



Having graduated from the Big Apple Academy almost 10 years ago, I look back at the time spent there with a great sense of appreciation for the caring instructors, rigorous academics, and the bilingual aspect of the school.

I'll forever be especially grateful to my classroom teacher, Zhenya, who helped organize a myriad of class trips and shows in the form of extracurricular activities . I couldn't have possibly known it at the time, but the level of care that she exhibited towards our class was unlike any that I would later experience at other academic institutions.

Upon graduating, I attended Stuyvesant High School in lower Manhattan, where I quickly realized that I would've fallen behind if not for Big Apple's higher-level math curriculum. I also immediately noticed that my literary abilities were well above those of my peers - something I can attribute to Big Apple's teachers constantly encouraging me to read as much as possible.

Post-Stuyvesant, I went on to graduate from Baruch College with a full scholarship as a member of the Dean's Scholars Program. Currently, I'm an associate at an international firm within the M&A consultancy space. When interacting with Russian and other former-Soviet colleagues and clients, I can't help but smile when told "I can't believe you speak Russian so well, and I especially can't believe that you read and write in Russian too!".

The Big Apple Academy was a crucial link in the chain that has brought me where I am today, and for that, I'm thankful.

Jason Lanzman

Big Apple Academy Class of 2013