

Muskegon Elite Hockey Academy

A Partnership of:

Orchard View Schools

The Muskegon Lumberjacks

Mercy Health Arena



 **MERCY HEALTH | Arena**

RAISING THE NEXT LEVEL OF MUSKEGON LUMBERJACKS

INTRODUCTION TO MUSKEGON ELITE HOCKEY ACADEMY

The Muskegon Area has a long history of producing world-class athletes. Our local athletic programs have helped developed scholar-athletes that have competed at the highest collegiate levels, and well as professional athletes in nearly every major sport. For decades, our community has focused its attention on sports like football and basketball – producing several Mr. Basketball and Mr. Football winners, hundreds of All-State selections, and many Division-1 and Division-2 athletic-based scholarships. Beginning in 2020, Muskegon’s efforts to build superior, elite athletes is taking another great step forward to focus on building world-class ice hockey players.

The 2021-22 school year will be the second year of the Muskegon Elite Hockey Academy. The partnership between The Muskegon Lumberjacks of the United States Hockey League, Orchard View Schools, and Mercy Health Arena, will bring world class coaches, facilities, and educators together to build elite players, high-quality students, and strong leaders.

IMPACTS



The 2020-21 season brought many competitive advantages to our participants. At times, the school had as many as 25 students per session. Other times, session attendance was limited to 3-5 students. The access to group skills and skating lessons as well as significant one-on-one coaching time and individual free time on the ice produced great on-ice results for our students. Our 2020-21 Squirt B team is our premier

example. Seven players from the team spent significant time with Muskegon Elite Hockey Academy coaches throughout the season. Coming into the 2020-21 season, the team just had finished a season where they had a combined record of 6 wins and 30 losses. Led by our students, the 2020-21 season brought the Muskegon Junior Lumberjacks their first ever MAHA State Championship, and an overall record of 27 wins, 7 losses, and 3 ties.

FACILITIES

Student Players will spend 2 hours each Wednesday in on-ice instruction, as well as 90 minutes off-ice instruction. Students will also have optional unstructured ice time for 60 minutes prior to the start of each instruction day. The Mercy Health Arena features one USA-Hockey regulation ice sheet and a 10,000 square foot off ice facility with shooting stations, weight training, turf training, and one skating treadmill. The ice facilities are shared with the Muskegon Lumberjacks, and students will have significant opportunities to train alongside some the best amateur hockey players in the world. When students are not practicing or working out, they will have access to teachers and classroom space. This space is provided through Orchard View Schools’ adjacent Alternative Education Classroom at Muskegon Community College’s Downtown Campus. The combination virtual and classroom learning experience will be valuable to students focused on playing NCAA-level hockey, as the program has been designed to meet the admittance requirements of traditional Division 1 schools.



COACHES:

Coaching will be provided by Bill Zalba. Bill is the Hockey director of the Muskegon Junior Lumberjacks, and recently served as the head coach of the Reeths Puffer Varsity Hockey Team. Bill is a native of Thorold, Ontario, and started as a figure skater before being drafted in the Ontario Hockey League. Following his time in the OHL, Bill played professional hockey in the United Hockey League in Kansas City before being traded to the Muskegon Fury. Bill also spent time with the Kalamazoo Wings. Bill is committed to growing Muskegon's hockey programming to an elite level.



Bill will utilize a number of guest coaches throughout the season, including members of the Muskegon Lumberjacks coaching staff; lead by Head Coach Mike Hamilton. Mike Hamilton has led the Lumberjacks since the 2018-19 season. Hamilton, who is the father of former Lumberjack captain Trevor Hamilton, is a native of Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan. Prior to joining the Lumberjacks, he coached youth hockey for 18+ years as part of the Honeybaked youth hockey program, and also spent time coaching with Compuware and Little Caesar's. Hamilton played collegiately for Minnesota State University, and played junior hockey for the Detroit Freeze. "My love for the game keeps me excited about coaching," said Hamilton. "My drive and passion is to give players the support they need to become better players. I'm here to not only support the players, but also the staff."



HOCKEY OPPORTUNITIES:

The opportunities provided via our partnership with the Muskegon Lumberjacks are invaluable. Players will follow the same workout schedule as the USHL team; they will share some of the same USHL coaches; they will share the same USHL facilities; they will be held to the same high team standards. If your child's goal is to play at the USHL level, this partnership will help prepare them for the expectations of elite organizations and coaching staffs.

The program is designed to allow students to continue playing with their current/preferred amateur hockey associations. There is no obligation to join a specific youth hockey organization. The Muskegon Elite Hockey Academy may field independent teams from time-to-time at various age groups, including U12, U14, U16 and U18 levels. All teams associated with the Muskegon Elite Hockey Academy will play a schedule that mirrors the Muskegon Lumberjacks of the USHL. When the Muskegon Lumberjacks are hosting an opponent at the Mercy Health Arena, our elite teams will also be hosting opponents. This will give our players as well as the opponent players access to observe USHL-level scouting, game preparation, and game execution. The connection to the Muskegon Lumberjacks sets us apart from hockey schools.

MUSKEGON ELITE HOCKEY ACADEMY

SYSTEMS - SKILLS - STRENGTH - FLOW

September - April
Schedule

On-Ice 9am - 9:50am

PEAK 10:15am - 11:00am

Lunch 11am - 11:30am

Chalk Talk

On-Ice 12pm - 12:50pm

28 SESSION PROGRAM:

8 monthly installments of \$196 with
automatic payment via CC

10% Off if paid in full

15% Off to Junior Jack and Chiefs Youth Program

DETAILS

28 Sessions

56hrs On-Ice Instruction

21hrs Off-Ice instruction

14hrs Chalk Talk

Jersey/Socks/Gitch
included

91hrs Total Hours of
Instruction

FULL COST: \$1,575

14 SESSION PROGRAM:

2 installments of \$437.50 with
automatic payment via CC

5% off if paid in full

10% off to Junior Jack and Chiefs Youth Program

DETAILS

14 Sessions

28hrs On-Ice Instruction

10hrs Off-Ice Instruction

7hrs Chalk Talk

FULL COST: \$875

CONTACT:

info@mercyhealtharena.com