



MOVHS CYBERPATRIOT: CREATING SONIC WAVES IN CYBERSECURITY

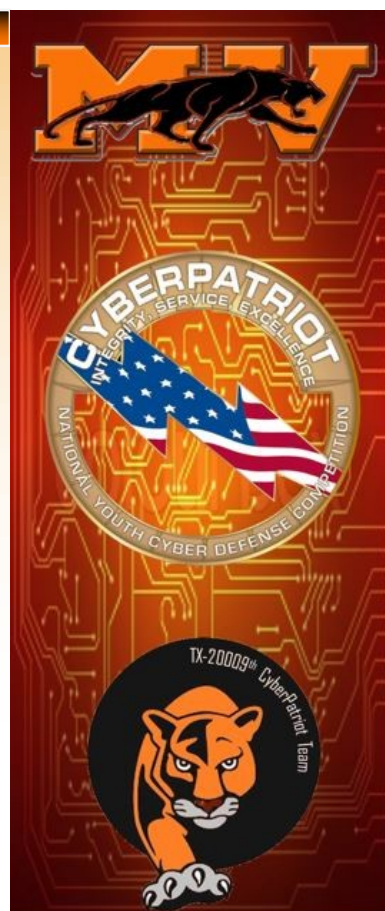
I am Frank Hall, head coach of the Medina Valley CyberPatriot team, and I want to welcome all returning and new CyberPatriots to the 2019-2020 season of cyber. It has been an exciting start to the new season for our team. The Medina Valley CyberPatriot team's popularity is growing in the local and national cyber communities. Our CyberPatriot team has been invited to attend cybersecurity conferences, had a nationally known guest speaker attend our first competition, and team members were invited to attend advanced CyberPatriot clinics. Medina Valley has completed the first round of the CyberPatriot competition. The second round of the competition begins on November 15, 2019.

Starting this school year, Medina Valley High School is offering cybersecurity courses as part of a Texas initiative to get students started on a pathway for a career in cyber. Mrs. Joules Webb, CyberPatriot and UIL Computer Science coach, is teaching the cybersecurity courses. Together with the CyberPatriot competition, students are learning the principals and techniques to create a secure computing environment.

I am looking forward to what the remainder of the season has to offer our team members. If you have any questions please contact me via the team's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/tx20009MVCPTeam/>

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-Head Coach Frank Hall



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“These students are rock-stars! I’m glad I could stop by and see all the great work they’re doing.”

Congressman
Will Hurd



CYBERPATRIOT TEAM GUEST SPEAKER U.S. REPRESENTATIVE WILL HURD 23RD DISTRICT OF TEXAS

On October 26, 2019, the Medina Valley CyberPatriot team started its ninth season in the CyberPatriot competition. Amid the chaos of competition day, we hosted our guest speaker, U.S. Representative Will Hurd 23rd District of Texas, who came to address the teams and see them in action. This was the first time in CyberPatriot history a member of the United States Congress was able to observe a CyberPatriot competition. CyberPatriot posted our team picture with U.S. Representative Hurd to their Facebook page. He commented on the post stating, “These students are rockstars! I’m glad I could stop by and see all the great work they’re doing.”



U.S. Representative Will Hurd (Center Back) with members of the Medina Valley AFJROTC team.

On November 4th, 2019, he wrote and published a column entitled “Hurd on the Hill: Training Tomorrow’s Cyber Leaders” in which our team was mentioned. We are featuring his column in this edition of Bits and Bytes.

HURD ON THE HILL: TRAINING TOMORROW’S CYBER LEADERS

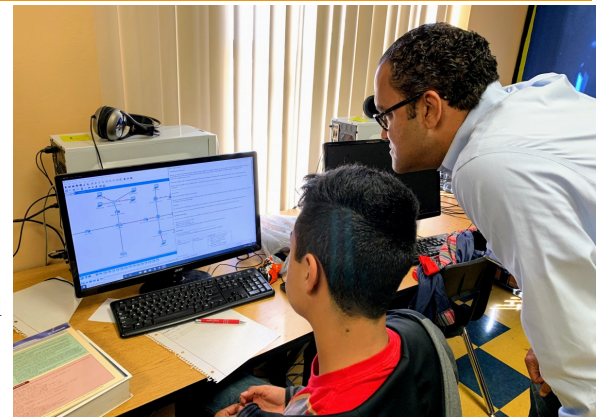
November 4, 2019 Hurd on the Hill:
Local Columns

‘It is up to each of us to make sure we are prepared to face these technological challenges head-on.’

