

MIDDLE SCHOOL AHEAD! 22 COURSES ARE COMING IN 2019

Fall 2018

ACCESS

LAUNCH

THE VOICE OF VIRTUAL LEARNING IN MISSOURI

THE LAUNCH

Difference

Learn how Missouri teachers, statewide collaboration and expanded access are elevating the quality of virtual learning

Missouri

Legislative Update

Let Launch help you navigate Senate Bill 603

Introducing: **Launch**

Virtual course access for Missouri students, designed, developed and delivered by Missouri educators.

What is Launch?

Launch is Missouri's virtual school that was created as a solution for our state's course access issues. We understand that all Missouri school districts are not able to offer students equal course offerings, so we made it our goal to create top-notch courses online and make them available to districts statewide. Launch's digital development and curriculum departments partner to create online courses that are aligned to Missouri Learning Standards and delivered to online learners by high-quality Missouri educators. Launch is partnered with schools across the state and serves the needs of thousands of Missouri students.

Where can I learn more?

Our website, fueledbylaunch.com, is the best way to quickly learn more about who we are and what we offer. You'll find a full list of current course offerings as well as courses in the development process, and you can even view sample assignments. We can also send a couple of Launch team members to your district to talk to your leaders and see how we can help your students with course access issues. If you have specific questions you can't find online or would like to set up an appointment, you can contact our Marketing and Engagement Manager, Savannah Waszczuk, at 417-523-0417 or savannah@fueledbylaunch.com.

Launch: **Three Ways to Learn**

Launch delivers courses multiple ways to meet the needs of all Missouri learners.



Traditional Virtual

Launch's Traditional Virtual courses are perfect for those students who are looking to build flexibility into their schedules or take courses that aren't traditionally offered in their districts. Traditional Virtual courses are NCAA and MSHSAA approved and start and stop with our traditional calendar.



Credit Recovery

If a student has failed a class, they're eligible to make it up online with our Credit Recovery offerings. Credit Recovery offers Missouri learners a way to make-up credit with courses that are MSHSAA approved and have the benefit of flexible start dates. Priority standards are assessed at 80% mastery.



Credit Acquisition

What happens when students want to enroll in classes six weeks into the semester? They can start right away with our Credit Acquisition courses! Credit Acquisition helps students who transfer or re-enter mid-semester and offers credit with a pass or fail grade. Students get full course content with flexible course dates.

Staff Poll

Why do you believe in Launch?

The Launch Team

Dr. Ben Hackenwerth

Executive Director, Innovation and Information

I've seen a lot in my career, including students who struggle and students who excel far beyond their years. Launch provides access and options that can make a difference to students with varying needs.

Dr. Nichole Lemmon

Director, Blended Learning

Launch is 100% about students. I love that we've created a solution for every learner in the state, no matter where they live.

Rebekah Bartels

Launch Counselor

The students are my why. Everyone deserves a chance at earning a high school diploma, and Launch offers a non-traditional path that works.

Amanda Moskalew

Administrative Assistant

I like that we provide students statewide different chances at success.

Creative Services

Savannah Waszczuk

Manager, Marketing and Engagement

I went to a rural Missouri high school that only offered one AP course. I love how Launch provides small-town kids opportunities I never had.

Jared Chester

Design and Support Specialist

Because Launch makes it so easy for ALL students to access courses whenever they want.

Daniel McDonald

Videography and Photography

I do it for the kids. Making an impact in their lives through creativity is something I really enjoy.

Walker Smith

Videography and Photography

I believe in Launch because it empowers students to succeed.

Development

Amelia Horras

Coordinator, Digital Learning

I've spent my career working in alternative settings. Launch provides one more option for students to learn in a unique way.

Dr. Meghan Roe

Quality Assurance Specialist

Because we celebrate differences among learners. We make courses both challenging and encouraging for students with varying needs.

Nicki Dickson

Senior Digital Developer

Launch is everything I wanted as a student. The courses are online, and the teachers always communicate well with the students.

Linda Ayres

Senior Digital Developer

Launch provides students more choices in their academic studies, which results in more freedom in their hobbies and life in general.

Justin Thomas

Senior Digital Developer

I believe that Launch and virtual courses are the future of learning.

Brad Maples

Digital Developer

I love that we offer a true service to a growing number of Missouri communities by giving students more options.

Daniel Roche

Digital Developer

My brothers and I were all homeschooled for a bit, and my mom learned we all had different styles of learning. I love how Launch is agile in the way that we are able to meet each student where they are at.

Darren Rush

Programmer/Integrations Specialist

Launch provides students with more course options. I feel providing a diverse collection of courses helps students engage in learning.

Contact Us

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✉ email
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🌐 website

🐦 twitter



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What sets Launch apart from for-profit providers? Our director shares the details.

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Our website displays all you want to know about Launch—get a sneak peak, then log on!

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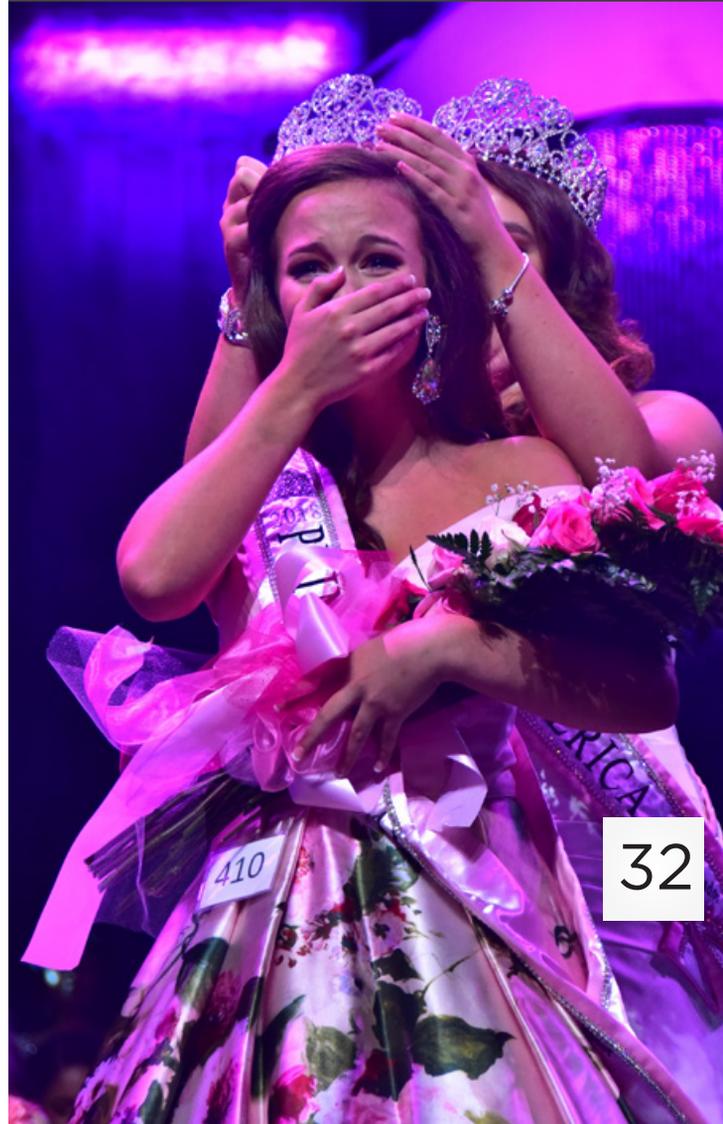
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The Rockwood School District meets the needs of more than 20,000 learners, and Launch helps. Learn how with a visit to Lafayette High.



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Republic High School began using Launch to meet the needs of one medically fragile student—today, the district has 77 students enrolled.



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Once Central High student Ian Irven became a primary caregiver, Mr. Darrin Ankrom helped him graduate with Launch and the Missouri Option program.



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← WHY I LAUNCH

Last summer, Republic High School student Kloey Monthei split her time between competing in pageants and completing Launch's PE I course online.

THE LAUNCH DIFFERENCE ↑

Missouri-certified teachers. Statewide collaboration. Access for all students, regardless of zip code. Learn how Launch's purpose-driven approach to virtual learning differentiates us from national, for-profit providers.



“Today Launch employs more than 60 Missouri-certified teachers who live and work in our own communities and school districts.”

Dr. Nichole Lemmon

Director’s **Note**

From the very beginning, Launch’s online courses were designed to stand apart from other online providers.

In January 2017, the call came. Dr. John Jungmann, superintendent of Springfield Public Schools, had a question: Could SPS Online expand to the state of Missouri and offer our online courses, designed in-house, to school districts across the state? The short answer was “yes,” then the work began. My immediate goal was to help set SPS Online, which would become Launch, apart from the low-quality providers I had seen used

in our own district and by colleagues across the state. What would make Launch different?

Two years later, that difference has never been more clear. We started seven years ago committed to using a teacher with every course. Today Launch employs more-than 60 Missouri-certified teachers who live and work in our own communities and school districts. Last year, Launch paid more than \$1.2 million in stipends

and benefits to educators committed to working with students. That’s a number to be proud of—and a number that would not be possible without districts committed to the number one asset we know our students need: a caring educator no matter the delivery method.

I’m often asked, “How is Launch different from our current online course provider?” This issue of *Access Launch* is dedicated to answering that question. From Rockwood’s more-than 21,000 students to Albany’s 400, districts are collaborating to find ways to meet student’s unique needs, and we believe that makes all the difference.

Dr. Nichole Lemmon
Director of Blended Learning



What's **Online**

Visit fueledbylaunch.com to learn more about our courses, explore our upcoming middle school catalog and see a complete list of our Missouri school district partners.



Explore Our Middle School Catalog.

While we offer more than 140 high school courses that are aligned to Missouri Learning Standards and taught by highly qualified Missouri teachers, we also have a middle school catalog in the works! Visit our website's "courses" section to explore more than two dozen middle school courses that will be available in 2019.

Learn How Launch Compares.

How do Launch's virtual courses compare to the courses you offer in your own district? You're free to find out! To dig into the details, visit the "courses" section on our website and select a course to see its Major Topics & Concepts—this is where you will see each course's Missouri Learning Standards broken down by unit.

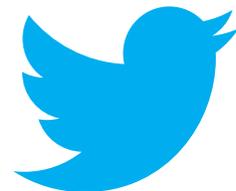
Discuss the Details With Your Team.

You know about Launch, but what about everyone else in your district? Use our website to help share what we can offer to you and your students! You'll find an informational video on Launch, a page of Frequently Asked Questions and a District Directory that lists all of our Missouri member districts. (Find a friend!)

Even More Online

Follow, Tweet and Retweet!

What's the best way to keep up with [@fueledbylaunch](https://twitter.com/fueledbylaunch)? By connecting with us on Twitter! Follow us to stay up to date with Launch announcements and offerings, learn where we are traveling, request a meeting or absorb fun facts and figures about virtual learning.



Subscribe. Scroll. Stay Informed.

We publish *Access Launch* three times a year, but there's a whole lot that happens in between issues! Subscribe to our blog to keep a pulse on all things Launch. The Launch Blog is also a great way to learn more about our teachers, our courses and our students, and you'll be the first to know any breaking news.

