

The CyberCards, FRC Team 1529, helps to expand students' knowledge, gain more business experience, and prepare for future college or careers. Through the team, we are able to reach out to our community, contribute more to our school, and take on leadership roles. The team allows students to grow past our perceived limits and take on new challenges. Over time, our team has become more than just a group of students, we are a family.

**“...we're all co-travellers on the spaceship Earth and must respect and help each other along the way.”- Stan Lee**

Every year, meeting, and outreach event helps to build our team bond as we push towards our mission and season goals. We start meetings by giving each student the opportunity to share an accomplishment that they're proud of, what we call our “Grateful Fours”, the team mission and vision statements, and an overview of the meeting goals. This creates a sense of urgency during the season and also familiarizes the students with each of the subgroups and fellow teammates. We've also created an after-school study table program where students provide and receive assistance with their homework. Not only does this help everyone stay on track in school, but provides teaching and leadership opportunities for our students.

Last year we started the Bring Your One campaign which challenges our veterans to bring one new person to a meeting. This campaign improves both the efficiency and effectiveness of recruitment as the new students are already connected to the team through their veteran friends. There's also a week where we take time to introduce new recruits to the team through rotations based on the overall infrastructure. The team can be divided into engineering and non-engineering, or Operations, subgroups. Operations consist of the Chairman's, Media, and Business teams; while the engineering side encompasses Build, Programming, Data Analysis, CAD, and Systems. The subgroup rotations help create an inviting atmosphere that helps students find their passion over the course of the first few weeks.

**“That person who helps others simply because it should or must be done, and because it is the right thing to do, is indeed without a doubt, a real superhero.”- Stan Lee**

Through our training, community outreach, and recent changes in team organization, the CyberCards have become better leaders and role models. For students willing to put in hours over the summer, we offer leadership training to help them become servant leaders. At training,

students are taught how to set attainable goals and how to manage the team using the Agile methodology. This method for project management breaks up larger projects into manageable “sprints”, or small tasks, led by a “scrum master” to streamline production and help smooth communications. We also provide training on tools, which is recorded in the Tool Safety Handbook, where all students interested in being part of the Build team learn how to properly use each major tool in the shop. The manual itself was written by the students, approved by mentors, and organized so that each tool has a sign-off sheet to keep track of all the students who have been approved to use it. These new systems have been a great help to our team as the season has progressed and help to make our students prepared for their next destination.

CAGE is an off-season event hosted in collaboration with FRC Team 1741, Center Grove’s Red Alert Robotics. At the event, we simulate a typical competition and provide STEM Fair activities to engage younger audiences. As the event is rookie oriented, we established a rule this year that the drive team must be all rookies, or at least all students. This provides new students with insight into what to expect from upcoming competitions. Another event designed to help rookies prepare for the season is the Mock Kick-Off. During this simulation of the official Kick-Off at UIndy, we watch an old game animation and create a design matrix to understand how to effectively design a prototype. We also teach students how to speak to potential sponsors in an interview setting to prepare them for the task of gaining funds and materials.

While participating with the CyberCards, students become more aware of the world around them, demonstrated through their willingness to participate in community service. Outreach is typically FIRST oriented events that we use to spread its influence, while community service allows our team to go out and help the community. One event we regularly participate in is Pack Away Hunger, which is centered on packaging meals for the hungry populations in other countries. We have also worked with the City of Southport in their Day of Caring where groups cleaned up litter in the area. This year we also reopened our school’s Care Pantry which distributes canned goods to families in need of assistance. In total, the CyberCards have provided over a thousand hours of service this season.

***“You know, my motto is ‘Excelsior.’ That’s an old word that means ‘upward and onward to greater glory’. Keep moving forward.”- Stan Lee***

In going above and beyond expectations, the CyberCards have become more involved with our school and community in many ways. This August, WTHR Channel 13 News, came to Southport High School for Project Football and the sports department invited our Team Captain and Coach to be interviewed. Our school also invited the team to participate in their Career Fair this year. The CyberCards were the only school group invited to attend, and we are using this opportunity to continue spreading the word of FIRST and expand our growing influence. These events have played a major role in building our team image, conveying that we are a legitimate and respected organization within our community. Because of this, the Chief of Police requested that our team build a threat detection robot for the Southport Police Department. The robot is meant to search buildings for potential threats that could harm the lives of police officers and civilians; so far, we have CAD files created and are in the planning process of building it.

The many outreach events that we participate in are also essential in helping us to spread the word of FIRST throughout our community. At one event, the City of Southport’s Trunk or Treat, we hand out candy to kids and taught them how to drive our minibots. Another favorite is an event called Christmas in the Park. During this event kids make cookies and we teach them the values of FIRST and what it is. Our team has also demonstrated our robot at the Curiosity Fair and assisted at the Innovation Day at Conner Prairie. Additionally, we are regularly invited back to Winchester Village Elementary to do robot demonstrations. We have made appearances at their Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration two years running, as well as at their Just Say No to Drugs club. At these demos, we teach students about our team, the robot, and how they can be involved in FIRST at the elementary school level.

Our team has always valued our relationship with other FIRST Teams. The Steel Beaks, Team 13246, is our FTC pipeline team. We lend our assistance in every aspect that still allows them to be their own team. Their team utilizes our classrooms and shop, our mentors and theirs, and we support them at their competitions. One of our Chairman’s representatives assisted in teaching our younger peers, at the FTC level, how to handle interviews of all kinds. Our team also has ties with the FLL and FLL Jr. Teams. Last April, all six of the elementary schools in our

district with YMCA after-school programs were approached to allow us to present FLL Junior programming. Carrying out this event allowed us to teach students about the FLL Jr. Program. This included teaching how the robots worked and can be programmed. Students were inspired to explore programs in higher grade levels.

Sponsors are a big part of our team for a multitude of reasons. Not only do they donate funds, but also in-kind donations including food, mentors, and robot materials. We have different tiers of sponsorship, the highest being our Red Level. We are extremely grateful for our current Red Level sponsor, Renaissance Electronic Services, as they have provided us with invaluable mentors and repurposed computers. Thanks are also due to another high ranking sponsor, Jackson Systems. In addition to financial support, they have provided food and electronic devices for the team. The restaurants that host our Dine and Donates also support us in many ways and are always growing in number. Our newer ones include IHOP and Portillos. Jagers, one of our team favorites, makes specialized flyers for us and most of their employees recognize our red shirts on site.

To aid in the process of accepting and using donations, we became a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization. Before we gained this status, we had to go through a lengthy process to use money through our school account. Last year the teams purchasing approval process had to go through a minimum of five people in the high school. This became a problem with deadlines, most notably delaying robot part arrivals. Our head coach worked with a CPA associated with the team to become 501(c)(3) certified. After this process was finished, the team only had to go through two individuals associated with the school to get our parts. This greatly decreased the time it would take to receive parts and it made it easier to work with other businesses and potential sponsors.

***“With great power there must also come great responsibility!” -Stan Lee***

Team 1529, the CyberCards, value each other, our community, and our sponsors. The team creates a sense of belonging in the school and community. We become self-confident servant leaders who are college or career ready. Mentors motivate students to go beyond what they believe themselves capable of. Our plan to reach for the stars is based on the vision to belong, become, and go beyond to future adventures.