



Northwest Homeschool Athletic Cooperative
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Dear Friends:

The Northwest Nighthawks provides junior and senior high homeschooled students the opportunity to participate together in interscholastic athletics, giving student-athletes a true competitive team experience while fostering relationships among participants, their families, and the local community. We are an entirely volunteer-run, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

We began 2019 with our 4th season of **track & field** with a team of 46 student-athletes, our largest team yet. We offered sprints, distance, throws, jumps, and relays. Our 6th **cross country running** season brought 42 runners to our team, several of the new ones being younger siblings who had been eagerly awaiting their turn. Most new team members have no athletic experience, and they frequently express how much they enjoy being part of a team.

More highlights:

- **Team Academic Excellence Recognition** from the MN State High School Coaches' Association and dozens of MSHSL Spotlight on Scholarship individual **student-athlete awards**.
- **Team community service** including the Hanover Harvest Festival, Corcoran Night to Unite, and Hanover Lions events.
- 9 student-athletes received **President's Volunteer Service Awards**.
- One **Track & Field State Championship qualifier** earned **All-State** recognition; 9 total athletes earned **All-State Academic honors** through regular-season performances and GPA.
- 3 **Cross Country State Championship qualifiers**; one who also earned **All-State** honors, and all 3 earned **All-State Academic** honors.
- **Family events** including a fun run for younger siblings, organized by our student-athletes.

Ongoing team expenses include equipment, facility rentals (especially in unusually inclement weather), uniforms, race fees, league dues, insurance, incentives and awards, coach training, team events, etc.; but activity fees only partially offset this.

The kids are committed to their team and work hard to serve the local community. Hands-on fundraising efforts help; but beyond that, we rely on team families, friends, and local organizations to help fill the gaps. Everything is run by volunteers, so your donation directly benefits student-athletes. We value building relationships in the community and would love your support.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jennifer Swanson ~ Athletic Director, Assistant Coach, and Track/CC Mom
<http://www.northwestnighthawks.com> or find us on Facebook @nighthawkathletics

P.S. Track & field begins March 9! Our fundraising goal for 2020 to cover both sports (track & field and cross country) is \$4500. Suggested sponsorship levels are listed on the enclosed form, *but we would greatly appreciate any amount you can offer; all contributions will be recognized.*

Enclosures: *Crow River News* articles, Sponsor Benefit chart



The medalists for placing first to sixth at the sub-section track and field meet from the Northwest Nighthawk home school team included back row from left- Luke Swanson, Grant Olson, Jeremiah Gavin, Grant Olson and Phillip Kippley. Middle row- AJ Ulwelling, Anna Kuhn, Abi Johnson, Margaret Myskowski, Mary Ana Plotts and Seth Calcammuggio. Front row- Sebastian Michael, Jerilynn Simmer, Erika Swanson, Kimbel Linebaugh, Joe Winters and Isaac Winters.

Home School track team sends record number to section finals

By **DAVE PEDERSEN**
Crow River News Sports

The Northwest Nighthawk home school track and field program qualified eight athletes to the Section 5A meet at St. John's University on Wednesday of this week, after this issue went to press.

"It might not sound like much, but this is twice as many as last year and is a big deal for our team," said coach Kirk Swanson. "Our girls placed fifth with our highest sub-section point total ever (twice as much as last year) and our boys tied for fourth, also with our highest subsection point total ever."

The seven-team sub-section meet was conducted at Maple Lake. For the girls senior Erika Swanson defended her sub-section titles in both the 1600 and 3200. Junior Jerilynn Simmer placed second in the 300 hurdles.

Sophomore Abi Johnson was third in the 400, setting a new team record. Junior Margaret Myskowski placed third in the 3200 with a personal record.

Sophomore Anna Kuhn set a new team record in the 100 to finish fifth, just missing a spot in the finals. The top four individuals in each event advanced.

For the boys, ninth grader Luke Swanson won the 3200. Junior Grant Olson set a new team record in the 800, placing fourth. Ninth-grader Jeremiah Gavin placed second in the 1600.

The second place boys 4x800 relay set a new team record with Phillip Kippley, Gavin, Olson and Swanson. Senior AJ Ulwelling placed fifth in the 1600, a place shy of making it to the finals.



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SPORTS



The Northwest Nighthawk home school boys cross country team captured the title at last week's Mora Invitational. Pictured from left- Josiah Simmer, Jeremiah Gavin, Sebastian Michael, Will Hutchinson, Seth Calcamuggio, Luke Swanson and Joe Winters.

Home school cross country team wins first invitational meet

By **DAVE PEDERSEN**
Crow River News Sports

It was literally a sweet victory for the first place boys Northwest Nighthawks home school cross country team at last week's Mora Invitational. Winners received cookies instead of medals.

That means, unless the cookies are frozen, the team won't have much to show for winning the first invitational meet in the four-year history of the program that involves area home school students from the Crow River News coverage area.

"Our numbers are about the same as in the past couple of years, but our increased experience

as coaches and athletes has really benefited us," said coach Kirk Swanson.

The entire home school team did well at all levels, with three Nighthawks winning individual events, two at the Junior High level. Many course, season and lifetime best times were recorded.

The boys placed its four meet scorers in the top 15 in a field of 15 teams. Three sophomores led the way with Luke Swanson first, Jeremiah Gavin fifth, Sebastian Michael eighth and ninth-grader Seth Calcamuggio. Other runners were ninth-grader Will Hutchinson (55) and Joe Winters (65).

There was a sign that the boys team could be

high achievers after taking second place out of 11 teams at the Rockford Invitational to open the season a week prior.

The Nighthawks varsity girls placed seventh. Senior Margaret Myskowski placed fifth, followed by Amanda Calcamuggio (37), Sylvia Michael (46), Marielle Chamberlain (51), Bella Gavin (56), Siena Michael (61) and Mary Ana Plotts (66).

Seventh-grader Mark Swanson won the boys middle school race. Eighth-grader Lydia Myskowski won the girls middle school event with Naomi Chernyvasky second. The girls placed first out of seven middle school teams.