Superintendent's Note

Dr. John Jungmann touches on the importance of Missouri school districts coming together to resolve our state's course access issues.



Buzzwords in education are nothing new. Blended, personalized, technology-enhanced and flexible are just a few currently in rotation. As always, education trends will continue to come and go. We know this. But what will always remain are the students, parents and communities served by public education, and also our commitment to educate every learner who walks through our doors.

When we first began to conceptualize Launch more than 12 months ago, the challenge was to design online learning opportunities for all Missouri students. Launch was created for the students of Missouri, no matter their zip code. Now 103 districts strong, Launch is sending a message across the state: When we stand together and focus on high-quality learning opportunities for students, public education is at its best.

This year, Launch established an Advisory Council made up of more than 45 school districts. The goals of the council are to analyze current Launch trends, recommend future Launch development and participate in state-wide advocacy. We value our partners and collaborators who have joined us—you challenge us to make Launch better for all of Missouri's students.



Dr. John Jungmann

“Launch is sending a message across the state: When we stand together and focus on high-quality learning opportunities for students, public education is at its best.”

By the Numbers

As Launch adds new district partners statewide, our numbers are growing! Check out the latest stats that sum up our world of virtual learning.

1 IN 6

MISSOURI PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS USE LAUNCH



62 Adjunct Teachers



260,916

MO STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO LAUNCH



103

MEMBER DISTRICTS



22 Middle School Courses in 2019



3 FULL-TIME TEACHERS

Three Delivery Methods



147 LAUNCH COURSES

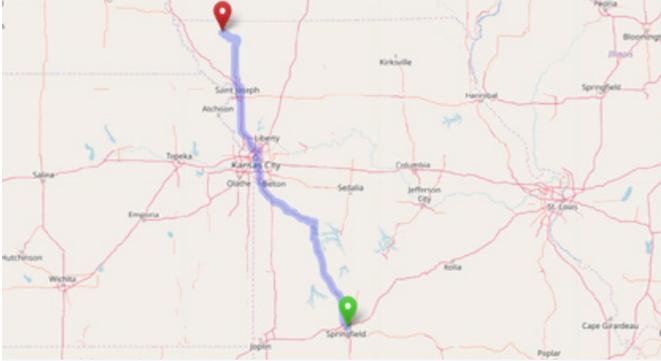


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AVERAGE STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO IN LAUNCH COURSES

Launch Letters

You talk, and we listen! Read on to see the latest notes we've received from Launch teachers, liaisons and students.



Access Request

"I first want to thank you both for driving to our little corner of the world to meet with us yesterday! Being able to visit and ask questions helped more than you know! In speaking with each of the proctors for our Launch classes, it looks like there are several students that would be very interested in the use of a Chromebook."

Lori Snead

School Counselor
West Nodaway R-I School District

This note was sent to Launch's Marketing & Engagement Manager, Savannah Waszczuk, after she and Amelia Horras visited West Nodaway High School. Launch team members visit schools as often as possible, both before they become partners and after we begin to work together! Ms. Snead also requested Chromebooks, which Launch provides to partner district students at no charge if there is a need.—Editor

Teacher, Phone Home

"I know, right! They called another student's parent, too! This made me happy. I don't know who is teaching ACT prep, but props to them!"

Kati Burkdoll

School Counselor
Ava High School

Ms. Burkdoll, a counselor at Ava High School, emailed this letter to Launch's Digital Learning Coordinator, Amelia Horras. The two were discussing a Launch teacher who called Ava parents and guardians during the beginning of the fall 2018 semester. Launch has a team of more than 60 highly qualified Missouri teachers, and they call home when students aren't logging in or have a grade lower than a C.—Editor

Summer Success Story, Student Edition

"Hopefully, you guys can contact my counselor about promoting summer school more—I think I was the only one in my whole school [who took a Launch class]. I enjoyed the experience of doing online classes!"

Trevor

Launch student
Pleasant Hope R-VI School District

Trevor emailed this note to Launch Counselor Rebekah Bartels after she provided him with his Launch transcript. We are happy to help spread the word to Trevor's classmates—Launch creates free customized marketing for partner districts! To order, contact Savannah Waszczuk at savannah@fueledbylaunch.com.—Editor



New? We're here for you!

"Thank you so much. I appreciate you folks making this so easy for us newbies!"

Albert Sandford

School Counselor
Neosho High School

Counselor Sandford of Neosho High School emailed this note to the Launch enrollment team after they helped him with an enrollment issue. Our Launch staff offers tech support from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. 7 days a week.—Editor

Contact Us

Do you want to learn more about how Launch can help your district and students with course access issues? Are you already a Launch member, and you want to share your experience with our magazine readers? We would love to hear from you! Contact savannah@fueledbylaunch.com with all questions, comments or visit requests.

Course Catalog

Launch's full course catalog offers Traditional Virtual, Credit Recovery and Credit Acquisition courses, all aligned to Missouri Learning Standards.

English Language Arts	Credits
Contemporary Literature ●	1.0
Creative Writing I	0.5
Creative Writing II	0.5
English I ●	1.0
English II ●	1.0
English III ●	1.0
English IV	1.0
Film as Literature I	0.5
Film as Literature II	0.5
Introductory Speech ●	0.5
Reading	1.0
English Language Arts 6 th Grade	
English Language Arts 7 th Grade	
English Language Arts 8 th Grade	

Practical Arts	Credits
Computer Applications	0.5
Digital Communications	0.5
Financial Accounting ●	1.0
Personal Finance ●	0.5
Web Design	0.5

Health & Physical Ed.	Credits
Health	0.5
Physical Education I	0.5
Physical Fitness	0.5
Health 6 th Grade	
Health 7 th Grade	
Health 8 th Grade	
Physical Education 8 th Grade	

Sciences	Credits
Astronomy	1.0
Chemistry ●	1.0
Earth Science ●	1.0
General Biology ●	1.0
Introductory Chemistry	1.0
Introductory Biology	1.0
Science 6 th Grade	
Science 7 th Grade	
Science 8 th Grade	

Social Studies	Credits
American Civil War	0.5
Liberty & Law (Gov.) ●	0.5
Psych. of the Holocaust	1.0
Psychology	0.5
US History ●	1.0
World Geography	0.5
World History ●	1.0
Social Studies 6 th Grade	
Social Studies 7 th Grade	
Social Studies 8 th Grade	

World Languages	Credits
French I	1.0
French II	1.0
Japanese I	1.0
Japanese II	1.0
Spanish I	1.0
Spanish II	1.0

Electives	Credits
ACT Prep	0.5
Drivers Education	0.5
Employment Internship	0.5
FACS Internship	0.5
Volunteerism	0.5

Advanced Placement	Credits
AP Calculus AB ●	1.0
AP Computer Science ●	1.0
AP English Lit. & Comp. ●	1.0
AP Physics ●	1.0
AP Statistics ●	1.0
AP US Gov./Politics I ●	0.5
AP US Gov./Politics II ●	0.5
AP US History ●	1.0

Mathematics	Credits
Algebra I	1.0
Algebra I 8 th Grade	
Algebra II ●	1.0
Foundations of Algebra	1.0
Geometry ●	1.0
Intro. to Computer Science	
Professional Math	1.0
Pre-Cal/Trigonometry	1.0

Fine Arts	Credits
Fine Arts Appreciation I	0.5
Fine Arts Appreciation II	0.5
Music Theory	0.5

- Honors Available
- Dual Credit Available

Visit fueledbylaunch.com for our most up-to-date listings, course details and sample assignments.

Chatting with Morgan

What do students think of Launch's virtual classes? We sat down with Morgan Burkitt, a senior at Forsyth High School, for a Q&A session about Launch, online learning and other teen-friendly topics.

Access Launch: What virtual classes have you taken with Launch?

Morgan Burkitt: I took Health over the summer.

Access: That's great! Thanks for joining us. What was it like?

M.B.: It was a lot different than classes in a normal classroom. Instead of a teacher telling you what to do directly, you had to take initiative and do it yourself. You knew what assignments you had throughout the day and throughout the week, but it was up to you to get them done and complete them at your own pace.

Access: Did you talk to your teacher often?

M.B.: Yes, I emailed her quite a bit when I had questions. She was really good at getting back to me in a timely manner. She even took my suggestions into account sometimes!

Access: Did you like the experience of learning online with Launch?

M.B.: I really liked it. I'm a really independent person, and I'm a really driven person. In a normal classroom setting, there are times where I get ahead

of people, and
I just

want to keep working ahead. With my online course, I could work as fast as I wanted to or as slow as I wanted to, as long as I was getting my assignments in on the due date.

Access: How long have you attended Forsyth schools?

M.B.: My whole life—kindergarten through 12th grade.

Access: What's your favorite thing about being a Forsyth student?

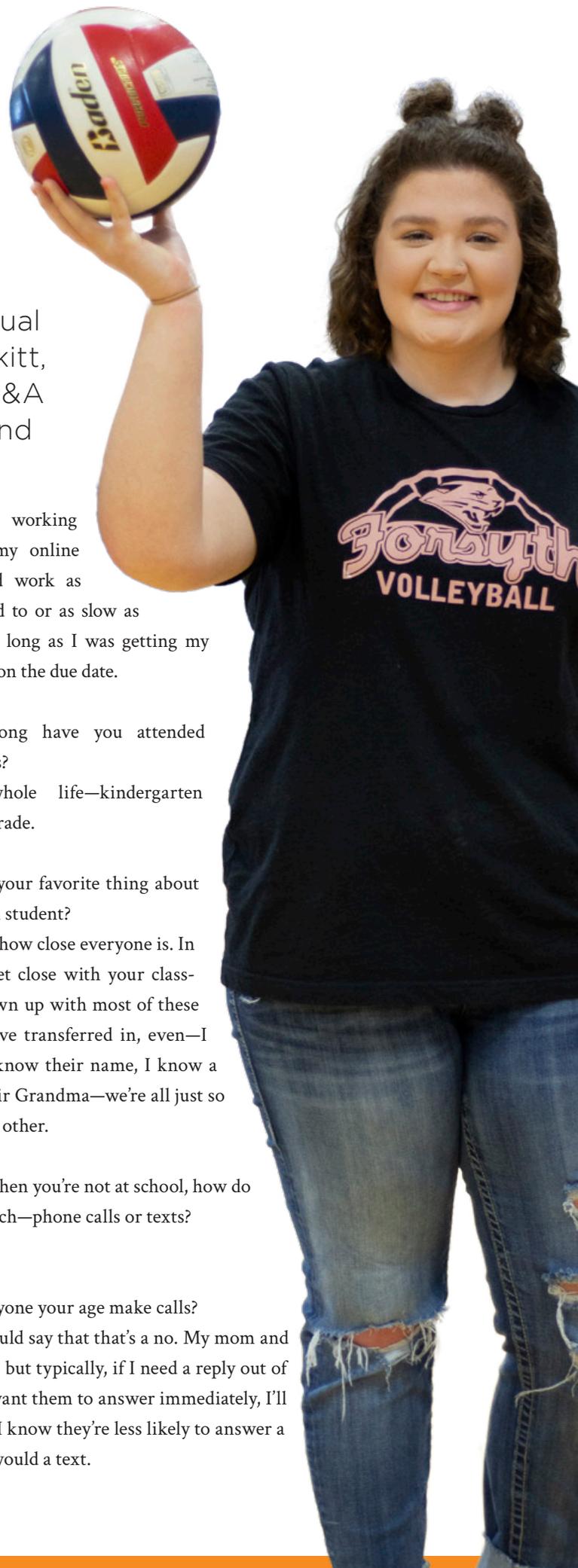
M.B.: Probably how close everyone is. In Forsyth, you get close with your classmates. I've grown up with most of these people. If they've transferred in, even—I know them, I know their name, I know a story about their Grandma—we're all just so close with each other.

