Name: Luke Huang
Current Grade Level: Senior
Hobbies: Getting Flagged in Bullet Games, Origami, Running, Reading, Poetry, Baking
Clubs: Sustainable Lower Fairfield County (Founder), Renewable Energy Club (Founder), Math Team (Captain), New Canaan High School Courant (Editor)
Contest/Competition Experience or Honors:
US Physics Team Qualifier (2021-2024), USAPhO Gold Medalist (2022-2024), Regeneron STS Finalist (2024), RSI Scholar (2023), USA(J)MO qualifier (2021-2023), MOP Attendee (2022)

Autobiography:

To Ms. Liu, Mr. Reid, and all the physicists around me

One unfurled notebook, an awakened laptop, and, always, countless curiosities.

I'd like to think that these were the only three things I needed to start exploring physics — before my desk was swamped with filled notebooks and binders, the towering layers of scratch work, and used-up pencils and pens.

Four years ago, it was always so easy to see the start of things, to dive headfirst into something new. When there are more ideas to chase around, problems to play catch with, and recordings of Walter Lewin to marvel at than there are minutes in the day, physics was the natural outlet for my curiosity.

But as I got into the thick of it, the next steps became harder to find. My interests weren't fixed or absolute; it wasn't about "Why Physics?" but "Why not something else?" My curiosity, whimsical and wandering, brought me to unexpected places: brief ventures into *Modern Family* clips, a thorough testing of cheesecake recipes in my relentless quest for the perfect one, Gordon Ramsay losing his sanity over many seasons, or a decade-old ninja star tutorial on YouTube.

Yet, as if by some unspoken gravity, I would eventually drift back into the celestial orbit of physics. These were days when I caught myself in afternoons of deep confusion, wrestling with the latest paradox or inconsistency that seemed so convincing. These were the times when I gaslit myself, scribbling equations that made less sense the more I wrote. These were moments when I circled back to problems I'd put aside months later, with hidden details standing out as I began to see the logic and steps glossed over by solutions or left vague by others.

And the important part was when I was confused, I was never alone. I had fantastic mentors and teachers who brought clarity and helped me see the beauty in math and physics, revealing things I would never have found by myself. In school, my friends and I played around with labs, online, I found communities that shared interesting problems to mull over, and at physics camp last year, I met some of the most incredible physicists and friends.

On a deeper level, it was not only the insight into our world that physics promised me but also often the opposite that charmed me: in our lives where we seek certainty, physics taught me to value uncertainty — an uncertainty in my understanding, problem-solving, and, of course, my arithmetic abilities that led me to others.

Years from now, I might reflect on why I stuck with this path. The reasons aren't completely obvious to me. What I do know is that it wasn't simply because I was curious and had the resources around me. My beginning was not defined by three things, but by two — countless curiosities and, always, those around me. And for me, that was as real and exciting a starting point as any.