

# NOVA NEWS

www.schoolnova.org

MAY 2025

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear SchoolNova families and friends,

As we close out another year of Sunday learning, I want to personally thank you for being a part of the SchoolNova community. Your dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment — rain or shine — have truly shaped this year, and I'm deeply grateful to each of you.

On behalf of everyone at SchoolNova, congratulations to our graduating students! We're proud of all you've accomplished and can't wait to see what the future holds for you.

Wishing you a restful and joyful summer. We look forward to welcoming you back in the fall for another exciting year together.

Warmly,  
Marina Polonskaia, Director and Principal



# GOOD LUCK TO OUR TEACHING ASSISTANTS!

This year we are bidding farewell to eight members of our **Junior Teaching Assistant (JTA) Team** who are graduating high school and heading off to college. MIT, the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, Case Western Reserve University, Stony Brook University, UCLA are just a few schools where they will begin the next chapter of their life journey.

We are deeply grateful for the time and effort they dedicated to SchoolNova and extremely proud of their accomplishments.

We wish them all an exciting and fulfilling start to this new adventure!



In 2024-2025, **SchoolNova Junior Teaching Assistant Program** included 18 amazing TAs working alongside 21 instructors in 45 classes across all levels of Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and Art.

From helping our youngest students master the number line or create a space-themed masterpiece, to tirelessly checking dozens of homework assignments and patiently explaining the most challenging problems to students in our upper-level Math and Physics classes, our TAs have gone above and beyond. Throughout it all, they demonstrated enthusiasm, unwavering commitment, and a contagious love for exploring new things!

Olga Kosobokova  
JTA Program Coordinator

We are inviting this year's SchoolNova graduates to explore the opportunities offered by the JTA Program.

Learn more and fill out the registration form on our website:

[schoolnova.org/TA\\_program](https://schoolnova.org/TA_program)



**We are saying goodbye to two of our amazing teachers, Gleb Aminov and Alina Aminova, as they leave Stony Brook to begin a new life adventure.**

Alina, our art teacher, has inspired children to imagine, create, and construct. Each year, the beautiful exhibitions of her students' work revealed wonders crafted during her lessons.

Gleb has taught math and physics, sharing his passion and guiding students through the exciting world of mathematical and physical concepts.

Gleb and Alina will be deeply missed at SchoolNova. We wish them the very best in this next chapter of their journey!





# OUR COMPETITIONS 2024 — 2025

## F=ma PHYSICS EXAM



ALEXANDER ABANOV  
SchoolNova Physics Teacher

**F=ma** is a high school-level US physics competition coordinated by the American Association of Physics Teachers and the American Institute of Physics. SchoolNova at Stony Brook has been participating in F=ma competitions since 2019.

Congratulations to this year's participants – we are proud of you! A special shoutout to SchoolNova Teaching Assistant **Harry Gao**, who qualified to participate in the USA Physics Olympiad – well done!



## PHYSICSBOWL

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DAVID FRENKLAKH  
SchoolNova Physics Teacher

**The PhysicsBowl contest** is an international competition for middle and high school students, organized by the American Association of Physics Teachers. Each year approximately 10,000 physics students participate in the contest. SchoolNova has been participating in the PhysicsBowl since 2016. Congratulations to all this year's participants – we are proud of you!



## MAA American Mathematics Competitions (AMC)



ALEXANDER KIRILLOV  
SchoolNova Math Teacher

Founded in 1950, the **AMC** is the preeminent math competition for students K-12. SchoolNova has been participating in the AMC since 2005, and has consistently earned a spot on the U.S. School Merit Roll, ranking in the top 2–5% nationwide. To support our students' success, SchoolNova offers several preparation sessions during weekly Advanced Math Club meetings.



## MathCON

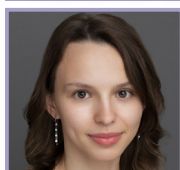


VIBHA MANE  
SchoolNova Math Teacher

**MathCON** is a nationwide Math Competition open to all students in grades 4 through 12. Since 2008, over 400,000 students from 3000 schools in 50 US states and Canada, have participated in this competition. This year 5 students from Math Club 5 and 3 students from Math Club A participated in the First Round Online Competition. Of these, 2 students were invited to participate in the Finals Round – congratulations and good luck!



## MATH KANGAROO



DARYA STEPANENKO  
SchoolNova Math Teacher

Every year on the third Thursday of March, more than six million students worldwide participate in **Math Kangaroo**, an international mathematics competition open to students ages 7 to 18. SchoolNova has been taking part in Math Kangaroo for 20 years, and during that time, over 30 of our students have become state winners.

This year, 28 of our participants were ranked in the top 20 nationwide, including four of who placed in the top three at the state level. Congratulations to all!



## LE GRAND CONCOURS



MARLEINE CHIOFALO  
SchoolNova French Teacher

The National French Contest (NFC) – also known as **Le Grand Concours** – was established by the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) in 1936. SchoolNova has been participating in the contest for more than 10 years.

This year, 12 students competed in both FLES (French Language Elementary School) and middle/high school divisions. Most of them were ranked in the top 10 at both the chapter and national levels. Five students earned Gold Medals, and two received Silver. Congratulations, we are so proud of you!





## WE ARE PROUD OF OUR YOUNGEST STUDENTS MOVING UP!



**WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING BOTH RETURNING AND NEW STUDENTS  
IN THE UPCOMING 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR!**

**Priority registration** for returning students will be open from **July 7 to August 3.**

**Regular registration** will begin on **August 8 at 10 a.m.**

Learn more and register at: [schoolnova.org/registration](https://schoolnova.org/registration)



### TO ALL SCHOOLNOVA PARENTS:

We are seeking enthusiastic and dedicated individuals to participate in our committees and main Board of Directors. Join us in continuing to provide a top-notch educational experience for our students. Your involvement and expertise are invaluable, and with your support, we believe we can achieve even greater success!

To learn more, contact SchoolNova director Marina Polonskaia at [director@schoolnova.org](mailto:director@schoolnova.org)

### SUPPORT US!

By donating to SchoolNova, you help us provide more exciting programs and services that ignite our students' passion for learning with enthusiasm and curiosity.

Find more information on our website: [schoolnova.org/support-general](https://schoolnova.org/support-general)

*SchoolNova at Stony Brook is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.  
Donations are tax-deductible*