Access: Nice! When you're not at school, how do you keep in touch—phone calls or texts?

M.B.: Texts.

Access: Does anyone your age make calls?

M.B.: Um, I would say that that's a no. My mom and my dad call me, but typically, if I need a reply out of a friend and I want them to answer immediately, I'll just text them. I know they're less likely to answer a call than they would a text.



Access: What's your favorite social media?

M.B.: Snapchat.

Access: What's the last thing you snapped?

M.B.: Probably a photo of my dog! She's a mix between a Beagle and a Chow Chow.

Access: Do you watch much TV?

M.B.: Not really. I watch Netflix and YouTube more than anything.

Access: What else do you enjoy doing when you're not in school?

M.B.: I work at Tanger Outlet Mall in Branson. I worked there over the summer, too, which is why I really liked how flexible my Launch Health class was.

Access: What extracurricular activities are you involved in?

M.B.: I'm involved in many clubs. I am president of National Honor Society, I'm secretary of Thespian Club and I'm secretary of FCCLA. I'm also in FBLA and Spanish Club, and I take our journalism class, which I really enjoy. We don't have a school newspaper, but our stories are published in our town's newspaper, the *Taney County Times*.

Access: That's great! Do you play any sports?

M.B.: Not now—I played volleyball for two years, and now I'm managing the volleyball team. I broke my ankle a couple of years back, so I can't really play. I also manage the basketball team—I played basketball before, too.

Access: What is your favorite thing about sports?

M.B.: In volleyball, you could compare us to a family. We're always there to pick each other up. It's more than just a team. If I ever have something going on at home, or if one of my teammates is struggling with something, I'll always be there for them, just like I'll

know they'll always be there for me—both on and off the court.

Access: I love that! Now, let's talk about your future—what do you want to do after you graduate high school?

M.B.: I want to go to college to pursue nursing. I'm deciding right now between Truman State and University of Central Missouri.

Access: That's a great plan! Do you feel that Launch helped prepare you for college?

M.B.: I would say Launch definitely prepares you for college in a way that a normal course wouldn't. Your teachers aren't pushing you to do things. In college, your teachers are going to expect you to take initiative and do things yourself. That's kind of how Launch was—my teacher would send us a reminder, maybe, but it was up to us to get it in on time, and ultimately up to us if we did it correctly or not.

Access: What's your dream job?

M.B.: Probably to be a doctor.

Access: Where do you want to live?

M.B.: A bigger city in Missouri. St. Louis, Kansas City—something like that.

Access: What would you say to another student considering taking a Launch course?

M.B.: I would recommend it, but I would say you need to know that it isn't just going to be a walk in the park. You need to be motivated, and you need to want to turn your assignments in on time. It's all up to you.

Access: That's great feedback, thanks! Is there anything else you'd like to add?

M.B.: Yes! I really liked that I got to know my classmates, even though I didn't know them in a physical way. It was neat collaborating with students from other schools! ■

Forsyth High School student Morgan Burkitt made the most of her summer days—she worked a part-time job in Branson, and she earned her required Health credit online with Launch.



Taking Science Statewide

Megan Walcher shares how a love of science and passion for teaching equip her to teach three Launch science courses.

My dad was in the military. I grew up in California, but then my dad actually broke his back in a helicopter accident, so we moved to Ash Grove, Missouri—which is really small—so that my mom could be closer to her twin sister.

I went to high school in Ash Grove, and we had pretty limited course offerings. We didn't have Advanced Placement or dual credit or anything like that. But I really wanted to study science—mostly because I was watching my dad go through the hospital setting with his back. I originally wanted to work for a veterans center so I could help veterans.

I went to Missouri S&T after high school. I was the first person in my family to go to college. I thought I wanted to do pre-med, but I took a summer career pathway and realized that I'm super squeamish. I also loved chemistry—I had a really great high school chemistry teacher, so I was really passionate about that. I chose to study chemistry.

I originally thought I wanted to work in a lab, but I did a few research projects and couldn't really find a good fit for me. I also tutored, and I was obsessed with that—I looked forward to my time tutoring in science. Towards the end of my degree, I realized that I did

not want to be a chemist, I realized that I wanted to teach.

I've always taught at Parkview, and I started teaching online last summer. I was on a curriculum team re-writing AP Physics, and they mentioned that it was going to go online. I was really curious to see Physics in an online platform. I think—in general with science—it's thought of with, 'Oh, it's this hands-on thing, how are you able to do this virtually?'

One thing I'm really proud of with this class is our physics kits which we mail to AP Physics students located all over the state. I have written some hands-on labs to go in first semester and second semester—the kits have supplies so that students can perform some labs I saw as essential. These are labs where I wanted them to be able to touch and feel and see versus using an online simulation.

Semester 1 has quite a few labs. Some of them don't require many materials—like figuring out your horsepower by running up stairs or calculating your reaction time by catching a ruler—but then some use really cool probe wear. We send



Launch AP Physics Kit

“One thing I'm really proud of with this class is our physics kits, which we mail to AP Physics students located all over the state.”



Megan Walcher teaches at Parkview High and instructs Launch's Earth Science, Astronomy and AP Physics courses online.

motion detectors to students so they can graph their motion—they'll walk back and forth in front of their Chromebooks and get live graphs. Students get force sensors that they can pull and push on and explore Newton's third law. They get light bulbs and wires and batteries to build circuits. If I were a student, I'd be super excited to get this package of goodies! ■



Megan Walcher
Online Teacher

Home District: Springfield R-XII
Degree: Bachelors degrees in chemistry, education and unified science; masters in physics; specialist in educational leadership
Favorite Subject: Science (obviously!)
Fun Facts: Megan loves overalls and Greek mythology. She's also a vegan.

Behind the **Scenes**

What's it like to work for Launch? We joined Counselor Rebekah Bartels for a day of calls and conversations with Launch's online students.

front office, is on the line. "Honey, you have a student here to see you," Thecia says.

3:33 p.m.: Thirty minutes into the meeting, Rebekah grabs a box of tissues. She's meeting with a 19-year-old student who recently lost her father and dropped out of school. The student's mother has a drug addiction, and the student has no support. Now this student lives with her aunt and is ready to come back to school. "It's going to be okay," Rebekah says. "We're going to work with you. You can come to our office and work if you'd like. You just tell us what you need."

4:07 p.m.: After walking her last student to the door, Rebekah grabs her bag to leave. She has a busy night ahead—she and her husband, Isaac, are taking their three daughters biking on Springfield's Ozark Greenway Trails. The girls are 9-year-old Ella, 5-year-old Winter and 2-year-old Valentine. "I'll report back tomorrow," Rebekah says. "I'm sure I'll have a story or two to share!" ■

7:28 a.m.: As Launch Counselor Rebekah Bartels walks across the Launch office to fill her coffee cup, she engages in morning conversation with her team members. "I've been up since 5:15 a.m.," Rebekah says. "I've already went 3 miles today!"

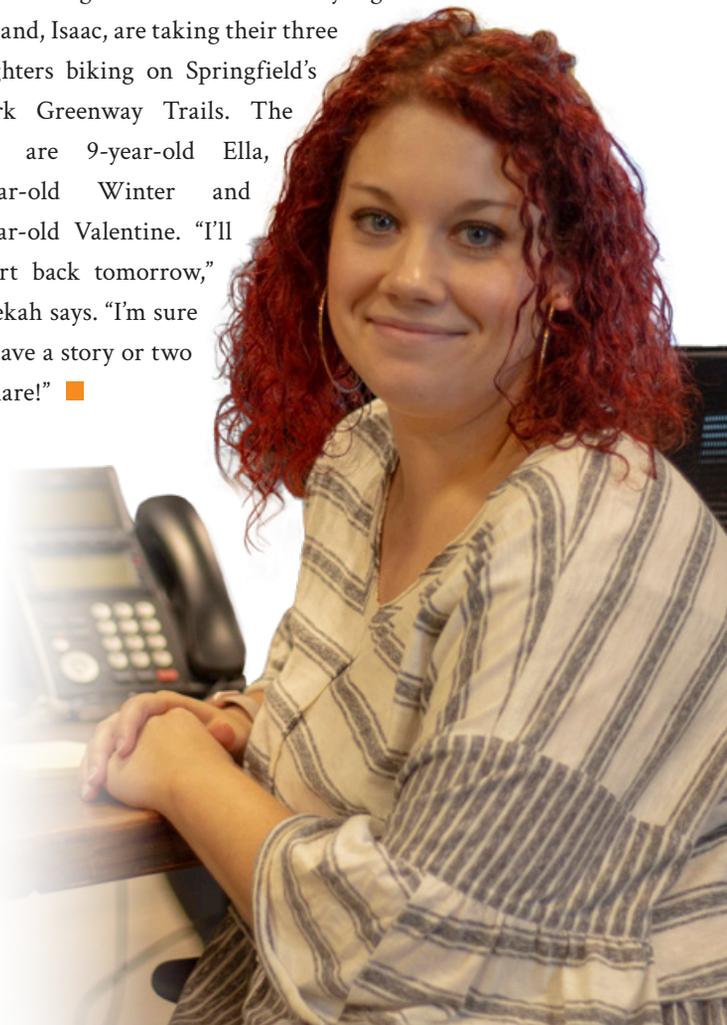
7:39 a.m.: "I have two students coming in," Rebekah says, announcing her day to her team at their morning huddle. "They're both former students who we're working on re-enrolling." Rebekah works with students who have previously dropped out of Springfield Public Schools to help them finish earning credits online and receive their diploma, and she also works with all of the district's online-only kids. If a partner district has a student who needs assistance, Rebekah is also the gal to call.

9:53 a.m.: "This is Rebekah," she says, answering a phone call. "Yes. Yes. Sure, 3 p.m. will work great—I'll see you then." Rebekah had a student return a call and confirm an appointment, upping her daily meeting count from two to three.

12:15 p.m.: Lunch time! Rebekah heads over to the office cafe to grab a bite. "Today I have a salad with roasted chicken," she says.

1:11 p.m.: "Thanks, Brad. Have a great day!" Rebekah just finished a phone conversation with Brad Brown, a counselor and Launch Liaison at Branson Public Schools. "We're changing this student's schedule a bit," Rebekah says. "We want to make sure we have her in the classes she needs to be successful."

