

HOW TO: ENGAGE LEARNERS IN BOTH JUNE AND JULY

Summer 2019

ACCESS

LAUNCH

THE VOICE OF VIRTUAL LEARNING IN MISSOURI



Summer
Learning
for Every
Student

Engage students of all learning levels by offering Launch's 160+ summer courses in your district

HiSET® Help

Learn how Launch can help students complete their Missouri Option Program goals

Dual Credit Details

Launch offers high school students the opportunity to earn college credit

Introducing: **Launch**

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

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 makeup 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.

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THE VOICE OF VIRTUAL LEARNING IN MISSOURI

Summer 2019

The Launch Team

Dr. Ben Hackenwerth

Executive Director, Innovation and Information

I'd learn as I travel through Utah visiting the state's beautiful state and national parks.

Dr. Nichole Lemmon

Director, Digital Learning

While a laptop and water do not necessarily work well together, I would choose a pool, all day, every day.

Amelia Horras

Coordinator, Digital Learning

In a hammock, by my garden (that will hopefully exist)!

Rebekah Bartels

Launch Counselor

Italy. I'd love to stroll through Rome, take a gondola down the canals of Venice, and visit Milan for its fashion and design.

Amanda Moskalew

Administrative Assistant

Clearwater Beach, Florida! I would be living the dream by being able to study while lounging in the sun on the beach!

Shelby Blankenship

Launch Registrar

I'd go to Florida. I would love to be able to do homework while sitting on the beach.

Creative Services

Savannah Waszczuk

Manager, Marketing and Engagement

Nepal. I'd squeeze in study sessions between hiking the Himalayas!

Jared Chester

Graphic Artist & Photography

In the mountains somewhere, rock climbing. Alone.

Daniel McDonald

Videography & Photography

I've always wanted to explore Reykjavik. Learning would be a bonus.

Walker Smith

Videography & Photography

Chattanooga, Tennessee. It's the greatest city on earth.

Contact Us

1359 East Saint Louis Street
Springfield, MO 65802
(417) 523-0417

✉ email
support@fueledbylaunch.com

🌐 website

🐦 twitter

Staff Poll

If you could learn anywhere in the world this summer, where would it be and why?

Development

Dr. Meghan Roe

Quality Assurance Specialist

Japan! I have a cousin who lives there—maybe she could help me with my Launch Japanese class!

Nicki Dickson

Senior Digital Developer

Hawaii—This is my dream vacation spot.

Linda Ayres

Senior Digital Developer

Any tropical beach! I could do my school work while relaxing on the beach, soaking up some sun, and listening to the waves crashing.

Justin Thomas

Senior Digital Developer

I would love to be on the beautiful beaches of Anguilla in the Eastern Caribbean. I've never been to an island, and this would be a great place to kick up my feet and enjoy the freedom of online classes!

Brad Maples

Digital Developer

Italy. I think it would be cool to learn and eat authentic Italian food.

Daniel Roche

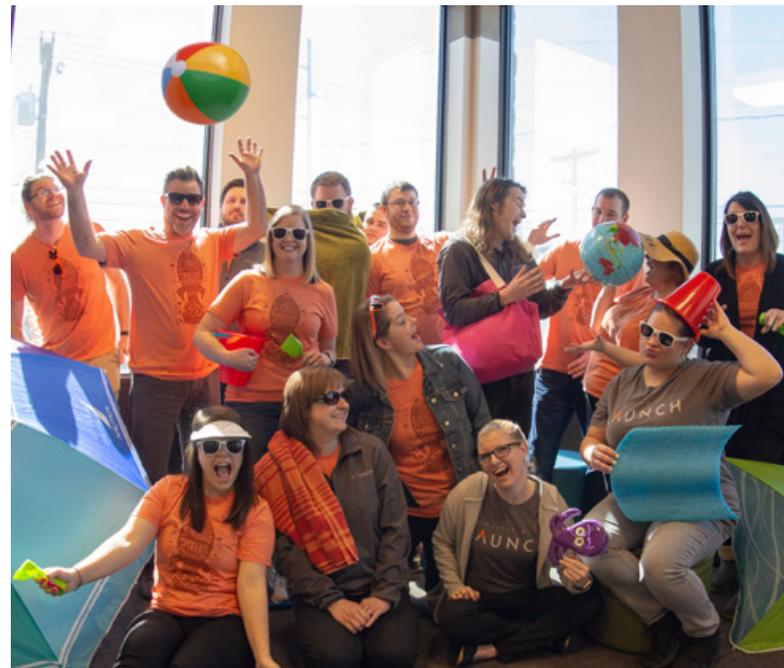
Digital Developer

I would go to Rome so that I could visit the Coliseum and also see the ruins of the old Roman Empire.

