

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Caprock Academy Knowledge Bowl Team Qualifies for State Tournament**

*Seventh State appearance reflects sustained academic excellence and student dedication*

#### **Grand Junction, CO — February 11, 2026**

Caprock Academy is proud to announce that its Knowledge Bowl team has qualified for the Colorado State Knowledge Bowl Tournament following a strong performance at the Regional Tournament held on January 31 at Grand Junction High School. The State Tournament will take place March 16–17 in Greeley, Colorado, marking the program’s seventh State qualification since its founding.

The team will continue competition in advance of State with upcoming tournaments on February 14 at Grand Junction High School and February 28 in Cedaredge, building momentum as they prepare for the State Championship.

This year’s State-qualifying team includes Jake O., Aiden G., Will V., Josh J., Mikayla S., Owen R., Lucy H., Ada M., Charlotte M., Aiyla B., and Lennox W. whose dedication, preparation, and teamwork have defined the season.

Founded during the 2019–2020 school year by Coach Yarina, Caprock Academy’s Knowledge Bowl program has grown into one of the most consistently high-performing academic teams in the state. Reflecting on the program’s early days and continued success, Coach Yarina shared, *“From the very beginning, the goal was to create a space where students could challenge themselves, think deeply, and grow in confidence. Seeing this team qualify for State again speaks to their commitment and love of learning.”*

Since the 2021–2022 season, the team has been coached jointly by Ms. Yarina and Mrs. Salazar, continuing a tradition of academic rigor and collaboration. Coach Salazar emphasized the students’ work behind the scenes, noting, *“We are proud of our team’s growth and dedication this season. Knowledge Bowl is a celebration of learning, and these students exemplify that whether in the classroom, at practice, or in competition. They have an excitement and thirst for knowledge which is infectious.”*

Caprock Academy’s Knowledge Bowl teams have earned numerous state and national recognitions over the years, including multiple State Championship titles and repeated National podium finishes:

- 2020–2021: 2nd Place, State (2A); 2nd Place, Nationals (Small Schools)
- 2021–2022: 1st Place, State (1A); 2nd Place, Nationals (Small Schools)
- 2022–2023: 1st Place, State (1A); 5th Place, Nationals (Small Schools)

- 2023–2024: 2nd Place, State (1A); 2nd Place, Nationals (Small Schools)
- 2024–2025: 1st Place, State (2A)

This year also marked a milestone for the program, as Caprock Academy hosted its largest Knowledge Bowl tournament to date, welcoming 10 schools and 22 teams to campus.

Head of School Matt Diers praised both the students and the long-standing strength of the program, stating, *“Caprock Academy’s Knowledge Bowl team exemplifies what academic excellence looks like when students are challenged, supported, and encouraged to pursue knowledge for its own sake. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments and the character they demonstrate through academic competition.”*

As the team prepares for its upcoming tournaments and the State Championship, Caprock Academy celebrates not only the results, but the culture of scholarship, perseverance, and teamwork that continues to define the program.

### **About Caprock Academy**

Caprock Academy is a tuition-free, K–12 public charter school in Grand Junction, Colorado, committed to Character, Accountability, and rigorous Academics. Through a whole-student approach rooted in classical principles, Caprock Academy prepares students for success in college, career, and life. Learn more at [www.caprockacademy.org](http://www.caprockacademy.org).

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