



THE BIRCHWOOD SCHOOL PRESS RELEASE

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Birchwood School Students' Outstanding Showing at National History Day

Cleveland-In June, eleven Birchwood students traveled to the National History Day competition at the University of Maryland and had an outstanding showing. These students reached the national level after placing in the top spots at both the district competition at Case Western Reserve University in March and the state competition at Columbus State Community College in April. At the national competition, Birchwood students were up against the best from all 50 states, American Samoa, Guam, and Department of Defense schools in Europe. The competition began with a rigorous preliminary round in which the top two presentations in each room advanced to the final round of judging. **Joan C** and **Sachi G** placed sixth in the nation with their website on the Cuyahoga River fire of 1969 and how it sparked a debate over whose responsibility it was to clean up our nation's waterways.

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.

When asked about her students' successes, Birchwood's social studies teacher **Connie Miller** said, "The students are to be commended for their extraordinary work ethic and their commitment to their projects. From digging into library archives to interviewing nationally renowned scholars on their topics, Birchwood students had top-notch content along with high quality presentations."

Nate C and **Clive C** placed third in the preliminary round with their website concerning the debate between alternating current and direct current narrowly missed qualifying for the finals. **Kavya R** competed in the individual website category with her presentation on Heliocentrism. She also narrowly missed advancing to the finals after a fourth place finish in the preliminary round. Also competing in the preliminary round with strong showings were **Hannah Y** with her paper on the Reykjavik Summit, **Peter A** and **Shan S** with a group documentary on the Cuban Missile Crisis, Brad Sprau with an individual exhibit on the Rapido River crossing in WWII, **Dhweeja D** with an individual documentary on *Brown vs. Board of Education*, and **Amir F** with a paper on the Sam Sheppard murder trial.

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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.birchwoodschoool.org