As our world becomes more interconnected it is important to take step back and recognize good cyber practices and come together to make sure we are prepared for future challenges. The talk of “cyber,” “digital infrastructure” and “hacks” can be hard to grasp as we cannot always see someone hacking into

your phone or computer, but it is happening and it is up to each of us to make sure we are prepared to face these technological challenges head-on. As a computer science major, former CIA undercover officer, cybersecurity entrepreneur and House IT Subcommittee Chair, cybersecurity and keeping folks safe online has been a top priority of mine throughout my career, and I’ve worked on several bipartisan bills including the Modernizing Government Technology Act, the Internet of Things (IoT) Cybersecurity...

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Congressman Hurd observing Cadet Reyna as he works on a Cisco lab.

HURD ON THE HILL: TRAINING TOMORROW'S CYBER LEADERS

(Cont's from page 2) Improvement Act of 2019 and the SECURE Technology Act, that all take strides to make sure we are prepared to take on the technological challenges of the 21st century and beyond while keeping your personal information safe and using taxpayer dollars more efficiently.

Why is this important? Because the reality is that whether we like it or not, cyber attackers across the globe are working around the clock to gain access to our personal data. They seek out your personally identifiable information like bank account numbers, social security numbers and credit card information to engage in fraud or extortion, or sell this data to others who will in turn target you and participate in similar activities.

While we work to improve our individual cyber hygiene by having secure passwords, clicking only on links from sources and people you trust and regularly updating devices, also know that there are many smart, creative young people right here across South and West Texas who are learning the skills needed to keep our nation safe for future generations. Last week, I caught up with the CyberPatriot team at Medina Valley ISD. This CyberPatriot team, led by their Coach Frank Hall, participates in competitions where they receive an operating system and are tasked to quickly find – and fix – any vulnerabilities they see in the software. Seeing them hard at work firsthand was inspiring, and as a computer science major at Texas A&M I was glad to talk to them about my experiences and all the options they can have for future careers.

We also see many bright problem solvers across the 23rd District of Texas step up to the plate to compete in the Congressional App Challenge, where high school students across the country learn coding skills or put their knowledge to the test to create an app. Last year's winners were Joshua Price and Daniel Paris from Pecos High School, who, in light of their friend's passing from a car accident, created an application called "Drive Safe" that would allow drivers to contact emergency services and loved ones after an accident without having to reach for their phones. If you or a student you know would like to participate in this year's App Challenge, give my San Antonio office a call at 210-921-3130.

To remain a global leader, America needs enough creative problem solvers to be able to tackle tomorrow's challenges, and as we rely more on phones and other electronic devices, we must be able to take advantage of technology before it takes advantage of us. I'm proud to represent motivated students across TX-23 who are learning the skills to be our future leaders and keep us safe for generations to come.

The original post can be found on U.S. Representative Hurd's web page Hurd on the Hill at the following address: <https://hurd.house.gov/media-center/hurd-hill/hurd-hill-training-tomorrow-s-cyber-leaders>

"Seeing them hard at work firsthand was inspiring, and as a computer science major at Texas A&M I was glad to talk to them about my experiences and all the options they can have for future careers"

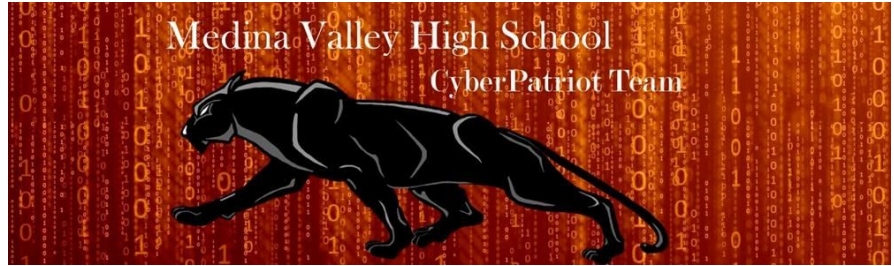
**Congressman
Will Hurd**



“I encourage everyone to view the MV CyberPatriot team webpage for team pictures, archived newsletters, and the competition schedule”