3:00 p.m.: "Rinnnnng." Rebekah's phone rings again. "This is Rebekah," she says. Thecia Dixon, who greets people at the

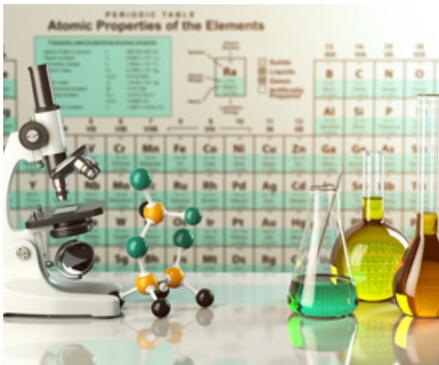


Moving in to **Middle School**

Now that Launch has a robust high school course catalog with more than 140 offerings, it's time for the next endeavor: middle school! Learn about the middle school courses being released in January 2019.

English Language Arts

The sixth grade English Language Arts course focuses on four methods of effective communication including writing, reading, listening and speaking. Seventh grade students develop critical language arts skills that combine these four methods with research. In eighth grade, ELA curriculum allows students to further develop an interest and competency in reading, writing, speaking, listening and information literacy. All courses are built in a project-based learning format and contain culminating events in which students interact with their peers.



Science

Students in Launch's sixth grade science course investigate objectives of earth science and explore the relevance that science and technology have to society. These learners use problem-based learning units to aid education in multiple topics. In seventh grade, students apply life science concepts to the world they live in through activities involving scientific inquiry and the scientific method. Eighth grade learners acquire a foundation of knowledge in introductory chemical and physical science concepts by investigating and measuring the properties of matter, energy, force and motion.

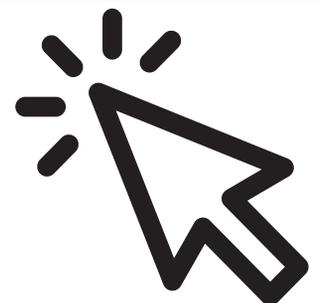
Social Studies

Sixth grade social studies students receive an introduction to ancient world history while studying early civilizations, geography's impact on history and much more. Grade seven learners are introduced to world geography with a curriculum that focuses on the five themes of geography, and students in eighth grade study American history from Colonization through the Civil War. Citizenship, cultural events, history, geography, economics and governmental objectives using primary and secondary sources are all integrated into eighth grade coursework.



More Middle School Online!

Additional middle school courses will be available in fall 2019—check out the courses we are developing for mathematics, exploratories, fine arts and more online at fueledbylaunch.com/courses.



ANATOMY OF A COURSE: SPANISH I

How do you learn a foreign language online? Interaction is key! In Launch's Spanish I course, students begin to understand, speak, read and write Spanish and study the culture of Spanish-speaking peoples.

CULMINATION STATION

Launch's Spanish I instructors host 15-minute web conferences in which students talk to their classmates and their instructor in Spanish. Listening, writing and engaging in conversations are all key components of learning in this course.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

Students record themselves speaking in Spanish in each unit. For example, at the end of unit 8, students speak about their schedules. These learners are asked to report on the time of their classes and whether or not they enjoy the subject, and they're also asked to describe their teachers. This requires them to show their knowledge of time and also encourages them to use multiple parts of speech.

A UNIT BY UNIT LOOK:

Semester 1

- Unit 1: Greetings
- Unit 2: Culture, Spanish Alphabet & Numbers
- Unit 3: Nouns, Articles & the Verb Ser
- Unit 4: Telling Time
- Unit 5: Classroom Vocabulary
- Unit 6: AR Verbs
- Unit 7: Estar
- Unit 8: Questions & Numbers



SPANISH I, TAKE 5!

Launch's Spanish 1 students will:



READ



WRITE



LISTEN



SPEAK



STUDY SPANISH CULTURE

MOVING ON

Launch also offers Spanish II. Spanish II students increase their vocabulary, continue to use and develop the present tense and infinitive verb constructions and improve conversational, reading and writing skills. Spanish III and Spanish IV are coming in 2019.

Rockwood's 21,000+ Reasons

While it's home to some of the largest schools in St. Louis and among the largest systems in the state, the Rockwood School District works to meet the individualized needs of each of its 21,000+ learners. Last summer, the district began using Launch to help meet this mission.

Lafayette. Marquette. Eureka. Rockwood Summit. Every day, thousands of students walk the halls of these prestigious Rockwood high schools, and the St. Louis district's administrative team has the same mission for each and every one of them: to do whatever it takes to ensure they realize their potential. Once the students believe in their abilities, the district then works to provide the resources and support needed for student success. "We've put a real emphasis in trying to find individual supports for students to try and reach their individual needs," says Dr. Shelley Willott, Rockwood School District's

Executive Director of Learning and Support Services. And this is one of the exact reasons the district partnered with Launch in summer 2018. "Launch really provides another tool in our toolkit to work with kids," Dr. Willott says.

While Dr. Willott works on the administrative level, this mission is also very much alive in each of the district's buildings. At Lafayette High School, Dr. Julia Spurgeon's classroom trades desks and whiteboards for cozy couches and a sound machine. The room was created to be inviting and relaxing for select learners—a sort of retreat for students who have specific learning needs. "I'm

"There was a lot of fear around online coursework—that it might not be rigorous enough, that it might not engage kids—and Launch has really proven that to not be the case."
—Dr. Shelley Willott

the Student Restore Facilitator," says Dr. Spurgeon, who has worked for Rockwood for 26 years. "A lot of people ask us, 'What is student restore?' My answer is that we put programming around all different kinds of students. Acceleration, students needing credit recovery, students needing credit acquisition."

As Dr. Spurgeon serves the needs of multiple types of students, she often looks to Launch to aid her instruction. "Launch has really been a blessing to our learning environment," Dr. Spurgeon says. Many Lafayette High School students take Launch courses to build more flexibility into their seated schedules, and others use it to recover credits. Regardless of the situation, Dr. Spurgeon talks to each student enrolled, and she's always there to motivate them along the

Lafayette's Dr. Julia Spurgeon works to help Melissa Campbell in her credit recovery course.





Michael and Matthew Countryman are enrolled in a Launch AP Literature course.

way. “We partner for blended learning with Launch,” Dr. Spurgeon says. “When you combine all of it, it provides options that I wish we would have had years ago.” Dr. Karen Calcaterra, the principal at Lafayette High School, shares a similar passion. “One of my driving points in offering online classes—and specifically utilizing Launch to meet the needs of our students—is that I know no two learners are the same,” Dr. Calcaterra says.

Michael and Matthew Countryman, twin brothers who are in their senior years at Lafayette, are both enrolled in an AP Launch literature course. “I like to work a lot faster than what’s usually found in the classroom environment,” says Michael, who plans to attend Missouri S&T and study computer

science after graduation. “The experience so far is very positive, as I don’t have to work with the classroom around me.” His brother agrees. “If I need to work on anything at home, I can,” says Matthew, who plans to study engineering at Purdue or Missouri S&T. “Being able to plan through my entire semester, pretty much from the start, is very nice.”

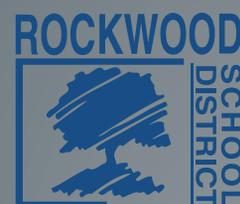
Classmate Kathryn Gluesenkamp, who is a senior and very involved with the ROTC program, took Launch’s government course. “I’m the commander of the unit, so I spend 17.5 hours a week doing ROTC work,” she says. “Sometimes I need to change my schedule. I can do my government course when I get home, because assignments are usually due at 11:59.” Dr. Spurgeon saw the ability to take a Launch course help Gluesenkamp. “You couldn’t believe the stress it took off of her,” Dr. Spurgeon says.

Also a senior, Melissa Campbell is enrolled in a Launch credit recovery course. “Launch compared to sitting in a classroom is very different,” Melissa says. “You’re not just sitting there waiting for the teacher to tell you what to do—it’s right there in front of you. It’s

what you want it to be. Like your own little classroom.” Students like Melissa are perhaps the most appreciative. “The students in credit recovery are grateful,” Dr. Spurgeon says. “You can watch their minds—they’re getting second chances. They feel successful, and with each milestone in their modules, it’s a celebration.”

As long as Rockwood students continue taking Launch courses to meet their individualized needs, the district is happy to continue offering them. “This has been a real eye opener for us,” Dr. Willott says. “There was a lot of fear around online coursework—that it might not be rigorous enough, that it might not engage kids—and Launch has really proven that to not be the case. I think that we’re feeling more comfortable about it all of the time.” ■

Rockwood at a Glance



K-12 Enrollment: 21,744

Number of High Schools: 4 high schools & 1 Individualized Learning Center

MASA District: Greater St. Louis

Mission: “We do whatever it takes to ensure all students realize their potential.”

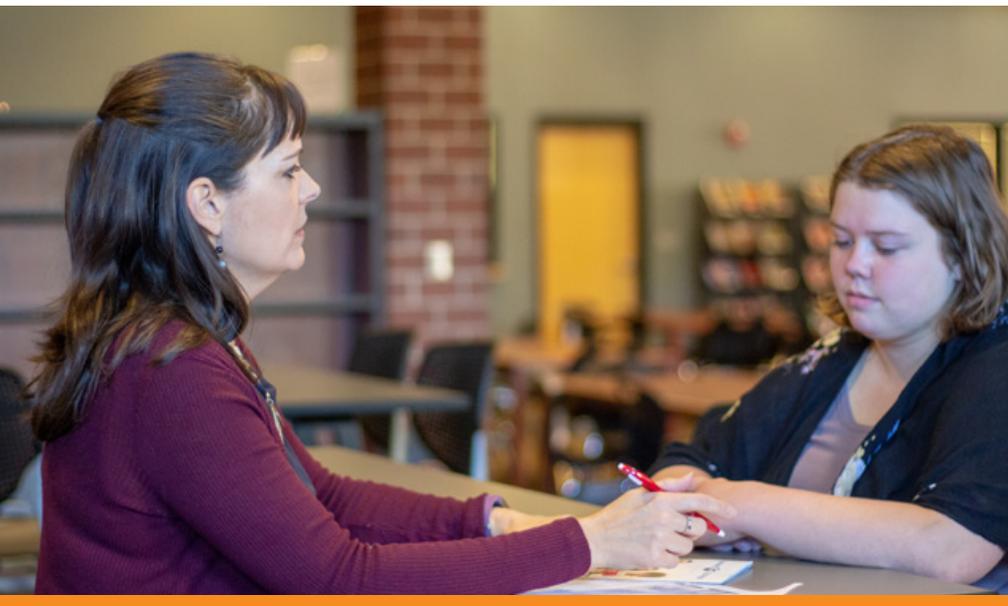
Vision: “By continuously improving every aspect of our performance, the Rockwood School District empowers students to command their future.”



Lafayette High School senior Kathryn Gluesenkamp (left) takes Launch’s government class online to make more time for her involvement with ROTC.

