

## **MSHS Nordic Results for Giants Ridge Invite, Minnesota**

With over 1200 skiers participating, the Giants Ridge Invite in Biwabik, Minnesota is the biggest single day high school Nordic race in the nation and showcases most of the top junior talent in the Midwest. Five kilometer Classical races, delayed an hour due to the cold overnight temperatures, kicked off the day. In the girl's varsity classic division, sophomore Ellen Wiitala posted the top MSHS finish with 12<sup>th</sup> place against a very strong field, including division winner, senior Jesse Diggins of Stillwater HS, Minnesota, who was recently named to the USSA World Junior Cross Country Team.

The MSHS Boys Varsity team skied to a very strong 14<sup>th</sup> place out of 79 teams, led by junior Stig Fjeldheim (25<sup>th</sup> place, freestyle division) and freshman Blake Murray (44<sup>th</sup> place, classic division). Other MSHS varsity skiers placing in the event were Mike McFadden (57<sup>th</sup> place, classic), Zeb Johnston (64<sup>th</sup> place, classic), Eric Wagner (57<sup>th</sup> place, freestyle), and Shayle Murray, (83<sup>rd</sup> place, freestyle).

MSHS Junior varsity competitors included Marty Gray (18<sup>th</sup> place, boys freestyle), Andrew Twohey (23<sup>rd</sup>, boys classical); Kayla Argeropoulos (52<sup>nd</sup>, girls classical), and Micah Argeropoulos (103<sup>rd</sup>, boys freestyle).

Superiorland Ski Club prep team skier, 7<sup>th</sup> grader Mike Wiitala also competed at the event, placing 67th in the JV boys freestyle.

The team competes next weekend at Houghton on the Michigan Tech and Chassell trails for the Keweenaw Nordic Festival, which includes the final races of the Great Lakes Division National Qualifier series.

(Story by [skinnyski.com](http://skinnyski.com) and Superiorland Ski Club)



MSSH skier Ellen Wiitala starts the 5 kilometer classic race at Giants Ridge Invite, January 9th. Wiitala finished 12<sup>th</sup> out of 195 racers in the girl's varsity classic division. (Photo by Ursula Stock)