CYBERPATRIOT WEBPAGE



Over the summer I was able to work with Samuel Alaniz Jr, Communications Coordinator at Medina Valley ISD, to update the Medina Valley CyberPatriot team's web page. Thanks to Mr. Alaniz's assistance you can now

[View archived copies of Bits and Bytes](#)

[View the team's Facebook page](#)

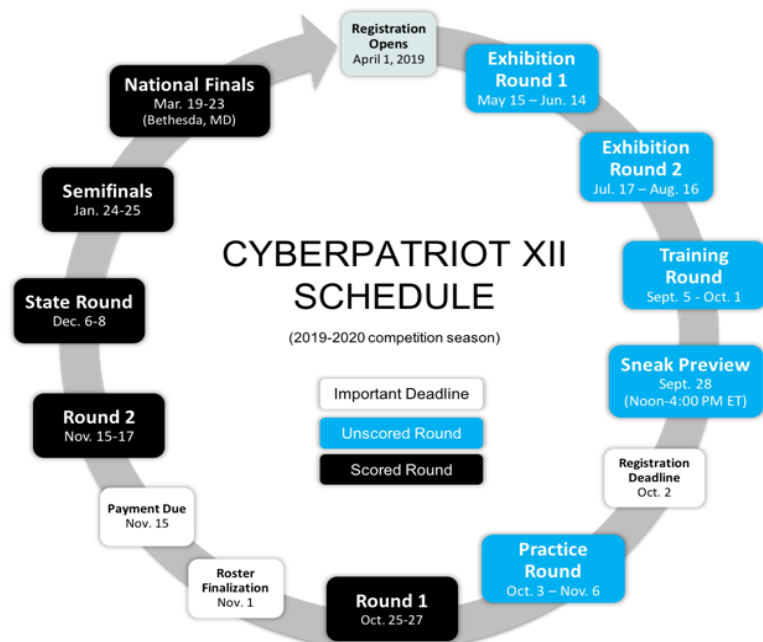
[View the current CyberPatriot Competition Rules](#)

[Click on the link to view the CyberPatriot web site](#)

[View picture of the on the ISD's Flickr album](#)

I will be working with Mr. Alaniz to ensure that the webpage has current information.

CYBERPATRIOT COMPETITION SCHEDULE



Medina Valley High School

CyberPatriot Team

We are the Medina Valley CyberPatriots!! We are the cyber warriors that relentlessly defend networks from attack. Our cyber hunting skills cannot be matched. We find threats, eliminate them, and strategically launch counter attacks against our cyber enemies. We are CyberPatriots!!

Medina Valley High School

CyberPatriot Team

Facebook Page Address:
<https://www.facebook.com/tx20009MVCPTeam/>

High School Website Link:
<https://www.mvisd.com/Page/3001>

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Angela M. Hall—Chief Editor

ABOUT THE MVHS CYBERPATRIOT TEAM

The Vision

The vision of the Medina Valley CyberPatriots program is to promote cyber awareness, computer security practices, and cyber ethics. All of these are essential attributes for creating a secure network infrastructure, teaching the students how to detect threats, and how to defend against cyber-attacks in a safe virtual environment.

The skills and knowledge the students will gain from participating in this program will give them an advantage to obtain information technology certifications, scholarships in computer related fields of study, and ultimately provide an opportunity to start a great career in information technology and cyber security.

The Mission

The mission of the Medina Valley CyberPatriot program is the proper instruction and implementation of information technology principals and cyber security practices. All students will be taught how to use various operating systems, interconnecting network devices, and how to secure the entire infrastructure. The students will also be taught how to properly use tools and methodologies to assess and troubleshoot problems that range from inoperable workstations to misconfigured networking equipment. These are the skills that will be necessary to compete in the CyberPatriot competitions and will enable us to advance to each round and ultimately to the national finals.