

NOVA NEWS

www.schoolnova.org

SEPTEMBER 2025

WELCOME TO THE SCHOOL YEAR 2025 — 2026



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear SchoolNova families and friends,

As we begin a new school year, I am delighted to welcome back our returning families and extend a special greeting to those joining us for the first time. It is wonderful to see our community of students, parents, teachers, and staff come together once again for a year of learning, discovery, and growth.

This year, more than 500 students — from preschoolers to high schoolers — have enrolled in 95 in-person and online classes and clubs. Our curriculum is both rich and challenging, with 11 levels of Math; 7 levels of Science, including Physics, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth Science, and General Science; a wide range of language courses (English with Creative Writing, French, Spanish, and Russian); and Art. We are also excited to introduce new programs in science, languages, and early enrichment.

We are pleased to welcome two new teachers to the SchoolNova team, along with a talented group of Teaching Assistants who will help our teachers, and share their knowledge and enthusiasm.

Beyond the classroom, we will continue to host competitions, cultural activities, and community events that make SchoolNova such a unique and rewarding experience.

We wish you a joyful and fulfilling year filled with new discoveries, friendships, and lasting connections. Whether in our classrooms on Sundays or online during the week, we're excited to learn, explore, and grow together with you.

Warmly,
Marina Polonskaia, Ph.D.
Principal and Executive Director



WELCOME TO SCHOOLNOVA FAMILY!

This year, we are happy to welcome **seven new Teaching Assistants (TAs)** who will join our outstanding team of junior TAs.



Deia C.



Frances H.



Gunes S.



Jiwoo H.



Olivia B.



Tony X.



Veronica S.

Together, the group of 19 high school and college students provides valuable support in the classroom and helps with grading homework. Along the way, they share their knowledge and passion with younger students, while gaining important communication and organizational skills, and creating unforgettable memories.

Learn more about the Junior Teaching Assistant Program:

schoolnova.org/TA_program



GREETINGS TO OUR NEW TEACHERS



Eugene Serebryany has joined the SchoolNova's family to teach chemistry: this year he is teaching a course for grades 8 - 11.

Eugene obtained his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is now an Assistant Professor of Physiology & Biophysics at Stony Brook University; Core Member of the Laufer Center for Physical & Quantitative Biology; Affiliate Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry.



Zachary DeStefano will be teaching Art for the younger students.

Zachary graduated from Stony Brook University with a BA, and he has been a lifelong artist. While this is his first formal classroom teaching role, he shared his love for art in many settings, from assisting with library art programs to informally teaching family members and friends of all levels. He is excited to share love of art with the SchoolNova students.

See SchoolNova Faculty and Staff List: schoolnova.org/teachers

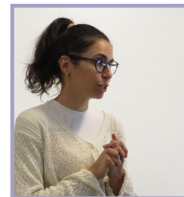


NEW COURSES 2025 — 2026

INTRODUCTORY BIOLOGY

TEACHER: ELISAVET LOUKAIDOU | IN-PERSON, SUNDAY 12:15 — 13:00, HUM3016 | GRADES 6 — 8

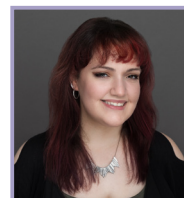
In this engaging weekly biology course, students will dive into the fascinating world of living things. Through hands-on experiments, lively discussions, and real-world investigations, they will explore essential questions such as: What makes something alive? Where do living organisms get their energy? And how do we study life scientifically? Each class is designed to build scientific thinking skills, foster curiosity, and connect biology to everyday life.



CREATIVE WRITING FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

TEACHER: AMANDA MORTACELLO | IN-PERSON, SUNDAY 9:15 — 10:00, SBS_N109 | GRADES 4 — 6

In this fun, hands-on class, students will dive into what makes a great story, learn how to create characters, build immersive settings, and dream up exciting plots and conflicts. They will get to practice writing with fun exercises every week, and learn about all the different types of writing and storytelling. This course is an opportunity to bring imagination to life and create unforgettable adventures together!



EARLY ENRICHMENT

TEACHER: TATIANA MURAT | IN-PERSON, SUNDAY 11:15 — 12:05, SBS_N103 | NU — PRE-K

In this playful and interactive class, the youngest learners dive into the basics of math, logic, critical thinking, and literacy — all through jumping, playing, solving puzzles, and exploring. We nurture curiosity, encourage big questions (even the ones without clear answers!), and help kids discover new tools to understand the world around them. It's all about learning through movement, discussion, and fun!



WORDCRAFT: RUSSIAN LANGUAGE CREATIVE LAB

TEACHER: KSENIA KAYRAN | IN-PERSON, SUNDAY 12:10 — 12:55, SBS_N105 | GRADES 5 — ADULT

This is a club for Russian-speaking students who love language and wordplay. Join us to have fun with words, create engaging content, spark new ideas, and collaborate as a team. You will deepen your Russian skills, discover new ways to express yourself, and connect with fellow language enthusiasts.

For students enrolled in a Russian language class (at any level), the Russian Club is offered at no additional charge. For students not enrolled in a Russian language class, the club will be charged at the standard rate for a 45-minute class.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

TEACHER: CORINA MATA | ONLINE, THURSDAY 18:00 — 18:45, | GRADES 8 — 10

This is a hands-on class where students cover various Python modules, working with libraries such as NumPy, SciPy, Matplotlib, Seaborn, and Pandas. We will begin an introduction to AI/ML utilizing commonly available Python modules. Students will be leveraging their past skills to solve challenging problems (e., ACSL if there is interest in competitive programming). Successful completion of the course is based on class participation and homework assignments. Having a computer to write code in during class is mandatory; CS101 (or equivalent) or permission of the instructor is required.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

September 2025							October 2025							November 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
														30						

December 2025							January 2026							February 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31							

March 2026							April 2026							May 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
														31						

			-	SchoolNova in session		-	School closed - no classes	
			-	Tuition payment due		-	Special events	

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

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

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

