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### This I Believe

I believe in looking up. Ever since I was young, I stopped to look up and admire things other people wouldn't realize were there. As I entered high school, I started to explore the field of architecture, learning concepts and design aspects that gave me a new perspective on how I looked at buildings. Looking up at them as I passed and taking pictures, I gained an appreciation for their engineering feats, materials used, and modern designs, marveling at my favorite buildings. I was excited to learn more about architecture and joined an internship program called ACE, which brought me to Manhattan to meet with real firms in the industry once a week. I also joined a Tsei U'Imad taught by a real architect where I designed an intricate college campus on Randalls Island with a fellow peer, to be used as a training facility for space-bound astronaut hopefuls. Also in school, I also joined the AV club, gaining yet an additional perspective on how I enjoyed performances and lived my life as a whole. After I learned what went into a production such as our Hebrew play, including the microphones, lighting and sound effects throughout the play, I learned to again, look up at the technicians in the AV booth in the back of the room, every time I went to a Broadway play with a program I was apart of, Masterpiece theater. Masterpiece was led by Mrs. Mauskop, and I felt was a perfect fit for me because I noticed the production technicalities of each production and had an ear for almost imperceptible microphone

feedback. Masterpiece was also a great fit because of the architecture we encountered. At Lincoln Center, I marveled at the immaculate red-carpet steps leading up to a beautiful theater room at The Metropolitan Opera. Excited to learn yet another perspective - and another way to look up - I found myself googling "How are apps made?" I learned about the different languages used to make an app such as Swift and Java and read about the logic behind simple apps. I was inspired and decided to learn a bit on my own. I built websites for myself and bought the domain maxshalom.com and made my dad's company a website. Again, my new skill had me better appreciate the effects, designs, and mathematical logic I see in apps that I cannot fathom how to replicate. Therefore and for other reasons too, I believe in looking up or you just might miss what's around you - it doesn't matter what it is!