

Solomon Schechter Day School



Talia Simmons (SSDS '13)

Occupation: Account Associate, Corporate and Strategy, Real Chemistry

University: Syracuse University

Current City: New York, NY

Hometown: Deerfield, IL

Camp: Beber Camp



When Talia was a student at Schechter, she contemplated working in all different professions -- from talk show host to archeologist. In high school, she realized she wanted to use her strong writing skills to work in the field of communications. However, it wasn't until her freshman year of college in a cognitive science class that she became thoroughly interested in neuroscience. "The brain is fascinating!" she says.



Talia currently combines her passion for writing and her fascination with the brain in her work at Real Chemistry, a healthcare innovation company specializing in biotech and pharma companies. She specifically works in the corporate, crisis, and strategy sector, primarily working with companies developing treatments for neurological diseases and within the oncology space. Talia says she enjoys the variety of clients she works with and is constantly intrigued by how different companies approach crises, especially with the current media focus on pharmaceutical companies due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

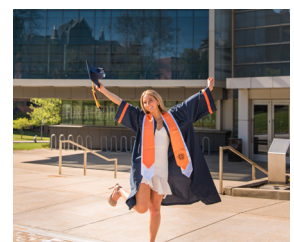


Outside of work, Talia loves spending time with friends exploring New York City -- including searching for the best lunch and dinner spots. She is focused on her fitness and loves to run and lift weights. She also finds ways to connect with her Judaism by celebrating Jewish holidays with her family and friends.

When reflecting on her Schechter experience, Talia feels that growing up learning Hebrew as a second language made her sharper academically and more inclined to push herself toward more difficult academic challenges. She believes Schechter prepared her both academically and socially for high school, where she was a member of the Deerfield Honors Society, Hebrew Honors Society, Principal's Advisory Board, Student Executive Board, Varsity Badminton, Troubadour Literary Magazine, and Key Club.



Talia has stayed in close contact with three of her Schechter friends -- Lily Stone, Samantha Crane, and Alex Masover. "We speak almost every week, text each other on every Jewish holiday, know each other's high school and college friends, and I even live with one of their best college friends in NYC," she says. While home from college last year, she reconnected with other Schechter alumni and "found it exciting to hear all the amazing things everyone had accomplished." She enjoyed reminiscing with her classmates about their days at Schechter.



Talia's brother Eli is a junior at Indiana University in the Kelley School of Business, where he is concentrating on global supply chain. Her brother Daniel is a junior at Deerfield High School and is on varsity lacrosse and soccer.



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