Darren Rush

Programmer/Integrations Specialist

On a cruise ship to the Bahamas, because cruising is awesome.



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5 WHAT'S ONLINE?

Our website shares helpful Launch info, and our new liaison portal helps partner districts enroll students with ease.

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Launch isn't just for high school students! Explore our high school and middle school offerings.

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Partnerships with Missouri State University and Drury University provide Launch students the opportunity to earn dual credit.

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Nearly 40 percent of SHS students are enrolled in at least one Launch course. Learn how the program provides opportunity and options to the small town.



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After Kickapoo High School student Savannah Gibbs had a major life change, she had to get a full-time job. Learn how Launch helped make it possible.



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← WHY I LAUNCH

Kirkwood High School student Spike Kohlbecker raced in New Zealand and stayed engaged in his coursework with the help of Launch.

SUMMER LEARNING FOR EVERY STUDENT ↑

By engaging in Launch's summer programming, districts statewide can provide students enrichment and remediation opportunities. The best part? Students still have the flexibility they expect during their time off.



“Every day, we are proud to work with partners from each corner of the state to meet all types of student needs—for that, we thank you!”
–Dr. Nichole Lemmon

Director’s **Note**

Together, we’re better! Districts statewide partake in the Launch Advisory Council to help us shape the future of virtual learning in Missouri.

Wow! What a year for virtual education in the state of Missouri! A year ago, we kicked off this publication with welcoming each of you to *Access Launch*, a publication we share three times per year to tell the stories that are often invisible in this type of educational environment. Now 12 months later, Launch is 162 partners strong, providing high-quality virtual course access to more than

400,000 Missouri students. Every day, we are proud to work with partners from each corner of the state to meet all types of student need—for that, we thank you!

A high-quality product and exceptional customer service have been key to Launch’s rapid growth. Our continued commitment to design, develop and deliver virtual education to the state of Missouri would not be possible without the commitment of our Launch Advisory

Council. More than 40 districts, two universities and four educational agencies gather three times a year to review enrollment trends and course outcomes, discuss courses for future development and discuss policies, practices, procedures and legislative advocacy. These conversations are making Launch better for all students.

In this issue you’ll get to meet two Launch learners who are inspiring us to continue to design to the edges: Spike (p. 32) and Savannah (p. 30). While Spike is racing towards his future (literally), Savannah is determined to live her dream. And we can’t wait to watch them both!

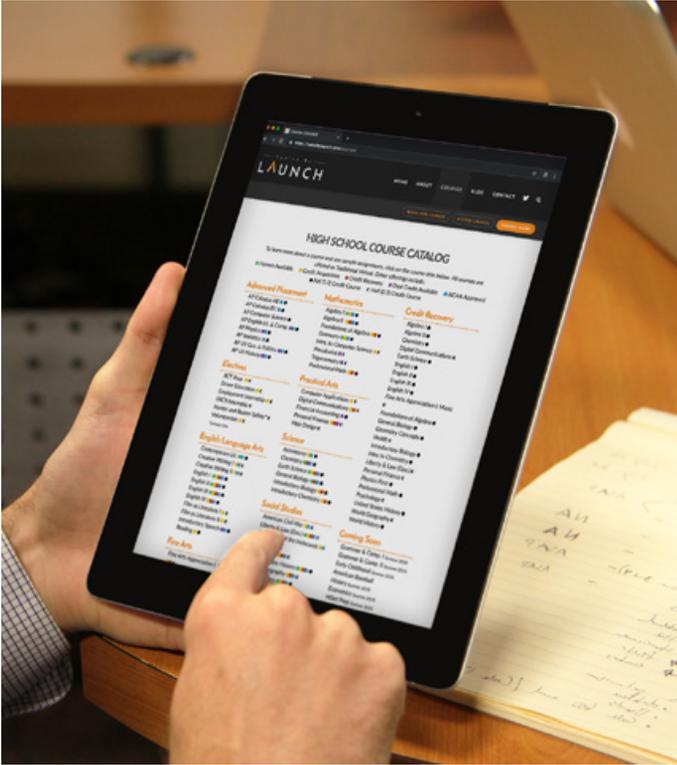
Thank you for an incredible year and for your commitment to all students in Missouri!

