

# Yane Sandanski Science and Mathematics High School, Gotse Delchev

by Yane Sandanski SMHS staff

This is the beginning of the school anthem of the Yane Sandanski Science and Mathematics High School, Gotse Delchev. The fates of thousands of students and many teachers are interwoven in these four verses – numerous students and teachers who have engraved their bright traces and glorious deeds on the prosperous existence of the school.

The Future is what belongs to us

"...Our dear school,

you are a ford during turbulent Bulgarian times

you are our cherished memory,

our collective spirit and divine blessing...."



Yane Sandanski Science and Mathematics High School in Gotse Delchev has a 97-year history. It was a successor of the prestigious pedagogical school in Serres, which played a significant role in the cultural and national rise of Bulgarians from Macedonia. On October 1, 1920, the lower secondary school became a high school, with its first principal Iliya Baltov, who obtained his higher education in Switzerland. Even at that time, the school had all the necessary equipment and amenities, along with innovative teachers with progressive perceptions. It turned into a school that continues to keep the balance between long-established traditions and indispensable modernity. In 2012, the building of the high school was renovated under the project "Renovation of the Educational Infrastructure in the Municipality of Gotse Delchev." The school has a modern European vision with richly furnished classrooms, computer laboratories, a modern sports base, an assembly hall, and an impressive library.

Yane Sandanski High School has successfully worked on projects supported by America for Bulgaria Foundation. In the 2016/2017 school year it won an ABF School of the Future project and modernized the school environment by creating a Multifunctional Center for Natural Studies and Mathematics. Principal Elka Bozhikova joined the "School Leaders Academy" program to help directors implement tools for effective leadership, apply 21st century pedagogy, establish a professional school community at school, and obtain new approaches by introducing project-based learning. Ms. Gergana Sharlandzhieva and Ms. Ekaterina Todorova, both senior teachers at the school, participated in the Educational Leaders' Training Program, a program for teachers where educators were taught new pedagogical approaches and were encouraged to promote collaborations between professional teachers.





During this school year, the school has a valuable asset: a Fulbright | ABF English Teaching Assistant from North Dakota, Nathan Jacobson. During English class, he helps our students develop their communicative skills, build confidence in using the English language, and improve their pronunciation. Meanwhile, Nathan also helps high students prepare for various competitions, as well as for various exam formats. Nathan has chosen to come to our country not only because of its natural beauty and temperate climate, and not merely because of our magnificent traditions and the magical power of Bulgarian folklore, but also because of his desire to dedicate himself to one of the most significant and satisfying professions, that of a teacher. We believe that Nathan, who will be staying for a second year in AY2018-19, will motivate our students even more and contribute to their future success.

In addition to what has been mentioned so far, Yane Sandanski SMHS is the most reputable school preferred by students from four municipalities. Currently, 750 students are trained in 30 classes with profiles including the natural sciences, humanities, technology, foreign languages, and social sciences. The school is the place where teachers, students and parents feel accepted,

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supported, and share common values. The highly qualified and motivated teachers and managers accept the challenges of the new era, implement ICT technologies in the educational process and are open to the positive and innovative changes in education. The educators at Yane Sandanski are determined to develop and improve their level of competence and professional expertise through qualification courses related to the new trends in education.

Furthermore, our students enjoy successes in various fields. Many have successfully competed in the regional Olympiads in Chemistry and Environmental Preservation, Biology and Health Education, Information Studies and Technologies, Mathematics, Bulgarian Language and Literature, History and Civilization, Physics, Philosophy, Astronomy, and English. The participation of Yane Sandanski SMHS students at the National Olympiad in Chemistry and

Environmental Preservation once again confirmed the undeniable fact that we are a factor not only at the regional level but also at the national level. The excellent grade (6.00) in Chemistry received by Krastyo Draginov from the 12th grade gave him the undisputed right to participate in the Bulgarian team at the International Olympiad in Chemistry, where he was awarded a bronze medal for his excellent performance.

For the people involved in the educational process, school is a place where young people should be prepared for the real life. They should see the future as a time that is not too far away, but rather is coming very soon. Therefore, everything that happens in the classroom must be practical, interesting, and dynamic. It is understandable that young people have an urgent need to recognize reality with its true problems, shortcomings and opportunities. Yet, some of the traditional methods do not allow each young person to reveal their potential in a specific field of study and that is why, at our school, more teachers try to utilize role-playing games, dramatization, small group work, discussions, debates, and project work to allow students to learn and grow through a variety of educational methods.

As of this academic year, Yane Sandanski Science and Mathematics High School in Gotse Delchev is included in the list of innovative schools in Bulgaria after approval by the Council of Ministers, with two classes where innovative interdisciplinary lessons will be conducted in the Natural Sciences, Mathematics, Information Studies and Technologies, English Language, Bulgarian Language and Literature, History and Civilization.

Yane Sandanski Science and Mathematics High School, Gotse Delchev – a school with an indomitable spirit that manages to cope with all the challenges of its time!