



Caprock Academy to Bring High School Ice Hockey to the Grand Valley

June 13, 2023

High school hockey players all over the Grand Valley, no matter which school they attend, will soon have a program to aspire to. On June 13, the Caprock Academy Board of Directors unanimously approved the addition of Ice Hockey to the roster of interscholastic sport offerings in Grand Junction.

The newly minted team will play for Caprock Academy High School against such schools as Battle Mountain, Crested Butte, Durango, Glenwood Springs, Steamboat Springs, and Summit. The puck will drop this upcoming 2023-24 winter season at the JV level with hope to join the varsity ranks in the next scheduling cycle starting with the 2024-25 school year. Games will be held at the River City Sportplex, which also hosts the Grand Junction River Hawks Ice Hockey Club and the CMU Men's Hockey Team. Jon Larson, general manager of the River City Sportplex shared that, "It is important for us to have high school hockey as one of the many programs that utilize our wonderful facility. It is in the best interest of all of us to have youth hockey, high school hockey and CMU available. We look forward to having high school hockey become one of our flagship programs and have made the commitment to do whatever we can to help them succeed."

Caprock Academy's Head of School, Andrew Collins said "This partnership between the Grand Junction Hockey Club and Caprock Academy just makes sense. Both organizations have similar values and goals, and we really feel that in working together we can create opportunities for kids and families that otherwise wouldn't be possible." Mr. Collins added about the opportunity to host students from other high schools in a Caprock Academy program, "We rely on the district to provide lots of extra-curricular options for our students that we either can't afford or otherwise can't organize, and this is our chance to take a part of that responsibility in a way that can support and unite students and families across the valley, regardless of which school they attend during the day." District 51 Athletic Director Paul Cain added, "We are grateful that Caprock Academy has provided this opportunity for student-athletes in the Grand Valley to participate in CHSAA sponsored hockey and wish them the best of luck with this new program."

This December, the Grand Valley will have the opportunity to cheer on a high school hockey team that will be composed of boys and girls coming from all 5 high schools. Hockey Director for River City and the Grand Junction Hockey Club Jackson Wilson added about the possibility of the partnership and getting high school hockey into the valley, "Since Grand Junction Hockey

Club was formed more than 15 years ago, we have not been able to sustain hockey for ages 15 or older. Getting a high school program in the Grand Valley is such an accomplishment for keeping local kids developing their skills here in Grand Junction. Through development in CHSAA, our local hockey players will be able to showcase their skills on home ice and bring a higher level of competition to the Grand Valley.”

For more information, contact: Dan Salazar, d.salazar@caprockacademy.org
Andrew Collins, a.collins@caprockacademy.org