

The MathWorks Scholarship Committee
Report - May 2022

Committee Chair: Gregg Cohen

Committee Members: Sarah Burr, Lenore Freitas, Brian Fay, David Beattie

The scholarship committee would like to start by thanking Mathworks for their generous support of Natick students. We are continually grateful for the commitment that Mathworks has shown our community.

As in prior years the MathWorks Scholarship selection process was a challenge. This year in our application pool we had 28 strong candidates. This included students from Natick High School and from private schools.

During our evaluation process, the Committee reviewed all applications and ranked them based on academic achievement, a student essay, recommendations and a demonstrated commitment to math and science. We then interviewed the top four candidates. This was, as always, the most interesting part of the process. It is not an overstatement to say that the depth of this year's applicants was as competitive as the committee could remember. These students excelled both inside and outside of school despite the challenges presented by the pandemic. The energy and creativity exhibited to pursue their interests and studies during this time is amazing.

Although it was a difficult decision, the committee identified two students whom we would like to recommend for the MathWorks award. These students are

Noah Abji and Ellie Pantekidis

Noah Abji is a senior at Natick High School. Noah has an impressive transcript with nothing less than an A for grades during his entire high school year. He is currently taking a very rigorous curriculum with 5 AP classes including currently having the highest grade possible in Calculus BC, Computer Science, Statistics and Physics. He has taken an astounding 11 AP classes throughout high school. To quote his junior year AP Chemistry teacher, "He is incredibly intelligent, kind, thoughtful, resilient, collaborative, growth-minded, funny, curious, detail-oriented... Noah is every adjective that I would hope to apply to a future scientist."

Outside of the classroom Noah has done amazing things as well. This includes identifying the need for videos to supplement the materials available to middle school students in advanced math. He has created 38 videos (25 hours of content) and then shared them with the superintendent of the Natick and Newton school systems who have integrated them into the curriculum for their respective towns. He has led a private robotics team and has jumped in and learned skills on his own when the team needed it. He has interned at non-

profits supporting humanitarian and voter access causes. Noah has also has been involved at the high school with acapella, theater and is a pole vaulter and jump captain on the track team. He will be attending University of California at Berkeley in the fall where he plans to major in Computer Science or Math.

Eletheria (Ellie) Pantekidis is also senior at Natick High School, She will be attending Tufts University in the fall as a biology/pre-med major. Ellie has received nothing less than an A+ for every class in high school including 5 AP classes this year and 10 total. She received a perfect score on her ACT. Ellie has over and over again demonstrated the ability to take her scientific expertise to help others. Among those activities has been to develop a website of resources available to high school students with mental health related resources and extensive volunteer work at Tufts Medical Center and done an internship at Boston Children's Hospital's Zon Laboratory. Other involvements include Girl Up, the NHS Stage Crew and participation in the MIT leadership institute. To quote Ellie "Science's consistent promise for novel innovations and opportunities to improve the world enthralls me." I have no doubt, she will be a positive contributor in her life as she applies her scientific skills to the community and world.

It is with great pleasure that we recommend these students for the MathWorks scholarships. Their commitment and passion for learning in science related fields will ensure their success at college and beyond.