

XLIV STEFAN BANACH HIGH SCHOOL



Stefan Banach, who was born on March 30th 1892, was a student at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow and the Technical School in Lviv, where he also held the position of an assistant. He obtained a doctorate and later the title of *doctor habilitatus* at Jan Kazimierz Academy in Lviv. He was an associate member of the Academy of Learning and one of the creators of the Mathematical Lviv School. He wrote 58 mathematical works and won many prestigious science awards. He was a President of the Polish Mathematical Society and a dean of the department of mathematics at Lviv University. He was known for his scientific intuition, creativity, openness and sense of humour. A true mathematical genius. He died on August 31st 1945 in Lviv.

On September 1st 2018 he became a patron of XLIV High School in Warsaw. On November 11th, on the Polish Independence Day, he was awarded the Order of White Eagle.

Our high school is a place where tradition matters, where we respect the memory of the past, and achievements of Polish science including those of the mathematical school of Lviv. We also remember those, who protected our national identity during the fight for independence – not only on history lessons but during the run of honour of our heroes as well as during our historical trips or while writing letters to Warsaw Uprising participants.

Students fulfil the core curriculum of history by visiting and participating in theme workshops, for example in the State Museum in Majdanek or in the Veterans' Centre.

The history of our high school started in 1954. Antoni Dobiszewski was the first patron of the school, that is why people still call us “Dobiszaki.” What is important to us? Good relations, kindness, opportunity to develop our hobbies, our point of view while respecting different opinions; certainly friendships. Lifelong relationships are established here, after a couple of years, memories related to time within our walls come back. Often our graduates come to Banach with their children.

Year 2018 brought some new challenges. The strength of scholastic democracy and the involvement of students and teachers were showed by the new choice of patron. The chosen one was Stefan Banach, leading Polish



mathematician with extraordinary personality. Like former principal of our school, Bogdan Sekinda, once said “(...) naming the school by his name isn't a simple change. Above all, it is about giving the entire school community – students, their parents, teachers, administration staff, and management – the point of reference and setting a direction of common actions and goals. Patron is a symbol, idea which unites us all. From now on, this point of reference for all of us will be the great Polish mathematician Stefan Banach.”

MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE EDUCATION

Our educational offer is not limited only to typical school lessons. They're enriched with students' participation in academic classes, and even introducing to secrets of scientific research. To this type of classes we can include mathematical and physical profiled grades field trips to National Centre of Nuclear Research in Świerk, or experimental classes in physics lab in the University of Warsaw. Students conduct experiments in professionally equipped labs, analyze data under the guidance of science workers of those facilities. Biology and chemistry grade takes part in classes in The Centre of Innovative Bioscience Education. It's special initiative promoting science. By using innovative methods and conducting experiments in a modern lab students explore the secrets of biology and biotechnology. Let's not forget about those who are interested in economics. For them we suggest classes organized in cooperation with Szkoła Główna Handlowa within the academic class.

We're also often guests of the Copernicus Science Center where all the suggested classes enjoy great interest of the students who gladly participate seeing a chance for themselves to develop their knowledge in accordance with their interests.

One of our most significant successes was receiving a grant in school year 2018/2019 within the XIV edition of the Warsaw Initiative. Thanks to the received amount of money the „Learning Physics through TIK tools” project will be carried out throughout this year. It's a group of students who will be able to perform computer assisted experiments with the use of multifunctional measuring systems and participate in classes in laboratories of various scientific institutions.

THE MATHEMATICAL NIGHT



For several years we have been organizing THE MATHEMATICAL NIGHTS. Each year pupils from mathematics classes bravely solve tasks, take part in mathematical battles which take place from 10:00 PM to 5:00 AM. During that extraordinary way of promoting the affection to the queen of sciences, students complete worksheets, take part in a variety of competitions and watch movies related with that science. In 2018 during The

Mathematical night a TV crew from Polish Television (Telewizja Polska) TVP3 visited our school, and the results of their visit were shown in “Kurier TVP3”. Group of pupils, who

participated in the event were talking about The Mathematical Night also in the radio station called RDC.

