

## Varsity Cross Country Makes it to State Championships

By Halle Battjes and Rosa Zendejas | October 31, 2019



This past Saturday, October 26th, the boys and girls cross country teams competed in the 2019 D2 regionals at Allendale High School. The two teams competed against 13 schools such as: Spring Lake, Unity Christian, Sparta, Grand Rapids Christian, and West Catholic.

The boys and girls teams both placed third, 118 points and 81 points respectively, qualifying for the MHSAA State Championship at the Michigan International Speedway this Friday, November 2nd. Congratulations to the two teams, and special shoutouts to Cris Perez finishing in 11th place, Sophia Dipiazza in 6th place, and Kori Bauman in 4th place.

We interviewed two of the three boys cross country team's captains, Joe Fordney (senior), Dakota Riemersma (senior), to bring attention to the upcoming state championships.

*Do you think the team achieved their goals this season?*

Dakota: Our biggest goal was making it to state. The boys haven't gone to state since 2009.

Joe: That's right, Dakota.

*Who is the team MVP?*

Joe: You know what? Nathan Terbeek.

Dakota: Yeah, he was our first guy in a few of these meets. He improved a lot this season.

Joe: Great guy.



*Do you plan to continue cross in college / after high school?*

Dakota: Not a chance

Joe: If I get recruited, if I want to go all the way to Kentucky to run then sure but otherwise no.

*What was your guys' best meet?*

Joe: Probably the MSU race.

Dakota: MSU invitational. We managed to beat Grand Rapids Christian. At the time they were ranked fourth in the state while we were ranked around eleventh. Everyone ran a good race.

*Is there a team you lost against you think you should have beat?*

Joe: Spring Lake for sure.

Dakota: Definitely Spring Lake. We lost to them twice, but both times we didn't have our best squad, so that's our excuse. We'll get them at states though!

*Best memory from this season?*

Dakota: Driving the trail carts after regionals. We love being able to help out the team.

Joe: Cross country is a team sport.

*Finally, what is one lesson that cross country has taught you?*

Joe: Run fast, don't get last.

Dakota: Enough said.