

Congratulations to
PJA Class of 2021

#PJAProud



Sunaina Arora graduated from St. Mary's Academy, and she's heading to the University of Puget Sound! She was deeply committed to youth advocacy, volunteering with the Multnomah Youth Commission on initiatives to improve police-community trust and creating a website for WorldOregon that provides volunteer opportunities for youth. Her diverse passions included practicing Bharatanatyam, an Indian Classical Dance form, and playing violin with Metropolitan Youth Symphony. She was a proud two-time recipient of competitive US Department of State scholarships, which led to a virtual Arabic program and a transformative six-week immersive experience in Morocco. She credits her time at PJA with fostering her love for languages and culture which instilled in her a lasting appreciation of diverse traditions.



Nico Chapin graduated from Northwest Academy and is thrilled for what's next! Nico is heading to University College Utrecht in the Netherlands where he plans on studying psychology, political science, and philosophy, eager to be exposed to new ideas and perspectives. In high school he pursued martial arts, drumming and theatre, and developed a passion for learning about other cultures and languages. Nico credits his PJA teachers for sparking a love of learning.



Saul Drucker graduated from Ida B. Wells High School. He plans to work this summer to fund an exciting gap year trip to New Zealand. In Fall 2026, he'll attend Colorado School of Mines as a Presidential Scholar, majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Throughout high school, he was involved with Post 58, an organization designed to connect Portland-area teenagers with the outdoors, and build resilience, group skills and leadership through challenging outdoor adventures. Saul served in several different leadership roles including VP and President. He spends time snowboarding (even competing at States!), drawing, playing piano and guitar, rock climbing, and skateboarding. He truly values the lifelong friendships and Jewish community he formed at PJA.



Gloria Jin graduated from St. Mary's Academy and will be attending Columbia University in the fall.



Dana Josephson graduated from Grant High School and is excited to head to the University of Oregon to major in Public Relations. Her high school years were rich with involvement, from her school's theatre program, including co-directing a one-act play, to active participation in Jewish Student Union and BBYO. She also proudly completes her 13th year as a Girl Scout and graduates from Congregation Beth Israel Religious School, where she also worked as a madricha. She credits her years at PJA for giving her the confidence to express her Jewish identity, take pride in it, and speak out against misinformation.



Gautam Josse graduated from PCC Early College. He's embarking on an exciting journey to Skidmore College (London First Year program) and is ready for new academic adventures. During high school, he gained diverse experiences, from participating in KLS-YES to Indonesia for his junior year of high school and a writing residency at the University of Iowa summer of 2022 and 2024, in addition to working as a lifeguard and joining the varsity swim team. He lives by the philosophy to "think for yourself, work for the world," and we can't wait to see the impact he makes.



Hannah Kornblit graduated from Ida B. Wells High School and is excited to attend Oregon State University, where she plans to major in Psychology and minor in Criminal Justice. Beyond her academic pursuits, she worked at a restaurant and dedicated her time to choir and voice lessons throughout high school. Thanks to PJA, Hannah values the importance of staying informed about what's happening in the Jewish community, both locally and worldwide.



Amitai Kosak graduated from Ida B. Wells High School and is heading to Loyola University Chicago.



Hannah Milkey graduated from Riverdale High School and is excited to head to Colorado College where she plans to study pre-med with aspirations of becoming a Psychiatrist. Throughout high school, she was incredibly active, participating in soccer, tennis, and cross country, alongside Science Bowl, GSA, Maverick Club, and National Honors Society. Her commitment extends to volunteering with Forest Park and nannying. She credits her time at PJA with teaching her to ask deeper questions, pushing her to understand not just the 'what,' but also the 'why' and 'how.'



Maryn Moreau graduated from Pacific Crest Community School and is heading to Lewis & Clark College to pursue a pre-med track. She plans to major in Psychology, double minor in Health Studies and Neuroscience, with a goal to work in a children's hospital focusing on neurodevelopmental disabilities. Maryn's incredible dedication to volunteerism continued throughout her high school years, eventually contributing over 468 hours in impactful volunteer work and internships in organizations such as OHSU, CHAP (Children's Healing Art Project), and the Autism Society of Oregon. Maryn credits her time at PJA with teaching her to push through challenges without giving up.



