

Virtual School Helps Wildcats Hockey Player Get Shot at Pros *Balances School and Sports with Grapevine-Colleyville ISD iUniversity Prep*

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Wichita Falls – When he’s not taking shots at the goal, Wichita Falls Wildcat Jeffrey Baum (J.B.) is completing his course work his senior year of high school online through Grapevine-Colleyville ISD iUniversity Prep. The 18-year-old hopes for a professional hockey career, and is the only player on the Wildcats team attending school. His parents enrolled him in the virtual academy two years ago when they realized traditional school would not allow him to meet the travel and time requirements necessary to seriously pursue hockey. Baum lives with a host family in Wichita Falls, and in the last two years has lived in New York City, and British Columbia, Canada. He spends four or five hours a day training and practicing. Additionally, Baum hits the road with the team several times a month. His parents want to help him make his dream a reality, and had tried other alternatives to traditional school. “J.B. attended private school, and we tried home schooling, but iUniversity Prep is the best fit for our family. My wife doesn’t have to worry about making lesson plans, and the teachers are available around the clock for students,” said Baum’s father, Jeffrey Baum.

Grapevine-Colleyville ISD’s iUniversity Prep, a tuition-free, state-accredited virtual learning school, is a unique option for students who are high-performing in athletics, academics, or are looking for an alternative to bricks and mortar schools. All students living in Texas who are in fifth through 12th grades are eligible to enroll in iUniversity Prep. Students can attend class, take tests and complete course work from any location as long as they have access to a mobile device and an internet connection.

iUniversity Prep’s began its second school year in August, and the public school has already received acclaim from the Texas Education Agency. “We’re thrilled the Texas Education Agency rated iUniversity Prep as the highest performing public virtual school in the state. All of our certified teachers are hardworking, creative and dedicated to our students. Virtual education is a great option for families who are looking for a quality education that fits their lifestyle,” said Kaye Rogers, Ph.D., Grapevine-Colleyville ISD Director of Virtual Education.

Children in grades 5-8 are permitted to transfer into iUniversity Prep for the fall semester and beyond. Students in grades 9-12 can be placed on a wait list for spring enrollment. To register for iUniversity Prep call 855-779-7357 or visit www.iuniversityprep.org.

About iUniversity Prep

iUniversity Prep opened in August 2013 as GCISD’s newest school. The academy is a tuition-free, state-accredited online public school operated by Grapevine-Colleyville ISD and is one of only a handful of public virtual education solutions in the state offering elementary, middle and high school programs. It provides rigorous academics under the guidance of engaging instructors all within a collaborative school community. iUniversity Prep offers an inspiring, flexible learning environment that encourages and prepares students to be college and career ready by supporting learning through technology, fostering citizenship, and teaching the importance of mutual respect in a virtual environment. Enrollment for the 2014-2015 school year is open now. Visit iuniversityprep.org for more details.