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FAINA

Yitzchak Rabin High School
Kiryat Yam, Israel

I was born in Belarus, and when I was 11 years old my family and I made Aliyah to Israel. We came to Israel in search of better opportunities for all of us. When I came to Israel, I didn't know a word of Hebrew and I didn't know any English.

I started studying in the accelerated track at Yitzchak Rabin Junior High School when I began 6th grade. The biggest challenge for me when I first came was studying at a higher level of academics than my previous school in Belarus. Physics, biology and English were all taught at higher levels, and it was not something that I was expecting.

The language barrier was difficult, but I tried my hardest to do well in all of my subjects. In order to adjust to my new school and to the higher level of learning, I met with teachers before and after school in a one-on-one setting to try to get help and additional support with each of the lessons. After about two months, I became used to the lessons and the high level of learning and I tried to meet the challenge.

My proudest moment here has been when I had the opportunity to fly to Argentina as part

of the World ORT Kadima Mada delegation to the Scholas World Youth Encounter. It was very empowering to have an opportunity to represent Israel and my school as part of the ORT network. I had a chance to meet different teens from all over the world, from all different cultures and religions. We got to share our experiences together and it was meaningful to me.

My school gave me the opportunity to think critically and think independently. Throughout my education, my teachers have encouraged me to stand up for who I am and what I believe in, and here my opinions are valued and respected.

While studying at Yitzchak Rabin High School, I have already simultaneously started pursuing my college degree. I study political science, diplomacy and international relations at the university level and I when I graduate I want to work in this field.