In 1959 our school joined the UNESCO Associated Schools. In everyday work with the youth we refer to the ideals of the organisation's program, we promote days, weeks, and decades that are mentioned in the UNESCO's calendar. In 1964 we had the privilege of being visited by the general director of UNESCO, Rene Maheu. In the years 2001-2003 our students hosted 'Our Europe' conference, and in the year 2006 a group of our students went to the European youth conference in Sandefjord, Norway. Right now our language class have started a project: "Legends - our cultural heritage". As part of the days promoted by UNESCO, the school library, to ensures that we celebrate the world book day every year and the international Copyright day in an interesting way. We also engage in helping those children who have limited access to education, by sending packages with school materials, to kids from Saint Louis in Senegal.

QLTURA WEEK



Qltura Week is one of the flagship events of great interest to young people. This cultural festival has been organized in our school since 1999. For twenty years we have had the honour and pleasure to participate in unforgettable meetings with guests from the world of culture and science, workshops, competitions, and events. So far we have hosted such celebrities as Mrs. President Anna Komorowska, Grażyna Szapołowska, priest Jan Twardowski, Stanisław

Tym, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Ewa Bem, Krzysztof Materna, Wojciech Malajkat, Jerzy Bralczyk and many others. On the last day of TQ, in accordance with our tradition, there are popular science sessions prepared by second graders for first graders, and a Got Talent contest. Every student can present themselves in it, can through their talent become a person less anonymous, noticed, and appreciated. This is very important, especially as there are so many talented young people in our school community. A large group of young people pursues their passions by taking part in plays, theatre competitions, school photographic projects, recording songs and films to promote our high school.



BIG AND SMALL TRIPS

Every year in September first-year students of our high school take part in an integration trip to Spała. During the trip all the students have a chance to visit this picturesque town, play bowling, integrate with their teachers and counsellors and have fun in the evening, baking sausages by the bonfire.



Traditionally since 2010 a trip for second graders to Austria and Italy has been organized to complement the



core curriculum in geography, history and civics. The varied program combines walking with sightseeing and admiring unique places in Carinthia. We get to know the charming Corinthian towns of Villach and Klagenfurt and watch the panorama of the Alps from the Gerlitz Mountain. The greatest impression on the participants of the tour is constantly being made by Venice. Finally, we visit the old town of Vienna and enjoy the funfair attractions at Prater.

It is a great opportunity to integrate the school environment, and we teachers can get to know our students, their passions and interests better.

For pupils of classes with extended geography programme we organize geological classes in European Geological Education Centre in Chęciny. Among other things, the hikes lead through disused quarries, where students learn to take geological compass measurements, look for fossils, and recognise types of rocks and minerals.



In June 2017, we organized a workshop in Janow Lubelski, where students explored the geographical environment. The stay was filled with activities in the laboratories of ZOOM Nature, orienteering marches in the forest and sports activities.

On the other hand, in June 2018 we went to Suwalszczyzna, where young people took part in nature field activities with the base in Gawrych Ruda on Lake Wigry. Students of biology-chemistry and geography-biology classes participated in workshops which took place mainly in Wigry National Park. Young people also watched the water environment using a glass bottom boat, examined the physical and chemical properties of water taken from Lake Wigry and hiked with a guide through the Wigry National Park along the nature trail "Suchary".

SPORT AND ACTIVITIES



XLIV Secondary School is also a sport tradition that has been shaped by students, excellent teachers and trainers over the years. Football, volleyball, swimming, basketball are disciplines in which our students have repeatedly achieved success, as evidenced by the huge collection of cups and diplomas won by our students in contests and sports competitions. Every year we take part in all disciplines of the Warsaw Youth Olympics. Our greatest sports successes in recent years include winning

the Warsaw Youth Olympics in volleyball for girls and boys, in handball for girls and boys, and vice-championship in girls' basketball and boys' football. We also won medals in the Mokotów Championship in individual swimming.

Our youth regularly participate in trainings deepening their knowledge in the field of pre-medical first aid, conducted by lecturers and students at the Warsaw Medical University and road rescue services conducted by medical rescuers of the Polish Motor Association. We also participate in preventive classes with the Municipal Police "I decide responsibly".¹

¹ Translated by our students: Pola Pomykała 2b, Wiktoria Puchta 2c, Ewa Szymanowska 2b, Zofia Zamoyska 2b, Zofia Bieńkowska 1g, Dominika Iwaniuk 1d, Julia Hlawacik 1d, Piotr Zieliński 1g, Julia Bogusz 3b, Marta Mańkowska 3b, Weronika Stachowicz 3b.