

Dear parents,

I hope you had an amazing summer! It is hard to believe that school is here, and that means it's almost basketball season. I cannot express how excited I am to get back in the gym and start working toward a conference title. This offseason, our staff has been working hard on developing our youth programs. I am excited to announce that we have now hired a youth coordinator coach Ryan DeKuiper. Ryan is going to be in charge of organizing and running our three major youth programs:

1. Summer Camps (3rd-8th Grade) (SUMMER)
2. Community ed (3rd-6th Grade) (FALL)
3. The Rock Program (3rd-6th Grade) (WINTER/SPRING)

Building a championship level program is the ultimate goal, and these three youth programs will be the roots. I have complete confidence that Ryan will take these three programs to new heights. As you know hard work and commitment to the game is what separates kids who excel and kids who do not. Thank you so much for believing in your child and providing them the support to make a commitment to these programs and the game of basketball.

Please visit our website www.rockfordgirlsbasketball.com. Click on the link Youth Programs, and there you will find information regarding the three programs.

One important note, this season we will no longer be offering FALL 7th and 8th grade Rock teams. There were several reasons that factored into this decision. First, it is against MHSAA rules for a high school basketball coach to organize this type of program during that time of year. In addition, finding someone who can run this, particularly a volunteer has proven to be difficult. The one benefit will be that your daughter can now spread her wings and try out several different elite organizations throughout west Michigan area!

Here are some programs that I would recommend:

1. Have your child recruit some friends and sign up at the courthouse! Here you will find fun leagues where your child can participate in a competitive atmosphere. Here is the contact number: 616.878.7600. <https://www.thecourthouseac.com/>
2. Try out for an AAU team.

Here are a few options:

MBA
<http://michiganbasketballacademy.com/>
616.608.5905

West Michigan Drive
<https://www.westmichigandrive.com/>

616.329.3289

Grand Rapids Storm

<https://www.grstormbasketball.com/>

3. Try out for the middle school team. Tryouts are right after Christmas break, and signups will be in the main office.

As always, reach out for any questions, and GO RAMS!