

ZAKHAR

1. Words that come to mind:

Motivated, insightful, exceptionally persistent, highly intelligent, a team player, ambitious, determined; showing the strength of conviction, independence of thought, confidence, commitment, willingness for self-improvement, intellectual curiosity and leadership; possessing an outstanding aptitude for physics; sympathetic, considerate, responsible.

1. Intellect, hard work; originality of thought; ability to grasp difficult concepts; how to distinguish from other able students:

I know Nastia as a person with a good command of sciences for I have been training her for academic competitions in Physics at various levels, and I daresay she is one of my best students. During individual classes, we cover the most complex and interesting Olympiad problems in Physics, as well as the unusual methods of solving them, which one cannot cope with without an advanced mindset in Maths. Nastia was able to grasp the gist of complex ideas. Being attentive to seemingly small, but actually key details is one of her distinguishing traits of character. She had to study at home on her own since it was physically impossible to cover the amount of information that had to be operated on during individual classes. In the 11th grade, she followed my advice to practice solving problems from several classical miscellanea of higher mathematics for college students, and as a result, she advanced far in mathematics compared to her peers. Great was her interest to accept all my suggestions to deal with some complex yet ingenious physical effects. Her natural insight and accumulated knowledge help Nastia to think of elegant and non-trivial ideas. For as long as I know her, she is constantly busy solving complex problems, although she manages to find time to communicate with friends and dedicate time to the hobbies.

1. The unusual circumstances (personal or academic) you feel we should know:

She is one of the strongest students not only intellectually, but morally as well. This year Anastasiia became one of four people in Ukraine who won medals at the most prestigious physics Olympiad for school students, IPhO. Furthermore, participation and winning of girls in that kind of Olympiads proved to be very rare. Anastasiia was one out of two such girls for all the time I have been working with Olympiad contenders. Besides numerous achievements in Olympiads, Anastasiia many times participated in National Young Physicists' Tournament as a member of the team, which always showed excellent results in finals. She showed leadership and excellent teamwork. My huge experience in working with teams, participating at international tournaments, allows me to conclude that Anastasiia is one of the best players not only on the national level but even in comparison with the players of previous International Tournaments.

Recommendation:

I have been preparing future winners national and international Olympiads for several years and can call Anastasiia as one of the most talented. She is the only one of my students, from

the past two years, who managed to get into the national team and honorably participate in the international physics Olympiads, bringing in one of three bronze medals for Ukraine.

For several years now, I have been training the Kharkiv team with Nastia as a permanent participant at the All-Ukrainian Physics Olympiad. She repeatedly brought in points for both her individual and team victories. Just as well in grade ten, thanks to Anastasia, our team rose to number one spot from number two.

Just as pleasantly, I was surprised to learn of her also participating in the astronomy Olympiad, as this was difficult to manage the time for something as well. Anastasiia won second place on the All-Ukrainian Astronomy Olympiad in the 10th grade, as she just short a few points from reaching the qualifying round for International Olympics. I was amazed at her successes since almost never before had I met students who excel at two different national Olympiads at the same time. Moreover, in the 11th grade, Nastia decided to take part in the All-Ukrainian Astrophysical Olympiad for college students. She showed an excellent result, competing with participants a year older, among whom were winners of national and international competitions of previous years. She was selected for the qualifying stages for the International Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad. After 10 days of astronomical selections, several rounds a day, she had only one day to switch to selections in physics. I am delighted with how Nastia's managed to withstand an incredible load and go through two at the same time.

Aside from the Olympiads, she also partook in the National Young Physicists Tournament, in a competition where the contenders were offered to present their mini-research on particular topics and discuss them afterward. I participated in the role of the leader of another team, having the chance to observe Anastasiia's performance in every game. From the first tournament, she showed me new sides of her—as a person who is able to maximally present their position with confidence towards a large auditorium. Not surprisingly, she received practically maximum points in every tournament and gained the title “Best Reviewer” as well as awarded for the best report. In the role of the presenter, she managed to structurally and logically present all her ideas, as well as successfully debate and answer the most challenging questions. I am confident these skills will become helpful for her in future conferences.

Both in tournaments and Olympiads, Anastasiia showed herself to be a true combatant. Last spring, I met with Nastia at the Intellectual of the Year contest. This is an annual competition in which the most successful representatives of all educational institutions of the city are selected to participate in the final. Nastia was chosen to represent the Kharkiv Physics and Mathematics Lyceum No. 27, which is currently the leader all over Ukraine in the subject area of Physics and Mathematics. Despite the tight schedule of the Olympiads, Nastia managed to find time for this extracurricular event and bring another victory for her lyceum. At the final, after the competitions aimed at leadership skills and self-presentation, all the judges gave her an unconditional victory and the main prize. Her final performance made me convinced of the art of her oratory skills and independence of thought.

Nastia stands out with a very rare combination of a strong character and a kind heart. Being a good-natured person, she is never afraid to express and defend her point of view, even if it

does not coincide with the majority. At the same time, Nastia remains an absolutely non-conflict person, possessing the talent to conduct constructive discussions in a calm and convincing way, and if wrong, she is always ready to admit it.

Despite having technical mindset, Nastia is an extremely creative person. She has been professionally engaged in Art since childhood. Prior to a serious passion in Physics, Nastia was going to connect her future career with art, thinking about joining MIT as an architect. However, craving and love for science were stronger than all her hobbies. In addition to the passion for drawing, she also dedicates her time to web-design, and of course to training schoolchildren for the Olympiads as well.

Nastya is one who will become a world-changer. For 4 years she has defended the honor of her lyceum and managed to become one of the most respected and recognized students not only known in Kharkiv but also all over Ukraine. This summer she has proven her success in the International Olympiad, and that is only the beginning for her. Without a moment's doubt, I recommend Anastasiia, since she is the best fit for the MIT community.