

Feodor Yevtushenko
9th Grade (Freshman)

Hobbies: I enjoy doing math, physics, and chemistry. In my spare time, I also play video games and practice the flute.

Clubs: I am a member of my school's Science Olympiad, Science Bowl, math, physics, and chemistry clubs, as well as participating in my school's band. I have competed on my school's Science Olympiad and math teams.

Contest and Competition Experience:

Math Olympiad Summer Program (MOP) participant 2022, invitee 2022 and 2023

US Physics Team participant 2023, invitee 2022 and 2023

USAJMO Winner 2022, USAMO Bronze 2023

USAPhO Gold 2022 and 2023

USNCO Nationals Participant 2023

MathCounts California State Champion, Nationals Participant 2022

Autobiography:

From a young age, I have always been fascinated with math and the sciences. For example, I "discovered" Fermat's Little Theorem and the sum of n cubes formulae in third grade. However, I almost entirely focused on math until 5th grade, when I was gifted the *Feynman Lectures on Physics* by my family. I tried reading and learning from them, but I realized that I needed computational example problems and exercises to fully understand the material. In 6th grade, I started working through *Fundamentals of Physics: by Halliday, Resnick, and Walker* instead, which turned out to be extremely helpful to me. I kept working on the book through 6th and 7th grade, finishing it in the middle of 8th grade. Luckily, several of my family members are also physicists, so I asked them occasionally for help whenever I got stuck on a physics problem. As a family, we often have science-related discussions over the dinner table. In 7th grade, I took my first $F=ma$ exam. Despite solving around 20 questions, I made a ton of mistakes, and I ended up only getting a 12, 3 points shy of the cutoff. However, in 8th grade, I got a 20 on the $F=ma$ exam and qualified for USAPhO 2022. I wasn't expecting much from my first performance on the USAPhO, but I managed to get around 3.5 to 4 solves in total. I was pretty proud of my performance, but I was expecting a bronze medal, maybe even a silver medal if I got lucky. Meanwhile, I also took the USAJMO that year for the first time, and I managed to get a 28. To my surprise, this led me to receive an invitation to MOP 2022, which I gladly accepted. 2 days later, to my even greater surprise, I also got an invitation to the 2022 US Physics Team. Unfortunately, I had to decline this, as it overlapped with MOP and I accepted that invitation already. This year (2023), I once again qualified and took the USAPhO, as well as the USAMO and USNCO. My 4.5-5 solves on the USAPhO got me another invitation to the US Physics Team, and, to my surprise, my score of 24 on the USAMO barely qualified me for MOP 2023. I decided to go with choosing the US Physics Team this year, as I am allowed to take the USA TSTST (the exam given at MOP) remotely. I hope that participating in the US Physics Team would greatly help me in the future if I chose a career in physics.