

NOVA NEWS

www.schoolnova.org

December 2021

THE CLEANEST YEAR EVER!

Our Board of Directors, faculty and academic staff have thoughtfully and proactively planned for 21-22 in ways that put safety along with our educational goals into focus. We are putting the insights we gained from our combined experience into practice with a new twist of putting our housekeeping talents into action.

A Letter from the Director

We have all experienced the uncertainty of the last year and a half as COVID-19 has profoundly impacted our communities. My heartfelt thoughts are with all who have suffered and are continuing to experience the physical and emotional toll of this pandemic.

I am extremely happy about the reopening of SchoolNova in-person classes for 2021-2022 academic year. We have come out from the challenging year with new strengths and experience, allowing us to offer more options for our students. This is the first year we expanded our classes to both in-person and remote formats.

We have reopened SchoolNova with the safety of our community and the educational goals of our students as our highest priority. I'm extremely appreciative of the efforts of SchoolNova's families, faculty, and staff to follow health and safety measures and supporting each other through these challenging times.

Dear teachers and staff, thank you very much for your hard work, creativity, and finding ways to effectively share your love for math, science, languages, and art with our students. My special thank you to our TAs, who took on a huge load of chores to help keep our school a safe and comfortable place!

Marina Polonskaia,
SchoolNova Director



2021-2022:

409 students enrolled in
90 classes and clubs:

38 Math classes (12 online)
4 Math Clubs
20 Science Classes (6 online)
2 Physics Clubs
17 Language Classes
9 Arts and Early Enrichment

NEW THIS YEAR:

For the first time SchoolNova is offering two options for taking classes:

72 in-person and
18 online courses.

TAUGHT BY:

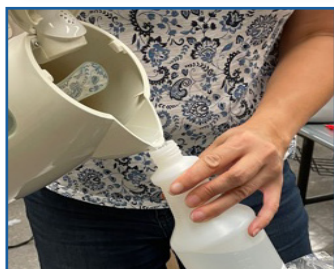
39 Instructors and
20 Teachers' Assistants

We welcomed
4 new teachers and
9 new TAs
(more on pages 2-3)

WE STARTED 21-22 WITH SOME LAB WORK:



With an excitement of returning to face-to-face, we had to thoroughly think through how to make it safely and efficiently. Thank you to Anna Fedurina, SN administrative assistant, and Marina Polonskaia, who started the preparations way ahead. New policies and procedures were put into place to ensure that all of SchoolNova staff and students are as safe as possible. A team of TAs were the essential workers helping with a successful start of SchoolNova's return.



Thank you All!





National Math Competition AMC 10/112 was held on November 16, 2021.

Students from SchoolNova and a general community took part. Congratulations to all participants and on behalf of all, we thank Alexander Kirillov for providing this wonderful opportunity for the 16th year!

MAA AMC
American Mathematics Competitions

MOEMS®, one of the most influential and fun-filled math competition programs for grades 4-8 in the United States and throughout the world, started on November 15th, 2021.

Thank you to Vibha Mane for organizing our teams!



SCHOOLNOVA WELCOMES NEW AND RETURNING STAFF



Alina Aminova - Art

This is great news for SchoolNova and our Art department! With Alina joining SchoolNova we were able to expand our art program to the younger age group, now offering classes for 5-7 years old students. Alina graduated from Moscow State University of Civil Engineering with a Master's degree in Architecture in 2012. She worked as an Architect for 8 years and participated in many successful residential, recreation, and urban development projects. More recently she discovered her passion for working with young children and the joy of sharing her creativity and artistic imagination with them.



Darya Stepanenko - Math - Level 5

Darya is working on her dissertation in the Applied Mathematics and Statistics Department at Stony Brook University. Her research is centered on Quantitative biology, and she is studying the infection mechanism of SARS-CoV-2. She graduated from the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology with a Bachelor's degree in Physics and Mathematics, did research in Japan for several years, then came to Stony Brook for her Ph.D. Darya mentored school students with scientific projects in Japan and Stony Brook through the Women in Science and Engineering Program.



