NOVANEWS

NEW LOCATION, BUT THE SAME CHARACTER!

A Letter from the Director

Let me once again welcome all our returning and new families to the 2022 - 23 school year.

If you have ever asked me what the next school year will bring, chances are you will hear about the challenges we face every year. New teachers. New students. New requirements.

But this year, we had to experience a very unusual challenge - a few weeks before the start of the school year, we were asked to move from our location of 18 years (!) to a new one. I want to thank our TAs (teaching assistants), parents, and teachers for the supportive and collaborative spirit prevalent during the move and the first weeks in the new place. I want to express my utmost gratitude to our administrative team – Anna Fedurina and Anya Cartwright for their hard work and dedication.

At SchoolNova, we are excited about this school year, even with the challenges it brings.

We keep the online part of the program - math, physics, chemistry, and science classes, as well as math and physics clubs. In addition, we offer many extracurricular activities, and you can read about some of them in this Newsletter.

Another challenge we face this year is that out of 30 weeks of classes, I will not be physically present at the school for 26 Sundays. My husband has his sabbatical leave from the Physics Department for nine months, and I decided to go with him abroad. It was not an easy decision for me to make. The last time I was away for five months was in 2007 when our school was much smaller. This time we are lucky to have a fantastic administrative team, a Board of Directors, and well-developed means of communication. The latter will allow me to do all my duties which can be done remotely. Also, since 25% of our program is online, I can keep managing it.

I also plan to use this time to build networks, represent the school, and engage in individual and organizational learning and personal time. One of my most important goals will be to improve the math curriculum for math levels 2 and 3, which I started in 2016 but never had enough time to finish.

I am as ever proud to be a part of the SchoolNova family, and I wish all of us an amazing and exciting year.

Marina Polonskaia, *SchoolNova Director and Principal*

GETTING COMFORTABLE IN A NEW PLACE:

SchoolNova families, students and staff quickly embraced the new location, which offers additional advantages such as a parking garage, comfortable waiting areas, cozy classrooms and a convenient location.

The beautiful warm weather prolonged our enjoyment of the outdoor grounds, the new location has to offer.

2022-2023:

**426 students enrolled in
84 classes and 9 clubs:**

**39 Math classes (9 online)
7 Math Clubs
21 Science Classes (8 online)
2 Physics Clubs
18 Language Classes (2 online)
7 Arts and Early Enrichment**

National Math Competition AMC 10/12 was held on November16, 2022.

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 great opportunity for the 17th year!

Read Page 4 about other competitions.

Advanced Physics Club
Sundays, at 3:30 pm on Zoom

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**

SchoolNova Newsletter

SCHOOLNOVA WELCOMES NEW AND RETURNING STAFF

Svetlana Adragna - *Math -Level 2*

Svetlana graduated with a Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature from Kazan State University with a specialization in Russian Language and Literature.

She first came to SchoolNova as a parent and enjoyed attending her son's lessons along with him. She found that she loved the teaching approach and material presentation. On many occasions Svetlana substituted as a teacher of math and Russian language for preschool-age kids at SchoolNova. She also ran a Russian Language after-school program for American high school students.

Theodore Drivas - *Math - Level 5*

Theodore graduated from the University of Chicago in 2011 with a degree in Mathematics and Physics. He received his Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from Johns Hopkins University in 2017. Currently, he is an assistant professor in the Mathematics department of SBU. His research interests include fluid dynamics, turbulence theory, and dynamical systems.

Theodore is a strong believer in an inquiry-based learning. His teaching approach is to let his students discover pieces of mathematics for themselves.

Olga Lobanova - *Math - Level 0*

Olga earned her Ph.D. in Sociology from Lomonosov Moscow State University and worked at the same University for about five years after her defense. After coming to the US in 2012, she got a full-time job in a large construction firm that builds universities, hospitals, and even museums.

Olga is a Three Village School District resident, she loves spending quality time with her husband and two kids, playing math and logic games and doing sports like swimming, biking, kayaking, hiking, and ice skating.

Elisavet Loukaidou - *Chemistry*

Elisavet is a High School Science teacher. She went to UMBC and majored in Biology, and afterwards pursued a master's degree in Science Education from Brooklyn College.

For the past five years, she's been teaching high school students in Brooklyn and loved it. She taught an array of subjects, but her favorites are Biology, Chemistry, and Biomedical Sciences. Elisavet's classes are up-beat, student-centered, and are filled with hands-on activilties.

Andrew Mata - *Computer Science*

Andrew graduated from Cornell with a bachelors in Computer Science and Mathematics in 2020 and have continued his academic pursuits here at Stony Brook, where now he is entering the third year of his Computer Science PhD. In his research, Andrew works on formal verification of AI-controlled systems using different mathematical methods.