Expanding Opportunities

Administrators in the Republic School District aim to give their students as many opportunities as possible—this is why they made Launch courses available to all high school students.



Brittany Bowser, the College and Career Counselor at Republic High School, helped Madi Booth enroll in Launch.

High School students are often faced with their fair share of challenges, especially once they become upperclassman. They have to learn to balance their coursework with jobs or extracurricular activities. They're asked to start developing a life plan for after graduation. These tasks can be overwhelming for even the most high-achieving learners, and adding outside factors to the equation does not often bode well. When life happens, many students struggle.

Ask a high school counselor about students struggling to balance it all, and it

won't take them long to come back to you with a list of those kids in their building. At Republic High School, College and Career Counselor Brittany Bowser shares the story of Madi Booth. "Madi was going through a lot of health issues and started missing some school—they weren't really sure what was going on," Bowser says. "She had a lot of appointments with specialists." Madi was in her junior year at Republic High School, and when she was able to be in the building, she did very well. "She's a great kid," Bowser says. "She's a smart student."

Eventually, the doctors figured out Madi's complications. "About a year ago, I was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis and mixed connective tissue

"The biggest draw for us was the options that it gives kids in regards to their learning."
—Tyler Overstreet

disease—primarily Lupus," Madi says. "I'm constantly just tired, all of the time." Knowing Madi's particular situation, Bowser thought she may benefit from taking some courses virtually with Launch. "I visited with her, and I visited with her mother," Bowser says. "I said that maybe she would be a good candidate to try out some online courses, because I know that the mornings are really tough for anyone who struggles with that condition. If she did Launch, she would free up some time. She wouldn't have to be at school quite as early."

During the second semester of her junior year, Madi enrolled in Launch's Personal Finance and ACT Prep courses. "Using two online classes helped in freeing up my first two hours of school so I could sleep in a lot longer than normal," Madi says. "It helped a lot with my fatigue." Madi also found the Launch courses to be beneficial in other areas of her life. "I liked how I could work on my online classes when I was out of school, too," Madi says. "I could work at my own pace and turn my homework in on time, or if I needed to work ahead I could."

After Madi completed her Launch courses successfully, Republic High School decided to offer Launch classes to more students. “She gave me a lot of good feedback,” Bowser says. “She enjoyed it. She liked having some flexibility and the convenience of being able to work at her own pace from home.” Republic High School added select Launch courses to their course planner and allows all seniors to enroll, and they also allow any high school student to take Driver Education with Launch. “Our Driver’s Education instructor retired last year,” Bowser says.

Republic High School principal Tyler Overstreet likes how Launch provides opportunities for all students. “The biggest draw for us was the options that it gives kids in regards to their learning,” Overstreet says. “Some of our most at-risk students are in online Launch classes. Then we have our general, every day students and some of our high fliers.” The high school has 1,444 students, and 77 are enrolled in Launch courses. “It really meets the needs of all sorts of different groups that we have in our school,” Overstreet says.

There’s also an advantage to how Launch is preparing students for their futures after high school. “A lot of learning in college takes place in either a blended setting or a fully online setting,” Overstreet says. “We want to give students those options here as high schoolers, where they can learn how to manage their time, prioritize tasks—those soft skills that come with being part of an online class—so that they can be prepared for that when they go to college or even into the workforce or career fields.”

While Madi is still in high school, she’s already using the skills she learned in Launch to help attain college credit—but not for herself just yet. “My mom is actually taking online classes for college right now, so I’ve been able to help her,” says Madi, who helped her mom learn how to navigate her online class. Madi will put these skills to use for herself again next fall, which is when she plans to start her coursework at Missouri Southern. “I know that some of the classes I’ll be taking will use the same type of format,” Madi says. “I’m really glad it helped me in that way, too.” ■

Republic High School Principal Tyler Overstreet appreciates how Launch serves learners with varying needs.



Republic at a Glance

K-12 Enrollment: 4,864

High School Population: 1,444

MASA District: Southwest

School Colors: Orange and Black

Mascot: Tigers

Fun Fact: While many schools have tigers as mascots, Republic prides itself in the fact—there’s a sign in the school that reads “Real Tigers are Orange and Black.”



Launch your **Senate Bill 603 Solution**

While most districts are aware of the new education legislation—MoVIP’s change to The Missouri Course Access Program (MOCAP)—many are still considering what solutions to offer students. Launch can help! Launch courses are MOCAP eligible, and more than 100 districts statewide have a partnership with Launch that allows them to comply with the new bill. Read on to learn how to get started.

1. Partner With Launch.

Since summer 2017, more than 100 Missouri school districts have partnered with Launch. As a Launch member, districts have access to more than 140 virtual courses that meet the new MOCAP requirements. All Launch online courses are aligned to Missouri Learning Standards and are taught by highly qualified Missouri teachers.

2. Market Launch Courses.

Once you become a Launch partner, the Launch team can design free customized marketing for your district. You can use this marketing to promote your virtual course options to current students, parents and those seeking virtual options through your district. Ultimately, this customized marketing allows you to guide your students to the virtual course solution you’ve selected for your district.

3. Enroll Students.

Due to the year one success of Launch, more than 250,000 Missouri students now have access to high-quality virtual courses. Thanks to working together as K-12 districts, members now benefit from a 15 percent discount on fall 2018 and spring 2019 course enrollments!





Twitter Talk

Check out a few highlights from our [@fueledbylaunch](#) Twitter feed.

We attended multiple state conferences.



Launch Virtual Learning @fueledbylaunch Oct 18
Sunday night @fueledbylaunch booth prep... tomorrow we're starting our day bright and early at the MAEN conference. We're excited to talk to @maen4kids guests about how Launch provides more than one way for Missouri students to earn a high school diploma. #MAEN4kids

We reached more than 100 partners.



Launch Virtual Learning @fueledbylaunch Sep 27
Today's the day—100th @fueledbylaunch partner giveaway day! Retweet this tweet and tell us why your district uses Launch for a chance to win a swag pack! Winners will be chosen at noon. #WhyILaunch

We hired three full-time teachers.



Launch Virtual Learning @fueledbylaunch Oct 18
We called @fueledbylaunch teacher @MCBurke4 so he could talk with Brentwood students. It's costume day in Brentwood, so he put on his "Civil War hat" for our chat! Thanks for all you do for students, Mr. Burke!



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Hill
Education**

Where the science of learning meets the art of teaching.

We combine learning science insights with the art of teaching to empower all students and instructors to succeed in a digital environment.

