



AN OPEN LETTER TO NYC HIGH SCHOOL PHYSICS DEPARTMENTS

Hello New York City High School Physics Departments. We hope you and your families are staying safe and healthy in this tumultuous time, as well as enjoying the much-needed midwinter recess. We are Andrew Binder (Stuy '21) and Alvin Li (Stuy '22), and we're writing on behalf of the Stuyvesant Physics Team and the newly-founded New York City Physics Team regarding the possibility of your school joining our NYC team.

Since September 2019, we have been recruiting Stuyvesant students and teaching them the physics that we know. In the past year, we have grown from one team of five people to two subteams of over thirty in total, raised over \$8000 to fund our team, recruited a coach, and pushed 4 qualifiers to the USAPhO. Running this team has shown us how much of a physics community there is among high school students and how much of an opportunity we have to nurture that passion and help it thrive before a lot of these students get overwhelmed with the lightning-fast physics curriculum in their junior year. The desire to see this physics community thrive has driven us to start a New York City Physics Team, and we're extremely excited to see where it goes! Since a citywide team doesn't work with only one school, we are reaching out to NYC high schools to get some more members and create a diverse team that offers wonderful cooperation and competition between these schools that all value STEM education as much as they do.

For a little background behind what our plan for the team is:

We plan to meet once or twice a month (maybe more once the team grows), where we would be coached in various theory by Dr. Mikahil Kagan, coach for the Stuyvesant Physics Team and former Coach of the US Physics Team ('15-'16), and we would follow that up with practice problems and the occasional physics contest between member schools. On some days, we would also invite various guest lecturers to discuss interesting topics at the frontiers of modern physics, to make sure that students are also educated on where physics stands today. The Stuyvesant Physics Team's first guest lecturer (Dr. Alexander Abanov), for example, covered the emergence of geometry and topology in physics. Our goal with this team is to foster the physics passion within these students and send them to some invitational contests. All of these plans are tentative and a more finalized schedule/syllabus will be available in the coming months, but this is the general idea.

We were very much hoping that your school would be interested in officially joining this NYC Physics Team initiative, and we would be doubly honored if you would point any interested students our way. We plan to launch this team next year, so any current freshmen, sophomores, and juniors are welcome to join as students! Current seniors could also be invited to help grade problem sets and write physics problems for the team if they are available next year. We are currently in conversation with several organizations to finance this team, so we are not expecting any financial commitments from any of the member schools.

For more information about the Stuyvesant Physics Team, feel free to check out our official website at stuyph.org, and for more information about the NYC Physics Team and our mission, check out our official website at nycph.org.

Thank you very much for your time, and we hope to hear back from you soon!
Sincerely,

Andrew Binder and Alvin Li
Co-Founders and Captains, **Stuyvesant Physics Team**
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