Maria Lekomtseva - Math - Level 0

For the past two years, Maria has been a teacher's assistant at SchoolNova for the younger math classes. This year she joined our faculty teaching Math 0. Maria is a senior at Stony Brook University majoring in Biology and minoring in health and wellness. Throughout her academic journey, she felt passion for mathematics and teaching. At Stony Brook University she's been an undergraduate teaching assistant for an applied mathematics and statistics course which gave her new perspectives on teaching.



Amanda Martocello - Advanced English

After two years with SchoolNova as a Substitute teacher we are delighted to welcome Amanda to our team as an Advanced English and Literature Teacher. Amanda graduated with her BA in English from Stony Brook University in 2014 and went on to complete her MSLIS from Queens College in 2021. Over the past decade, she has worked with students from Pre-School through upper level college courses level in English Composition, Literature Studies, and test preparation.

SCHOOLNOVA BOD:

This year, SchoolNova Board of Directors held an unprecedented number of meetings, carefully monitoring the current situation, reviewing and updating safety procedures and pursuing fundraising opportunities.

Corina Mata
President



Andreea Dragut
Vice-President



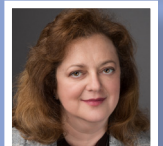
Saranto Calamas
Treasurer



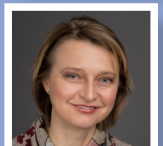
Alexandre Abanov
Rec. Secretary



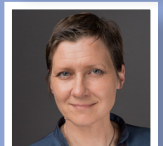
Marina Polonskaia
Exec. Director



Oksana Ivashkevych
Director



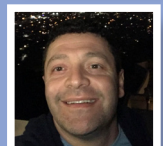
Anya Cartwright
Director



Leyi Tracey Gao
Director



Alex Feinstein
Director



SCHOOLNOVA JUNIOR TEACHING ASSISTANTS

A SPECIAL WORD ABOUT OUR AWESOME TEAM OF TAs!

Meet SchoolNova TAs: https://schoolnova.org/nova/current_TA



*Our Thanks
to TAs!*

OUR OWN STRIKEFORCE TEAM

Combating the challenges posed by COVID-19 would seem an impossible task if it wasn't for our amazing team of TAs under the leadership of Oksana Ivashkevych, director of the JTA Program. From preparing the school for in-person reopening to helping maintain a safe environment every Sunday - they eagerly took on many tasks in addition to helping the teachers in the classrooms.

- In 2021-2022: we have 20 active TAs
- 5 of the 20 are undergraduate students
- 5 TAs continue their own education at SchoolNova
- TAs assist in 51 classes and clubs



WELCOME TO OUR NEW TAs:

ANAGH G. - "After seeing how SchoolNova is run, I wanted to become a part of it. All the teachers and TA's are kind and helpful which made me realize that I wanted to help students by becoming one."

ANNA F. - "I've been taking classes at SchoolNova for as long as I remember and I have really benefited from it. I want to continue to be part of this community and watch it grow. In addition to helping students excel, I also hope to help the teachers and staff. SchoolNova has helped me in many ways, and I wish to do the same for others."

ANNA P. - "SchoolNova holds a special place in my heart as a center of learning and growth. I want to contribute in helping this wonderful organization as it has a sincerely noble cause that has already touched the hearts and minds of many, and should continue to do so. I would genuinely be honored to be a part of the SchoolNova team because of the major impact the school has already had in bettering my life and academic career."

AMY C. - "Because of SchoolNova, I discovered my passion for mathematics, my love of physics, and the joy of robotics. As a part of this organization, I hope to give back to my school, and help foster the same love, passion, and joy I feel when I study mathematics beyond the school curriculum . . . I aspire to become a professor, because of the happiness I feel from watching a student's face light up with interest and understanding. I owe it myself, my school, and our community to join the SchoolNova workforce. Schoolnova is where I made lifelong friends, learned life-changing concepts, and gained trusted mentors."

ENEY T. - "I am looking for an opportunity to use my knowledge to enlighten other individuals and to get experience for future professions that I may occupy."

LIJIA L. - "When I moved to the U.S. from England, SchoolNova was the first math class I took outside of school. It has really helped me stay on task and has fostered my interest in math as well as many other subjects . . . By becoming a TA, I would like to give students some guidance or hints so that math can become less confusing and more fun."