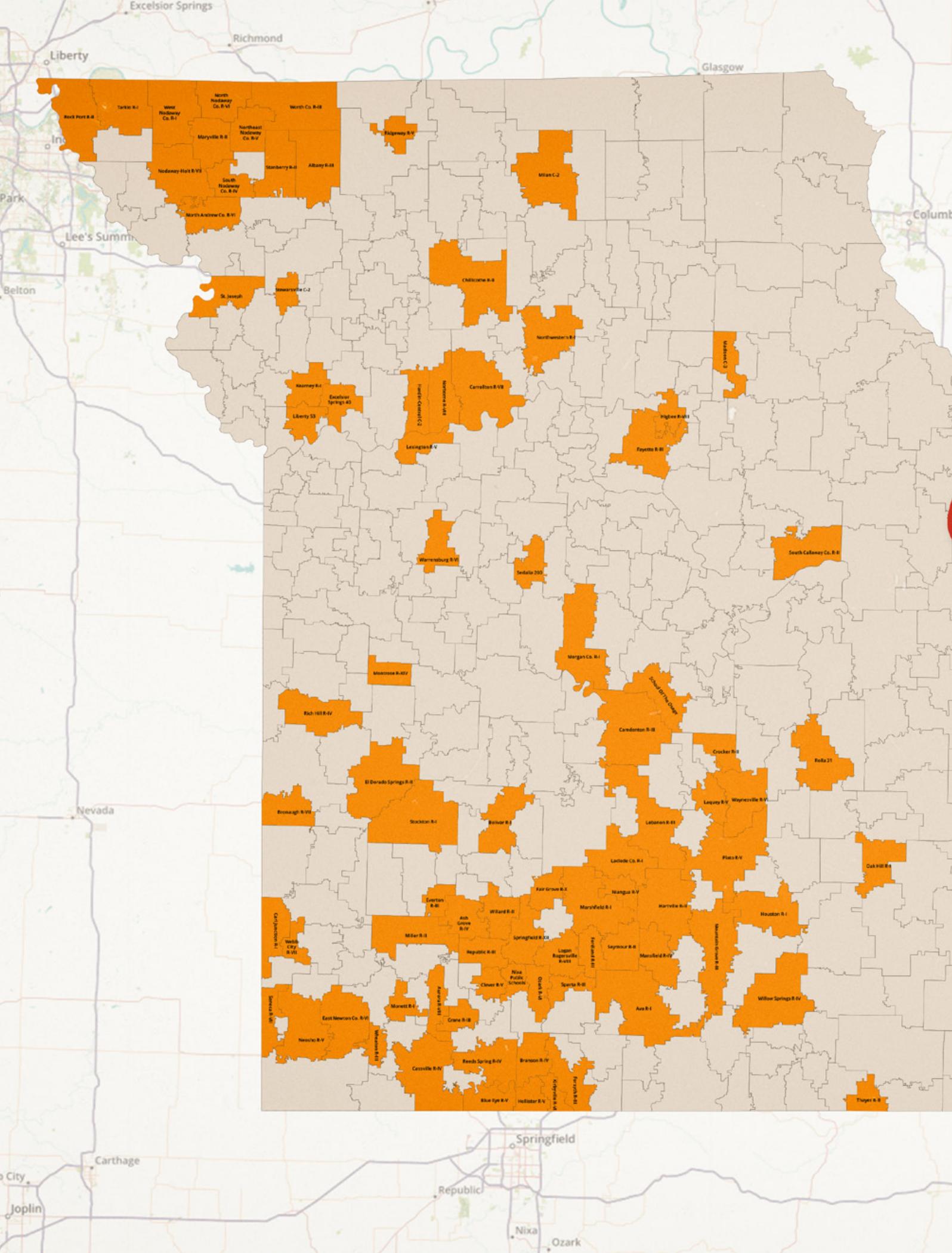


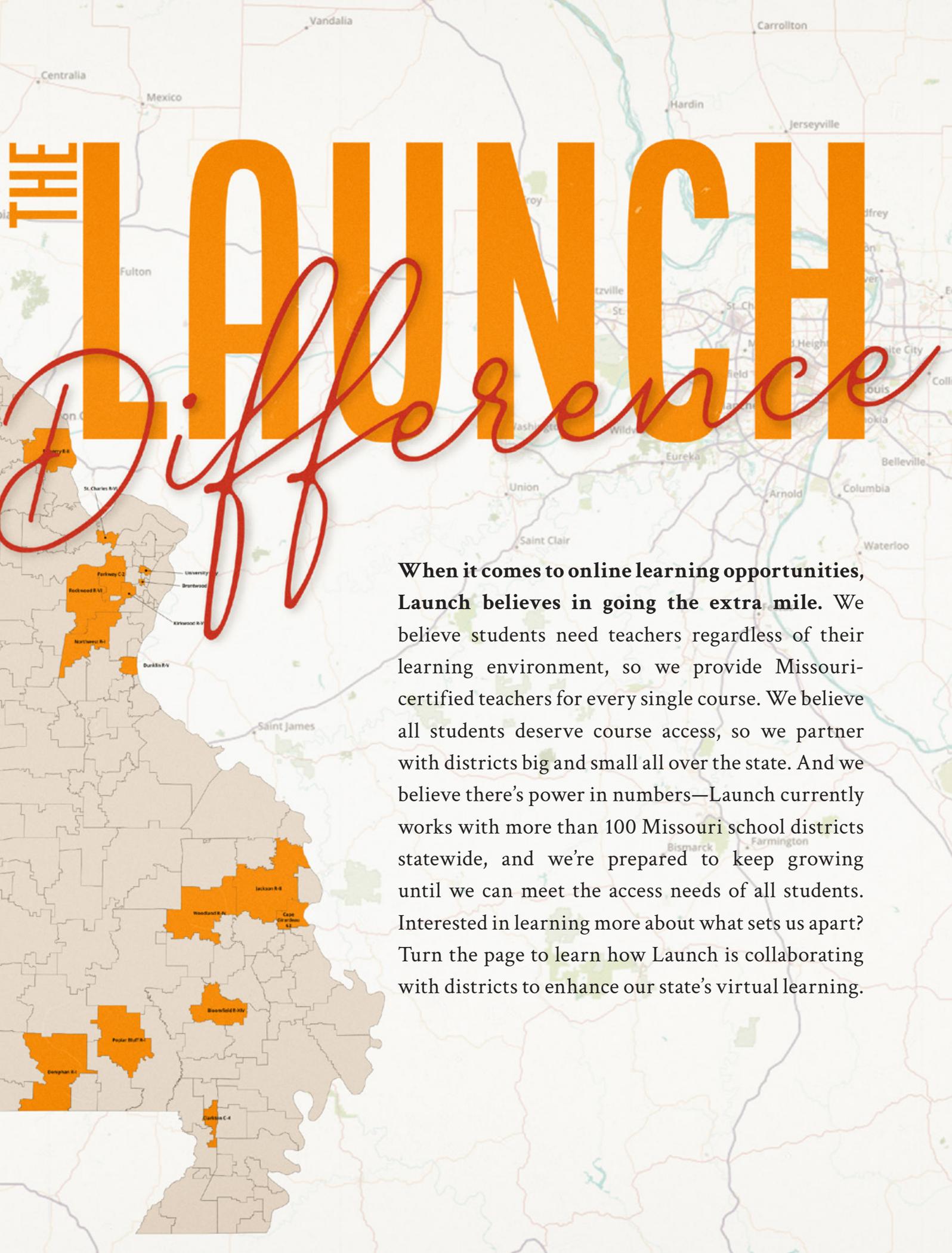
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THE LAUNCH

Difference

When it comes to online learning opportunities, Launch believes in going the extra mile. We believe students need teachers regardless of their learning environment, so we provide Missouri-certified teachers for every single course. We believe all students deserve course access, so we partner with districts big and small all over the state. And we believe there's power in numbers—Launch currently works with more than 100 Missouri school districts statewide, and we're prepared to keep growing until we can meet the access needs of all students. Interested in learning more about what sets us apart? Turn the page to learn how Launch is collaborating with districts to enhance our state's virtual learning.

MEET THE *Teachers*

It's essential for students to have a relationship with caring educators, regardless of the learning environment. Meet our three full-time online teachers, who work alongside 62 adjunct Launch instructors to educate students statewide.



CHRISTOPHER KENSINGER *English Language Arts*

Matt Burke, Bethany Laws and Christopher Kensinger are Launch's three full-time instructors. The crew is based in Springfield and serves students statewide.

"The difference with teaching online is that I get to be a bit more purposeful on how I engage and interact with my kids."

As Christopher Kensinger discusses why he chose to be an educator, it's obvious that his passion for the profession runs deep. "I'm a teacher because of a teacher," Kensinger says. "Honestly, I was a struggling kid who never really flourished. I wasn't motivated. But an English teacher reached out to me—she asked me questions and encouraged me. Because of her, I see how impactful a teacher can be to their students."

Before Kensinger accepted his full-time Launch position, he spent seven years teaching at two southwest Missouri schools. Developing relationships with students

in the classroom was always one of his top priorities, and he continues building such relationships in the online setting. "The difference with teaching online is that I get to be a bit more purposeful on how I engage and interact with my kids," Kensinger says. "Relationships are key. Through the curriculum, the students have a connection to their peers as well. Having all of these relationships is an important component to online learning."



MATT BURKE

Social Studies

“Students want to learn this way, and I want to engage students in a way that they prefer to learn.”

After graduating from Southwest Baptist University, Matt Burke moved from a quiet corner of southwest Missouri to the hustling, bustling borough of Brooklyn. “I spent two years as a substitute teacher there,” Burke says. “I learned a lot about teaching and a lot about life.” It was this first-hand NYC experience that inspired him to pursue a career in education. “It became about wanting to be around students and wanting to be a mentor,” Burke says.

Fast forward 10 years, and Burke still has the same desires. In his eyes, one of his most important responsibilities as a Launch instructor is getting to know his students. “I always say, ‘Ask the extra question,’” Burke says. “I also try to make my videos natural, so my students know that I’m a real person.” Once the students feel comfortable communicating with Mr.



Burke, he’s happy to provide the instruction and feedback for them to be successful—all the more-traditional teacher aspects that come with his role. “I enjoy the technology aspect of it all,” Burke says. “Students want to learn this way, and I want to engage students in a way that they prefer to learn.”



Spending more than six years in post-secondary education helped Bethany Laws discover her true passion: spending one-on-one time with students. “I was an academic advisor and retention specialist at Missouri State University before I began teaching for Launch,” Laws says. “I taught per-course at MSU, too, but it was working with students individually that I really enjoyed. I think that plays a huge role in a kid’s life.”

As Launch’s full-time Business teacher, Laws still finds herself working one-on-one with students, but her setting has changed from one of Missouri’s largest universities to five high school buildings in Springfield. Laws also conducts a great percentage of her meetings online, as her daily routine as a full-time Launch instructor includes engaging with students

BETHANY LAWS

Business

“Even though everything is online, Launch still allows for that one-on-one time between teachers and students.”

statewide. “Even though everything is online, Launch still allows for that one-on-one time between teachers and students,” Laws says. “There’s a flexibility there, both for us teachers and for the students. I love the flexibility that it gives students.”

THE MINDS OF

Missouri

Our Launch teaching staff includes instructors from 13 Missouri school districts. Meet three of them below, and learn their reasons for teaching for Launch.



Chris Bodoin
Physical Fitness
Ozark Middle School

“Launch can meet the needs of a student that might get lost in a traditional classroom. As an individual learner, they can get their instruction personalized and have a mentor.”



Paige Duda
Earth Science
Springfield Catholic

“I love the variety of students. In no other setting would I be able to interact with students from all over the state, in different grades and with different backgrounds!”



Sara Edwards
Geometry
Webb City High School

“I love building relationships with my students and helping them both feel and become successful. There isn’t a better feeling than when a parent/student thanks me for support.”

ACCESS FOR *All*

No Missouri student's learning should be limited by zip code—Launch provides online course access to thousands of students in dozens of small districts statewide.



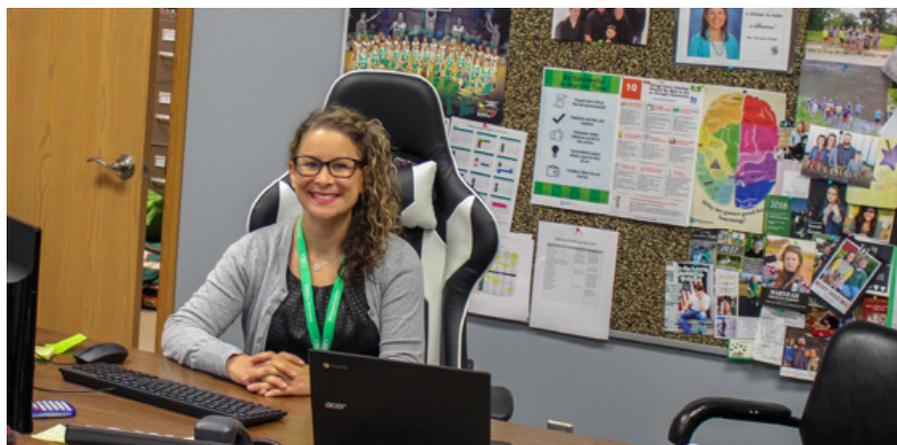
If you're an administrator in a northwest Missouri school district, you're probably friends with many other administrators in many other northwest Missouri school districts. "Last year, we split a part-time Spanish teacher with Stanberry," says Sarah Barmann-Smith, the principal at Albany High School. These types of partnerships aren't unheard of in northwest Missouri—they're actually rather common, as the small districts work together to provide the best for students. "We do that a lot in our region," Barmann-Smith says. "We don't want any of us to get stagnant. We share ideas—We find out what's working over here so they can do it over there."

Unfortunately for Albany and Stanberry, though, the shared Spanish teacher wasn't able to return for the 2018–2019 school year. "Once we realized he wasn't able to do this anymore, we were like, 'Oh, no, this was perfect—how are we ever going to find another

Spanish teacher?'" Barmann-Smith says. That's when the district turned to Launch. "We thought, 'Well, Launch has these opportunities for Spanish,'" Barmann-Smith says. "After that, we looked into seeing what else Launch could help us offer."

Fast forward six months, and Albany is now one of some 20 Launch district partners located in the northwest Missouri region. Many of the schools joined Launch to provide students

expanded course access, and they each tailor the program to fit their building's specific needs. In Albany, a high school classroom is reserved for students who take Launch and other classes online. Throughout the day, 60 of the school's 115 students occupy the space while working on Launch courses. "It's opened up so many things—it has really helped our schedule," says Barmann-Smith. "It's been really great to have these possibilities for kids that we didn't have before."



Albany High School Principal Sarah Barmann-Smith brought Launch to her district.

ALBANY Students

INSIDE BAIN'S BRAIN

Student: Gina Bain

Class of 2020

Launch Courses: AP Physics and Spanish I



High school juniors often enroll in classes like chemistry and astronomy to fulfill a yearly science credit. Gina Bain, a junior at Albany High School, thought bigger. "I want to be a theoretical astrophysicist one day," says Bain, who has a goal of taking the most challenging courses she can while she's in high school. "I'm currently

taking Launch's Spanish I and AP Physics courses," she says.

If it weren't for Launch, Bain wouldn't have the opportunity to take Spanish or AP Physics. "Albany is really small, and we don't have as many resources as larger schools," Bain says. "I want to go into this really big, super-competitive and hard career, but it's hard for a school like Albany to prepare me for this." That's why Bain is grateful that Albany is a Launch partner. "Being able to have access to Launch courses is really a stress reliever," Bain says.