While this is his first year teaching at SchoolNova, he has spent many years helping to teach different computer science classes at Sigma Camp.

Taya Podvorchan - *Math - Level 0*

Taya is an undergraduate student at Stony Brook University, majoring in psychology and minoring in Russian studies.

She has enjoyed teaching, whether it is coaching nationally ranked gymnasts back home or helping out in introducing mathematical concepts to young children here at SchoolNova. She admits that her favorite part about teaching is the moment when a child truly grasps something new - the thrill and joy is unmatched! This will be Taya's second year at SchoolNova, and her first year teaching.

Sergey Syritsyn- *Math - Level 7*

Originally from Saratov, Russia, Sergey studied at the PhTL#1 where excellent and dedicated teachers inspired lifelong admiration with Math and Physics. He got his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in General and Applied physics at Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, after which he came to the US for PhD studies.

After graduation, I worked as a postdoctoral fellow at Berkeley Lab, Brookhaven Lab, and Jefferson Lab, and then joined Stony Brook faculty in 2016 as a physics professor, teaching theoretical physics and studying nuclear physics using supercomputers. Sergey's primary interest is how the subatomic particles, quarks and gluons, organize themselves into protons and neutrons that constitute nearly all matter around us.

Elena Zakharova - *Chemistry*

Elena graduated from Saratov State University, Russia, with a Master's degree in Biology and a teacher of Biology and Chemistry certificate in 1995, followed by a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Microbiology in 1999 from the same University. In 2001, I moved to the US to work as a postdoctoral associate at Yale University and later at the University of Utah.

BOD:

Alex Feinstein
President

Andreea Dragut
Vice-President

Saranto Calamas
Treasurer

Oksana Ivashkevych
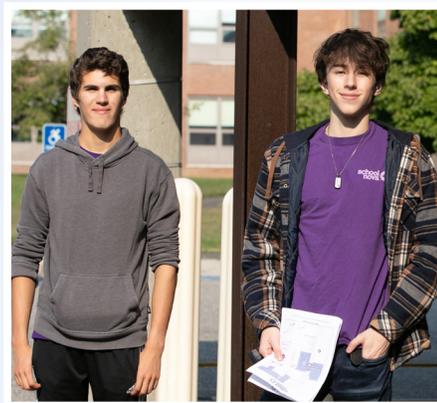Rec. Secretary

Marina Polonskaia
Exec. Director

Anya Cartwright
Director

Leyi Tracey Gao
Director

SCHOOLNOVA JUNIOR TEACHING ASSISTANTS

A SPECIAL WORD ABOUT OUR AWESOME TEAM OF TAs!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW TAs:

- Annushka B.
- Lea N.
- Mark M.
- Sofia A.
- Saharsh P.

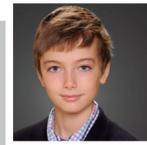## OUR OWN STRIKEFORCE TEAM

Our Thanks to TAs!

Starting in a new location on a short notice 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 moving before the first day to helping navigate on the first day, to assisting every Sunday - they eagerly took on many tasks in addition to helping the teachers in the classrooms.

- In 2022-2023 we have 18 active TAs
- 5 TAs continue their own education at SchoolNova
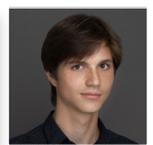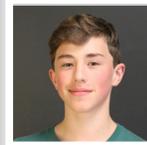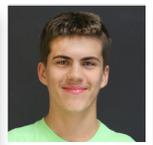- TAs assist in 51 classes and clubs

RETURNING TAs:

- Aaron G
- Amy C.
- Anna F.
- Anna P.
- Christian A.
- Elena G.
- Eney T.
- Gregory L.
- Lijia L.
- Marc David N.
- Michael Z.
- Nicholas S.
- Nikolas C.

MATH KANGAROO

Competition Date: **Thursday, March 16, 2023**

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.

SchoolNova at Stony Brook is a hosting center in 2023. **Click here to register.** The code for the center is NYSTONY0001211@2023MK

With all questions, please, contact Darya Stepanenko at stepanenko@schoolnova.org

Registration ends on January 01, 2023

AMC 8

Competition Date: **TBA: January 17-23, 2023**

Regular Registration Deadline: Oct 17 - Dec 18, 2022
Late Registration Deadline: Dec 19, 2022 - Jan 11, 2023

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.

FRENCH LANGUAGE

Registration will start in the end of December 2022
Contest Dates TBA:
Grades 1-6 (FLES): **February 13-March 6, 2023**
Grades 7-12 (levels 01-5): **February 15-April 5, 2023**

Le Grand Concours - a French Language annual competition sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French

AATF National Francophone Trivia - annual competition organized by the Association of Teachers of French

FLES - French Language Elementary School an annual competition sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French

SUPPORT US

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www.schoolnova.org (donate button)

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.