



Head Varsity Cross Country Coach

Grand Rapids Catholic Central High School

Application Deadline: May 6, 2026

Position Start: Summer 2026

Grand Rapids Catholic Central High School is seeking a dedicated, passionate, and mission-driven individual to serve as the Head Varsity Cross Country Coach for our boys and girls programs. This position is an opportunity to lead a tradition-rich program while shaping the lives of student-athletes both on and off the course.

Position Overview

The Head Varsity Cross Country Coach is responsible for leading and developing a competitive, faith-centered program that emphasizes excellence in athletics, academics, and character. The ideal candidate is, first and foremost, a strong leader for our young men and women—someone who establishes high standards, demands accountability, and consistently inspires student-athletes to reach their full potential.

This individual must be committed to building and sustaining a successful program while developing individual talent. They will foster spiritual growth, promote academic achievement, and guide student-athletes in becoming disciplined, responsible, and faith-filled young men and women.

Key Responsibilities

- Provide leadership, vision, and direction for the entire cross country program (varsity and sub-varsity levels)
- Develop and implement a comprehensive training program focused on individual and team success
- Establish and maintain a positive, disciplined, and competitive team culture
- Serve as a role model of integrity, sportsmanship, and professionalism
- Support the mission and Catholic identity of Grand Rapids Catholic Central High School
- Foster spiritual development and incorporate faith-based values into the program
- Promote academic success and monitor student-athlete academic progress

- Organize and conduct effective practices, meets, and off-season training programs
- Supervise and mentor assistant coaches
- Develop long-term program growth, including youth and feeder program engagement
- Communicate effectively with student-athletes, parents, administration, and staff
- Be able to set-up a course and run a Cross Country meet and invite
- Ensure compliance with school, conference, and MHSAA rules and regulations
- Manage team logistics, including scheduling, transportation, equipment, and budgeting
- Promote the program within the school and community
- Encourage multi-sport participation and collaborate with other athletic programs
- Maintain accurate records, statistics, and program history
- Provide a safe and inclusive environment for all student-athletes

Qualifications

- Previous coaching experience at the high school or collegiate level preferred
- Demonstrated ability to lead, mentor, and develop student-athletes
- Strong organizational, communication, and leadership skills
- Commitment to the values and mission of Catholic education
- Knowledge of cross country training principles and program development
- Ability to build and sustain a competitive and positive team culture
- CPR/First Aid certification (or willingness to obtain)
- Must meet all MHSAA and school coaching requirements
- Availability for practices, competitions, and off-season responsibilities

Preferred Attributes

- Experience building or growing an athletic program
- Background in distance running or track and field
- Ability to connect with and motivate high school student-athletes
- Strong emphasis on character development and leadership
- Willingness to be actively involved in the school community

Application Process

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest, resume, and references to Mike Jacob, Athletic Director at Catholic Central High School - mikejacob@grcatholiccentral.org

Grand Rapids Catholic Central High School is committed to developing the whole person - mind, body, and spirit - and seeks a coach who will embrace and advance that mission through the cross country program.