



THE BIRCHWOOD SCHOOL PRESS RELEASE

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Eleven Birchwood Students Qualify to Represent Ohio at National History Day

Cleveland - On Saturday, April 30, twenty-four Birchwood students traveled to Columbus to compete at the state level of National History Day contest. Eleven students were named finalists with an additional 5 earning national alternate status. Three students were awarded honorable mention, and 2 received special awards. **Hannah Y, Amir F, Clive C, Nate C, Joan C, Sachi G, Dhweeja D, Shan S, Peter A, Kavya R, and Brad S** all won top honors in their categories and will now compete as national finalists. **Ammar M, Darius Z, Prithvi P, Trevor L, and Abhijeet S** qualified as national alternates, while **Naomi W, Marla B, and Sanjana R** received honorable mention for their work.

National History Day (NHD) is a highly regarded academic program for elementary and secondary school students. Each year, more than half a million students nationwide participate in the NHD contest. Students choose historical topics related to a theme and conduct extensive primary and secondary research through libraries, archives, museums, oral history interviews and historic sites. After analyzing and interpreting their sources and drawing conclusions about their topics' significance in history, students present their work in original papers, websites, exhibits, performances and documentaries. Professional historians and educators evaluate the final products and the national finalists compete each June at the University of Maryland in College Park.

Each category, at the state level, sends on two finalists to the national competition, as well as designating an alternate. In the historical paper category Birchwood claimed both finalist spots: **Hannah Y** for her research on the Reykjavik Summit between President Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev and **Amir F** for his research on the Sam Sheppard murder case, which highlighted the conflicting Constitutional rights between a free press and an accused criminal. In the group website category, Birchwood also claimed the two finalist spots as well as the national alternate spot. The finalists were: **Clive C** and **Nate C** for their site on the debate between AC and DC electricity and **Joan C** and **Sachi G** for their site on the Cuyahoga River fire.

National alternates were **Ammar M** and **Darius Z** for their site on the Yalta Conference. In the individual documentary category, Birchwood had a very strong showing. **Dhweeja D** qualified as a national finalist for her research on *Brown vs the Board of Education*.

Claiming the national alternate spot was **Prithvi P** for his presentation on the Treaty of Versailles. Earning an honorable mention was **Naomi W** for her research on Jay's Treaty. In the group documentary category, **Peter A** and **Shan S** will advance as finalists for their presentation on the Cuban Missile Crisis. **Kavya R**, in the individual website category, qualified as a finalist for her site on heliocentrism.

In the individual exhibit category, competing against approximately 35 other exhibits, **Brad S** qualified as a national finalist for his display on the crossing of the Rapido River in WWII. Group performers, **Trevor L** and **Abhijeet S** were designated as national alternates and **Marla B** and **Sanjana R** received an honorable mention. Birchwood students also earned two special awards. **Dhweeja D** received an award from the Society of Ohio Archivists in recognition of her outstanding use of primary sources in a History Day project. **Sachi G** and **Joan C** earned recognition from The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board for the best use of Ohio's historical records in a History Day project.



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The Birchwood School is a private, coeducational school in Cleveland, Ohio. Founded in 1984, Birchwood serves students in kindergarten through grade 8. Birchwood's mission is to provide an educational setting where challenging academics build solid work habits, an achievement culture nurtures healthy attitudes, and a caring environment forges social responsibility.

www.birchwoodschool.org