WeiLan Nathan graduated from Lincoln High School and will attend Tulane University, where she will study Business. Her high school years were busy, balancing Jewish Student Union, ASB Diversity Equity and Inclusion, and multiple sports like tennis, volleyball, and basketball, alongside working at Providence Park. PJA encouraged her to have an open mind.



Leo Oller graduated with Honors from Benson Polytechnic High School. He is looking forward to his future in the automotive industry.



Gabi Phillips graduated from St. Mary's Academy, and she's ready for an exciting future at Washington University in St. Louis. There, she'll dive into Biomedical Engineering while also competing on their track and field team. In high school, Gabi was a four-year varsity track and field athlete, a three-year SMA Ambassador, and led the "Lead Like a Girl" program for two years. Her dedication extends to volunteering at Robison Home and working as a Summer Discovery counselor. She credits her education at PJA with teaching her to be a dedicated and hardworking student, sparking her passion for learning.



Parker Reitshtein graduated from Oregon City High School. She's excited to head to Loyola Chicago University for her next academic chapter. Throughout high school, she was a dedicated member of the cheer team. PJA helped her hone essential study skills, setting her up for success in high school and beyond.



Nate Reynolds graduated from Ida B. Wells High School, and is ready for his next chapter at the University of Oregon. He'll be diving into Computer Science, bringing his sharp skills to a new challenge. During his time at PJA, he cultivated a strong Jewish identity, shaping who he is today. We're so excited to see all he accomplishes!



Bella Robinson graduated from Ida B. Wells High School and is set for Chapman University in Orange, California. She'll be diving into Health Sciences in the Pre-medical program. Throughout high school, she was a dedicated athlete, running varsity cross country and track for all four years, while also interning at Parkinson's Resources, and serving as president of Ida B. Wells' Jewish Student Union. She credits PJA for teaching her to always advocate for herself and seek out opportunities.



Marko Ruzicka graduated from St. Mary's Academy. They're embarking on their next big adventure at West Virginia University. We're so excited to see all the incredible experiences and learning opportunities that await them as they begin this new chapter.



Chris Ruzicka graduated from Riverdale High School and is excited to major in Biology at the University of Oregon. During his high school years, he was an active member of the Chess Club and played basketball. He also achieved a significant milestone, earning his third gold cup for his tenth year at the Piano Festival. He credits PJA with fostering his creativity and teaching him the importance of pursuing his passions.



Sivan Safran graduated from Ida B. Wells High School and is ready for an extraordinary journey. Next year she will go on a Norwegian gap year program called Shvilim, splitting her time between an Israeli Mechina, studying at the University of Oslo, and traveling around the US and Europe to learn about the Jewish experience across the diaspora. In fall of 2026, Sivan will attend the dual-degree program between The Jewish Theological Seminary and Barnard College. In high school, she served as co-president of the JSU, threw discus for the track team, spent a year studying on an educational farm in Israel, participated in OJCYF, interned for a non-profit seeking medical justice for inmates, and was selected to be a Rose Court Princess. She truly embodies the mindset to “think for yourself and work for the world.”



Beren Sloan graduated as a Valedictorian from Benson Polytechnic High School. He's heading to OSU Cascades - Honors College in Bend to major in Mechanical Engineering. Beyond excelling academically, he honed his skills through three years in the ACE mentorship program, securing internships with Mortenson Construction, JE Dunn, and JH Kelly this summer, and was active as a snowboarder and tennis player. Beren credits his middle school years at PJA for helping him learn how to manage his time which has helped in so many ways!



Jonathan Williams graduated from Ida B. Wells High School. He's heading to the University of Oregon for his next exciting chapter. Throughout high school, he was involved in JSU, BBYO, Post 58, and the tennis team, demonstrating strong community engagement.



Noah Zeitzer is graduating as Valedictorian from Ida B. Wells High School. He will attend Hofstra University, where he'll major in Health Sciences and compete in D1 Track and XC. His high school years were packed with involvement in JSU, BBYO, and NCSY, alongside working at Rose Schnitzer Manor and completing the Tichon program at Neveh Shalom. Noah spent a semester at Alexander Muss High School in Israel and completed the Health Professions Pathway at Ida B. Wells. He proudly shares that the Jewish values he learned at PJA helped him become an advocate for the Jewish people and fostered his ability to ask insightful questions, deepening his understanding of complex topics.