

University School Virtual Meet
August 28th and 29th, 2020

August 15th, 2020

Dear Northeast Ohio Coaches and Runners,

Unprecedented challenges call for creative solutions, and we hope we've found one in University School's first ever virtual invitational. We wanted to create this meet for runners who may not be able to compete with other teams in person yet or who may find themselves in a situation where there are no open meets nearby. A virtual meet can never entirely recreate the thrill of an in-person meet, but it does offer competition with real trophies and ribbons and T-shirts as well as a chance for teams to see where they stand early in the season.

The rules are fairly simple and straightforward. Teams run a 5k by themselves on a course of their choosing. Coaches time their runners and enter times into a shared Excel spreadsheet. That spreadsheet is then submitted to Baum's Page (by me) and the meet is scored. Winners (teams and individuals) are determined by time.

Course terrain will differ, but the competition will still be real, and everyone will be running the same 5k distance. Time reporting and course measurement will be on the honor code, but we trust all coaches and runners will conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship.

There will be a girls race and a boys race (if coaches choose to divide their runners up into varsity, JV, and/or open heats, that is fine, but times will be judged as a collective under "girls" and "boys"). The top 20 girl finishers will get meet T-shirts, and girl finishers 21-30 will get ribbons. The top 20 boy finishers will get meet T-shirts, and boy finishers 21-30 will get ribbons. The top 3 girl teams will get trophies and the top 3 boy teams will get trophies. All trophies, T-shirts, and ribbons will be mailed.

Teams may run on Friday, August 28th or Saturday, August 29th at whatever time suits their schedule. Some teams may choose to run on the 28th if they have a lot of runners taking the SAT on the 29th. All times must be entered by 8:00pm on Saturday, August 29th. Time should be entered as four digits separated by a colon. For instance, if a runner runs her 5k in 20 minutes and 30 seconds, the coach would enter "20:30" into the spreadsheet. Winners will be announced on Sunday, August 30th. All teams must register for the meet on Baum's Page by Thursday, August 27th at 8:00pm.

We are asking for a \$20 contribution per school to help cover the costs of trophies, T-shirts, and ribbons. Checks should be made payable to University School and mailed to: University School Upper School, Attn. Jack Somers, 2785 SOM Center Road, Hunting Valley, OH 44022.

Thank you so much for your interest in giving our student-athletes a chance to compete, and please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jack Somers
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