In order to complete the AP Physics course, Launch shipped Bain an AP

Physics kit in the mail. The day she received it, she unwrapped the pieces as if she were unwrapping Christmas gifts. "So far, it's my favorite course that I've ever taken," Bain says. "It's really, really interesting to me."



SAWYER SAYS

Student: Sawyer Cross

Class of 2021

Launch Course: ACT Prep



Sawyer Cross is a busy student—he plays football and runs track, plus maintains good grades. That's why he is also a planner. "I like that you can go to the calendar and see everything that's ahead," Sawyer says of his Launch course. "Knowing that I have practice every night and that I'll only have a few hours at home, I'll work ahead to get things done." Sawyer is taking ACT Prep so he is better prepared to take the college entrance exam.

ONLINE FOR THE FIRST TIME

Student: Ashley Sterkis

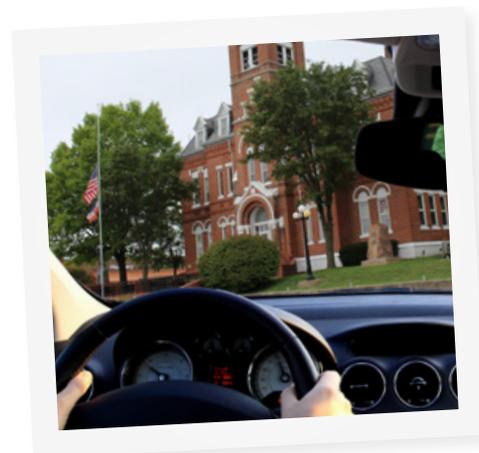
Class of 2022

Launch Course: Driver Education



When Ashley Sterkis began her freshman year at Albany High School, she had never taken an online class. Fast forward three months, and now she's a pro. "It was different at first," Sterkis says. "You

don't have a teacher right there in front of you explaining everything, which is what we're used to. But once I got started, I ended up liking it a lot more." Sterkis is taking Driver Education with Launch, and it's a course that isn't offered seated at AHS. "I told my Launch teacher that it seemed to be going too fast at first," Sterkis says. "But he told me to give it time and I'd get used to it. Now, I definitely have. I like it now. I like seeing what assignments are ahead of time."



STATEWIDE *Collaboration*

Launch's mission is to partner with districts statewide. Hear from three of Launch's 103 (and growing) partner districts, and learn how Launch works in their buildings.

Missouri school districts don't have to invest countless dollars and hours of man power into developing their own online courses. They also don't have to allocate funding to pay for-profit providers for virtual learning. Instead, they can partner with Launch and benefit from a fully developed course catalog, all while keeping education dollars in our state and paying Missouri teachers. We believe no district should have to do this alone, which is why Launch is committed to doing it together through a collaborative, K-12 approach to virtual course access solutions.



BRENTWOOD

While many of the public and private schools in St. Louis are among the largest in the state, Brentwood is small but mighty—it has less than 1,000 students K-12. How does it compete? “We hoped the addition of Launch would give us just what we were looking for—an expanded course catalog and increased elective offerings,” says Dr. Ed Johnson, Brentwood High School principal. Dr. Melody O’Brien, Brentwood High School Counselor, agrees. “We only had one AP offering before,” Dr. O’Brien says. After piloting Launch in summer 2017, the district is confidently using Launch to enrich its offerings. “We know that the education with Launch is comparable,” Dr. O’Brien says.



AVA

Today's learners are basically guaranteed to take online courses when they reach college, or even when they go on to a variety of careers—Dr. Teresa Nash, Principal at Ava High School, says she likes that her students are experiencing virtual learning before they exit the doors of her building. “Our students are learning to take courses online, but they still have the convenience of having a teacher that they can email and correspond with,” Dr. Nash says. Dr. Nash also likes Launch curriculum. “The students say the courses are very rigorous,” Dr. Nash says. “That’s something, as a principal, that I like to hear. It’s not just a computer-based program—it’s instruction at a higher level.”



CHILLICOTHE

Dr. Jill Watkins, assistant principal at Chillicothe R-II School District, knew what her district needed while she was looking for online course providers. “Anyone can give us a platform,” Dr. Watkins says. “We wanted an online learning system. We were looking for something that was comprehensive, aligned to Missouri Learning Standards and had teachers who would provide support just as the teachers in our buildings do.” Dr. Watkins also liked how Launch could meet the needs of multiple types of learners. “We like that Launch can provide us with credit recovery and help us offer courses we aren’t able to offer with our seated teachers,” Dr. Watkins says. ■



How Does Missouri Deliver High-Quality Instruction to Every Student? With Launch and Canvas LMS. ↩

As Missouri's K–12 virtual learning portal, Launch uses the Canvas learning management system to deliver online courses—and to make learning more accessible, flexible, and personalized for every middle and high school student in every corner of the state (from Atchison County to the Bootheel).

Because Canvas is cloud-native and built for ease of use, it's open for teaching and learning 24/7 from any web-enabled device. That means districts and students who use Launch don't have to download software, buy new hardware, or be tech-savvy; they just log in to Canvas with the smartphones, tablets, or laptops they already use and start learning.

See How Canvas Increases Access to High-Quality Instruction for Students Everywhere: canvaslms.com/k-12-educate

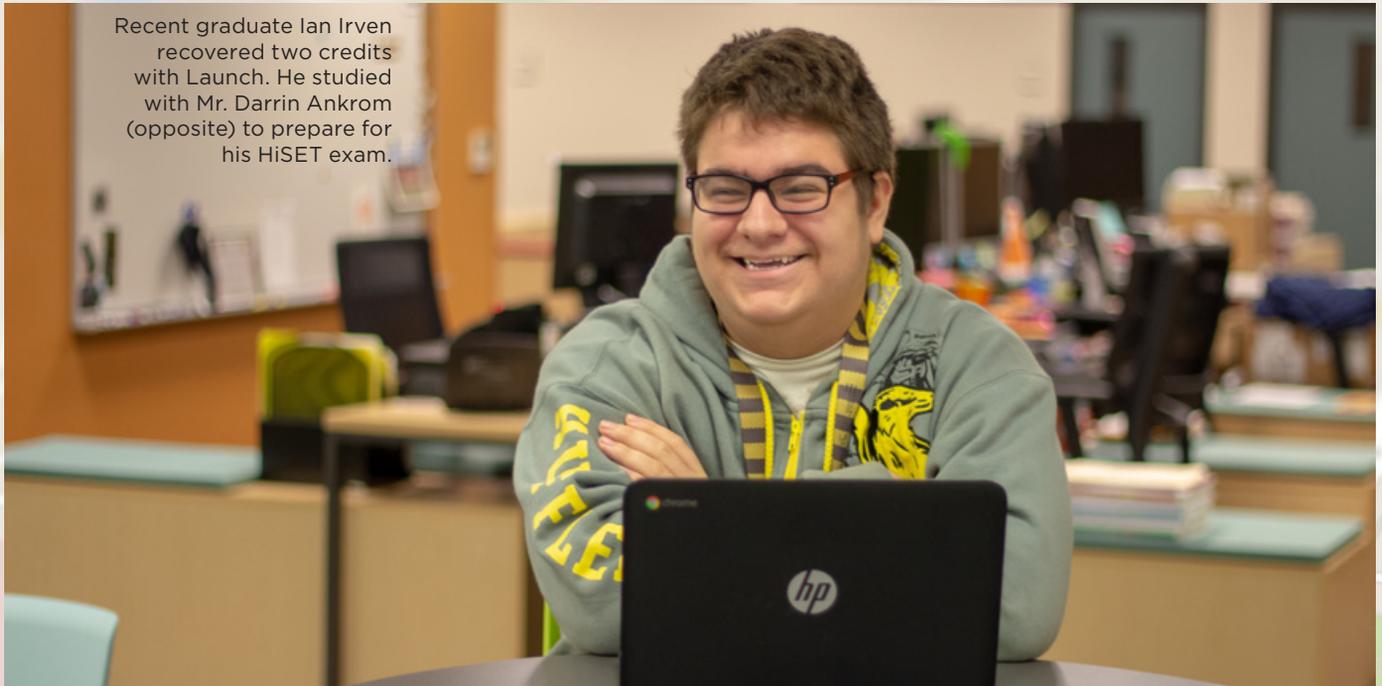


canvas

An **Alternative Route**

Thanks to Launch's credit recovery courses and the Missouri Option Program, Central High School student Ian Irven was able to earn his high school diploma after missing an entire year of classes.

Recent graduate Ian Irven recovered two credits with Launch. He studied with Mr. Darrin Ankrom (opposite) to prepare for his HiSET exam.



Ian Irven never minded attending school when he was younger. As all students do, he enjoyed some courses more than others, but he always tried his best and worked his way through all required subjects. As he grew older and his classes became more challenging, though, his grades began to reflect a struggle. Then eleventh grade came, and things completely changed.

"I was doing pretty well until junior year," Irven says. "Then I started losing motivation on myself and thinking I couldn't do it anymore." Once he began losing the will to attend school, things continued to get worse. "I just completely gave up," Irven says. "Band and earth science were the only two things that I actually cared about. English and math—all

the other stuff—those were the things that I gave up on." First Irven missed one day of school. Then two. Then three. And then day after day, he never returned.

After Irven missed an entire year of classes at Springfield's Central High School, they thought he was gone for good. He decided otherwise, though, and he wanted to give earning his diploma another shot. Unfortunately, he had an additional situation to deal

with at this point—his mom had to have hip replacement surgery. "It was going to be a really big struggle to figure out school and how to help out so much at home at the same time," says Irven, who was acting as the primary caretaker for his mother. The team at Central High School presented Irven with two choices: he could go back and complete a final year of seated courses, or he could take



Ian Irven discusses his online classes with Launch Counselor Rebekah Bartels (above left) and teacher Darrin Ankrom (above right; opposite).



then. I think we reviewed for a week, then the next week he signed up for the tests and took them day after day.”

Irven passed each of his tests on his first try, but this didn't come without a bit of anxiety. “I was very nervous,” Irven says. “I was very worried that I wasn't going to succeed. But I just knew that my mom was hoping I would pass, and she gave me encouragement. It really helped.”