MICHAEL Z. - "I would like to have more experience in deriving formulas and theorems as well as having the opportunity to talk with professors and professionals at SchoolNova. I would also like to have more work experience related to Math and Science."

TATJANA T. - "SchoolNova and my parents' dedication to help me is the reason why I am where I am today, excelling at all my classes. It's another reason why I want to be a TA, as a way to thank and give back to SchoolNova . . . I want to apply to SchoolNova not only to continue doing something I love in a new way, but also to see what teaching is really like in a classroom setting and see whether or not teaching is a career I want to pursue."



MATH KANGAROO

Competition Date: **Thursday, March 17, 2022**

Math Kangaroo Competition is an annual international event. All students grades 1-12 qualify for participation in Math Kangaroo if they are able to work independently, read, and answer a multiple-choice test.

Due to the current situation, SchoolNova will not host an in-person competition in 2022. We encourage all of our interested students to register with [New York Virtual Center](#)

Registration ends on January 01, 2022



AMC 8

Competition Date: **Tuesday, January 18, 2022**

This year, as before, SchoolNova and the Department of Mathematics of SBU will be administering the AMC 8 test online, with the students taking tests at home while supervised by parents or other responsible adults.

You don't have to be a SchoolNova student to participate.

The AMC 8 is a 25-question, 40-minute, multiple choice examination in middle school mathematics designed to promote the development of problem-solving skills. The AMC 8 provides an opportunity for middle school students to develop positive attitudes towards analytical thinking and mathematics.

Please email Mr. Kirillov at kirillov@schoolnova.org to register.

SCHOOLNOVA ADVANCED PHYSICS CLUB

SchoolNova Advanced Physics Club is an opportunity to expand students' curiosity in physics beyond our academic program (Note: physics curriculum is not covered in clubs). It provides challenges and new skills in problem solving on all levels.

Clubs are taught by the instructors with advanced degrees in Math or Physics. All instructors for the Advanced Physics club are former members of the International Physics Olympiad teams from their countries.

The Advanced Physics Clubs are open to all interested students in the community free of charge.

Please email to APC@schoolnova.org to join.

SUPPORT US

In our mission to serve the educational enrichment of our community, SchoolNova provides free programs that are aimed to broaden the academic, work and social opportunities for our youth.

We need your support to help us continue offering these programs and services free of charge.

Please consider making a donation! Thank you!

SchoolNova at Stony Brook is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
Donations are tax-deductible
<https://schoolnova.org/nova/support-us>

JOB OPENINGS:

Please contact Marina Polonskaia at director@schoolnova.org if interested in applying. Applications for teaching positions are accepted through **February 1st, 2022**

TEACHING POSITIONS:

Current openings for September'22 teaching positions at SchoolNova at Stony Brook:

Enrichment PreK-K

Prior experience in working with children is required.

Early Math, grades K-3, ages 4-7

M.Sc. (math or science major) equivalent or higher is required. Prior experience in working with children is required.

Early Math, grades 4-11, ages 9-17

M.Sc. (math or science major) equivalent or higher is required. Prior experience in working with children is highly desirable.

Chemistry, grades 7-11

M.Sc. equivalent or higher is required. Prior experience in working with children is highly desirable.

Computer Science, grades 7-11

M.Sc. equivalent or higher is required. Prior experience in working with children is highly desirable.

French Language, grades 1-11

A native speaker is preferred. Prior teaching experience is required.

Candidates should demonstrate high level of interest in working with children. We will look for willingness to learn, creativity and enthusiasm. Prior experience working with children is required.

OTHER POSITIONS:

Back-end Web Developer/

Database Administrator's assistant,

whose responsibilities would be working with SchoolNova database and will include:

- Specialized Data Handling
- Database Backup and Recovery
- Security
- Authentication
- Performance Monitoring
- Database Tuning/Troubleshooting
- Knowledge of PHP and MySQL are required, and familiarity with Drupal is a plus.

VOLUNTEERING:

We are also looking for several parents interested in helping us out throughout the year:

Assisting during school hours - various tasks every Sunday. We are looking for 3-4 people

An event organizer - someone who will help with organizing the first day of school, the holiday party, and the last day of school. We need 3-4 people and a tuition discount is provided.

Parents committee - we would like to put together a group of parents who will help SchoolNova with various extracurricular activities.