

September 12 was a great day for your GCS cross country Warriors! We hosted the first invitational in the history of the school. We had nine different schools in attendance, plus a good number of unattached runners. If it wasn't for phase 3 Covid restrictions, we likely could've had 30 schools.

Your middle school girls took first place as a team. Kaitlyn Harper led the team and the race, finishing first overall. Four GCS middle school girls finished in the top ten and earned medals (Kaitlyn, Claudia Ann Corbin, Georgia Babish and Beth Vogan).

Your middle school boys finished second overall behind a very strong team from Jefferson Forest. Jed Derrick led the Warriors finishing 4th overall. Ezekiel Fitzgerald and Sterling Wissler finished 8th and 9th respectively, earning medals. New runner Caleb Cashion just missed medaling, finishing in 11th place overall.

Your varsity girls team finished second behind the Western Albemarle varsity girls team which ran under the name "Crozet Crew." Maddie Harper led the Warriors finishing fifth overall. Jessica Dryer also medaled in 10th place. Savannah Jones ended up just outside of the medal places, finishing in 12th.

Your varsity boys team finished second in a very close race with VACA rival Regents School of Charlottesville. Aidan Ivers paced the Warriors finishing seventh overall with Sam Vogan not far behind in eighth.

On September 26 the Grace middle school and varsity cross-country teams competed at the Christian Heritage Academy private school invitational in Rocky Mount, Virginia.

All four teams achieved terrific results despite not having all runners present at this race.

The girls varsity team, competing with only five runners, finished first place overall, winning the team championship. Four of the girls finished in the top 10 and earned medals and all five finished in the top 14. It took a total team effort and I am extremely proud of Maddie Harper, Jessica Dryer, Savannah Jones, Rebekah Cashion, and Jenna Flemming.

The boys and girls middle school teams both finished second place as a team. On the boys side, Jed Derrick (2nd) and Sterling Wisler (9th) finished top 10 and earned medals. On the girl side Grace put three girls in the top five, Kaitlyn Harper (2nd), Claudia Ann Corbin (4th) and Georgia Babish (5th).

A majority of the boys team was unable to race due to COVID quarantine and as such Grace was unable to field a full scoring team. Aidan Ivers and Richard Jones represented the school well, however, with Aidan earning a medal with a 10th place finish.

On October 3 the varsity and middle school teams competed at the Fork Union Invitational. Your GCS Middle School Girls are the Fork Union Invitational Champs - this was the first time Grace has ever had a team finish first in that meet ever! Middle School boys were second and varsity girls were the fifth overall team!

The next weekend, October 10, was another great day for your GCS cross country teams! Grace hosted its second invitational of this fall at Coyner Springs Park in Waynesboro. Both boys and girls middle school teams took first place!!

Grace's middle school boys dominated despite not having one of our better runners present. Four middle school boys finished in the top 5 to help Grace cruise to a first place finish. Jed Derrick was 2nd, Zeke Fitzgerald was a close 3rd, Caleb Cashion was 4th, and Aiden Weaber 5th.

The girls were equally as good. Kaitlyn Harper won the race and Claudia Ann Corbin and Georgia Babish also earned medals by finishing top ten.

On the varsity side, the girls finished 2nd in the team race to Western Albemarle. Maddie Harper and Jessica Dryer earned medals with top 10 finishes. The boys were 3rd behind Regents and overall team champ Fork Union Military Academy. Aidan Ivers earned a medal finishing top 10.

The final race of the cross country season is this weekend on Oct 24 when Grace hosts the VACA State Championship races at Coyner Spring Park. Unfortunately due to COVID Phase 3 restriction non family member spectators are not allowed during the races. Wish your runners good luck!