



DATE: December 16, 2022
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FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

Farmington Public Schools' students win Gold and Platinum at the CyberPatriot's National Youth Cyber Defense Competition

Farmington, MI -- Farmington Public Schools (FPS) had one student-led team from both North Farmington High School (NFHS) and Farmington High School (FHS) participating in the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. The CyberPatriot team at NFHS won platinum, and the FHS team won gold.

CyberPatriot's National Youth Cyber Defense Competition challenges teams of high school and middle school students to find and fix cybersecurity vulnerabilities in virtual operating systems. Using a proprietary competition system, teams are scored on how secure they make the system. Top teams advance through the online round of competition, and the best of the best advance to the in-person National Finals Competition.

Each team has two challenges during their six-hour competition period:

- **Network Security Challenge:** involves finding and fixing security vulnerabilities in Windows and Linux operating systems.
- **Cisco Networking Challenge:** consists of an online quiz and a virtual networking exercise based on specific training materials.

FPS students began preparing for the competition at the beginning of the school year with training rounds. Training rounds led to official practice rounds in October. Once training rounds were complete, students entered into scored/live rounds that were held on weekends from November through January. Students competed in three virtual rounds of competition where students had to download images, use a packet tracer to extract images, decode, and encrypt various images using multi factor authentication.

There were a total of 2,578 teams that competed from all over the United States. Awards were given in the categories of platinum, gold, and silver.



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North Farmington High School

Heidi Gee, Platinum

Cole Spencer, Platinum

Farmington High School

Karthikeya Thota, Gold

Aaditya Vandaye, Gold

Surya Chintalapatis, Gold

Gaurahari Kathiresan, Gold

Rasraj Sawant, Gold

Commenting on his last competition, Karthikeya Thota, senior at NFHS stated, "This was a fun competition. I learned more about networking and how to encrypt and decode images."

Next school year, FHS and NFHS CTE IT/Business Instructor Jason Canfield hopes to have two or more teams at each high school achieve the platinum tier to increase the odds of making it to Nationals in Maryland.

Congratulations to all of the CyberPatriot students!

To learn more about CyberPatriot, visit uscyberpatriot.org.

To learn more about Farmington Public Schools, visit www.farmington.k12.mi.us.