. Since Tali currently lives in a city with a small Jewish population, she has the opportunity to teach others about Judaism, the Holocaust, antisemitism, and more.

Tali's colleagues have let her know how much they appreciate having her share her knowledge and stories with their students. "We absolutely loved having you join our classroom. You're welcome at all times to help enlighten my kids and encourage them to make the world a better place each and every day." One of Tali's students added: "I really appreciate that you came to tell us your story and that you could sing us your song. I loved being in your class and think that you are the best teacher ever!"

Following Schechter, despite going to a public high school, Tali remained active in Jewish life and community. To this day, one of her closest friends is Talia Weiss, a Schechter classmate. They see each other whenever they're both in town and text or call each other constantly. "It's amazing having such a long-lasting friend who I knew only for those three years in middle school, but stayed close all these years later."

Tali also loves connecting with alumni throughout the country and sharing fond memories from their days at Schechter. She attends shabbat dinners at a local family's home in Iowa and attends a local synagogue. She is also active in the Jewish Federation in Iowa and remains connected with the Hebrew school she worked at in college.

Outside of her day job, Tali enjoys teaching theater classes at the Des Moines Community Playhouse during the summer. She also loves spending time with her friends -- in person or virtually!



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