Irven knows there are students across Missouri in similar situations, and he offers them advice. “I would tell them not to stress themselves out by telling themselves they can't do it or they won't succeed,” Irven says. “Then they will just set themselves up for failure. If you give up on yourself, you're never going to succeed—you're always going to fail. You have to continue to believe in yourself and believe you can do it.” ■

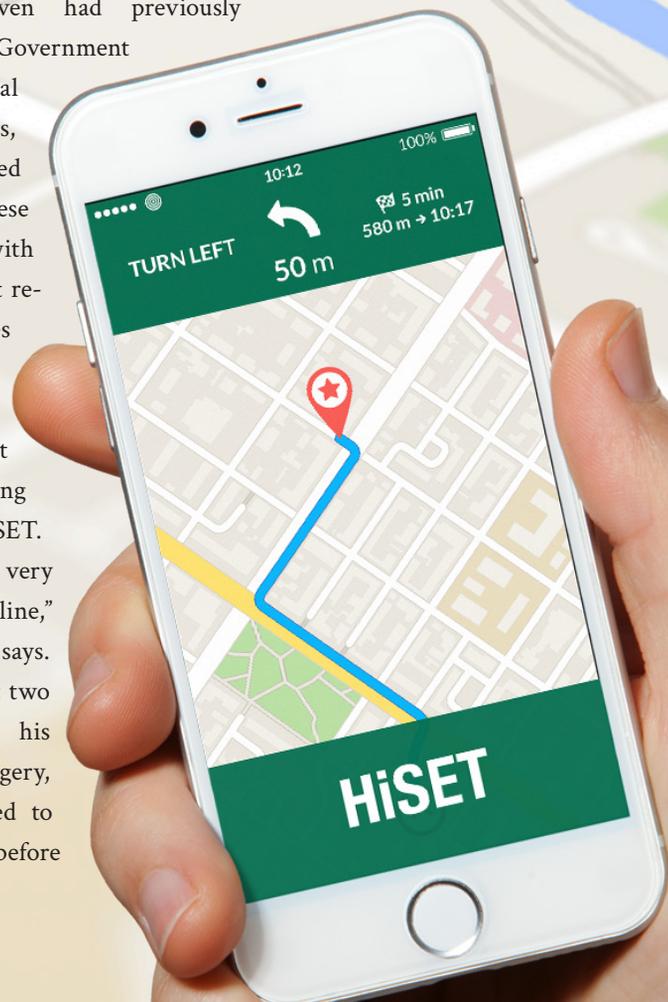
an alternative path and attempt to earn his diploma with Launch's online courses and the Missouri Option Program.

According to the Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE), the Missouri Option Program permits full-time, public school enrolled students who are at least 17 years of age and at risk of dropping out or not graduating with their cohort group the opportunity to earn a standard high school diploma. The program utilizes a high school equivalency exam, the HiSET exam, to determine content mastery. The HiSET exam includes tests in five areas—reading, writing, math, science and social studies—and students must pass all of these tests to earn a diploma. Irven chose the second option, and in late August 2018, he began preparing for the HiSET.

Mr. Darrin Ankrom, who acts as a Missouri Options and Credit Recovery teacher at Springfield's Central High

School, quickly connected with Irven. “The question was never whether or not Ian was capable, but what was it that motivated him?,” Mr. Ankrom says. “His passion was in band, and he put so much time and attention into it that his grades in other classes slipped. Knowing how intelligent Ian was, I knew that Missouri Options would be the perfect fit.”

Because Irven had previously failed his Government and Personal Finance classes, he first worked to make these credits up with Launch's credit recovery courses online. Next he and Mr. Ankrom got busy studying for the HiSET. “We were on a very strict timeline,” Mr. Ankrom says. “We had about two weeks before his mom had surgery, and we wanted to get it done before



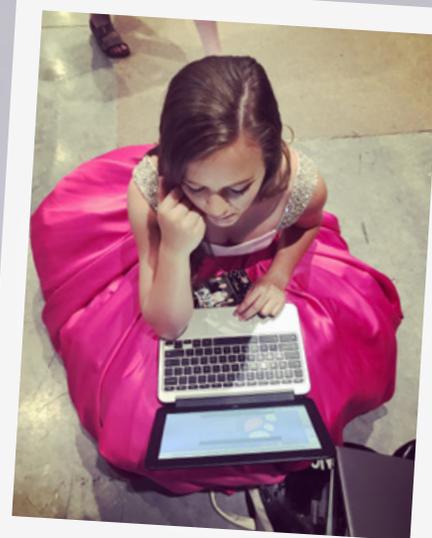


A Balancing Act

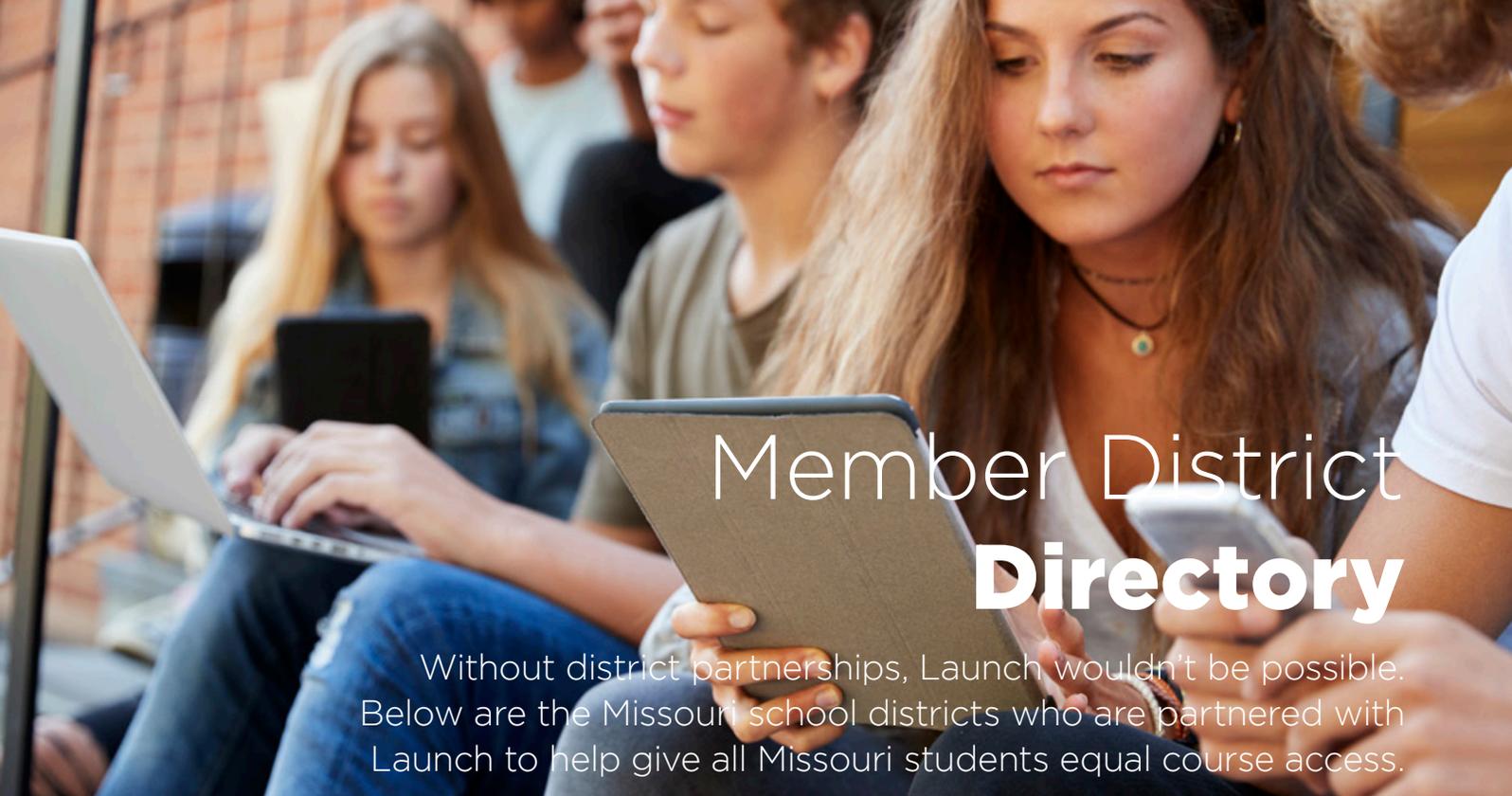
During her summer break, Republic High School freshman Kloey Monthei was both a star and a student—the national-level pageant princess earned her PE I credit with Launch.

Kloey Monthei has been competing in pageants since age 6. “I started out with the National American Miss system,” Kloey says. “I love how it bases everything around growing confidence and building public speaking skills.” Now eight years in, Kloey currently has four titles to her name, with the latest deeming her the 2018 Princess of America ambassador. “I traveled a lot for this over last summer,” Kloey says.

To make room in her freshman year schedule at Republic High School, Kloey also took Launch’s Physical Education I class during her break. “What was great about my Launch course was that it provided me flexibility during the summer, and also for my upcoming year,” Kloey says. “The first day my summer course started, I was traveling to Hale, Missouri, for a photo shoot. I had to practice and prepare for pageants when I wasn’t on the road. I liked that Launch allowed me to work ahead, and even do my workouts in advance, so I could stay on track.” ■



Kloey Monthei was able to take PE I online over the summer, all while competing in pageants.



Member District Directory

Without district partnerships, Launch wouldn't be possible. Below are the Missouri school districts who are partnered with Launch to help give all Missouri students equal course access.

Albany R-III	Excelsior Springs 40	Monett R-1	Sedalia 200
Ash Grove R-IV	Fair Grove R-X	Montrose R-XIV	Seneca R-VII
Aurora R-VIII	Fayette R-III	Morgan Co. R-1	Seymour R-II
Ava R-1	Fordland R-III	Mountain Grove R-III	South Callaway
Bloomfield R-XIV	Forsyth R-III	Neosho School District	South Nodaway
Blue Eye R-V	Hardin-Central C-2	Niangua R-V	Sparta R-III
Bolivar R-1	Hartville R-II	Nixa	Springfield Catholic
Branson R-IV	Higbee R-VIII	Nodaway-Holt R-VII	Springfield R-XII
Brentwood	Hollister R-V	Norborne R-VIII	St. Charles R-VI
Bronaugh R-VII	Houston R-1	North Andrew	St. Joseph
Camdenton R-III	Jackson R-II	North Nodaway	Stanberry R-II
Cape Girardeau 63	Kearney R-1	Northeast Nodaway	Stewartsville C-2
Carl Junction R-1	Kirbyville R-VI	Northwest R-1	Stockton R-1
Carrollton R-VII	Kirkwood R-VII	Oak Hill R-1	Tarkio R-1
Cassville R-IV	Laclede County R-1	Ozark R-VI	Thayer R-II
Chillicothe R-II	Laquey R-V	Parkway C-2	University City
Clarkton C-4	Lebanon R-III	Plato R-V	Warrensburg R-VI
Clever R-V	Lexington R-V	Poplar Bluff R-1	Waynesville R-VI
Crane R-III	Liberty 53	Reeds Spring R-IV	Webb City R-VII
Crocker R-II	Logan-Rogersville	Republic R-III	West Nodaway
Doniphan R-1	Madison C-3	Rich Hill R-IV	Wheaton R-III
Dunklin R-V	Mansfield R-IV	Ridgeway R-V	Willard R-II
East Newton Co. R-VI	Marshfield R-1	Rock Port R-II	Willow Springs R-IV
El Dorado Springs R-II	Maryville R-II	Rockwood R-VI	Woodland R-IV
Elsberry R-II	Milan C-2	Rolla 31	Worth Co. R-III
Everton R-III	Miller R-II	School of the Osage	