Dr. Nichole Lemmon
 Director of Digital Learning



What's Online

From our website to our new easy-to-use liaison portal, Launch lives many places online. Read on to learn more!



LAUNCHPAD Guides and References

The Launch team created guidebooks for liaisons and students to use as a resource during their time in Launch courses. The guides feature information on getting started, navigation tips, information on how to be a successful student and more.

Register & Enroll Students

Launchpad, our new liaison portal, makes it easy for partner districts to register and enroll students. Once you register for an account and get a student enrolled, that student can begin working on their Launch course within 24 hours.

Technical Information

How do we make sure that all of our courses (and links, and external tools) work properly? With an external content whitelist, of course! Partner district liaisons should share our external content whitelist by their district's tech department to ensure smooth operations.

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Frequently Asked Questions

How is Launch different than for-profit online course providers? How does Launch ensure quality course development? How much do Launch courses cost? We share all this and much more in our online FAQs.

The Launch Blog

What's it really like to work with Launch? We share the stories of Launch teachers, students and partner districts with readers statewide every week—all you have to do is log on! Check out the Launch blog to learn how Launch works with partner districts and stay up-to-date with Launch's breaking news.

Launch Course Catalog

We offer more than 160 high school and middle school courses to districts statewide. Learn more about our courses, see sample assignments and learn each course's Major Topics & Concepts with our full online course catalogs.



Follow, Tweet and Retweet!

The best way to keep up to date with [@fueledbylaunch](https://twitter.com/fueledbylaunch) is to connect with us on Twitter! Follow us to see breaking Launch announcements and offerings, learn where we're traveling, request a meeting or learn our latest district partnerships.



Superintendent's **Note**

Springfield Public Schools Superintendent Dr. John Jungmann shares how Launch works to help keep Missouri students engaged and advancing during the summer months.

As superintendents and school leaders, the focus and purpose of our work is to ensure student success. While in the past we may have viewed “school” as an 8:00-3:00, August-through-May opportunity, Launch is a great reminder that pathways to learning come in a variety of avenues.

The reality of summer learning loss is startling. According to research conducted by the Wallace Foundation and published in its December 2018 “Getting to Work on Summer Learning” report, “In the summer following third grade, students lose nearly 20 percent of their school-year gains in reading and 27 percent of their school-year gains in math. By the summer after seventh grade, students lose on average 36 percent of their school-year gains in reading and a whopping 50 percent of their school-year gains in math.” In other words, summer learning loss increases with age through elementary and middle school, and the reality is more sobering for students from low-income and underrepresented populations.

The good news: Launch is here to help. As a partner, you have access to more than 160 online courses, including middle school remediation and math and reading academies for students grades 1-12. These courses allow students to continue learning in both June and July and allow students to work at their academic levels using adaptive softwares. And the best part? Each Launch course comes with a highly-trained Missouri educator to support your students through the learning process.

The anytime, anywhere learning inherent with Launch is a great way to take advantage of the summer months and provide students with engaging and rigorous virtual coursework. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to combat the summer slide and keep your students learning through Launch this summer.




“As a partner, you have access to more than 160 online courses, including middle school remediation and math and reading academies for students grades 1-12.”
-Dr. John Jungmann

By the Numbers

Check out the latest stats that sum up the spring semester in our world of virtual learning.



1 IN 4

MISSOURI PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS USE LAUNCH



400,946

MO STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO LAUNCH



89 Adjunct Teachers

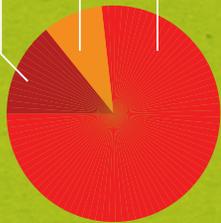


Three Delivery Methods

14% Credit Acquisition

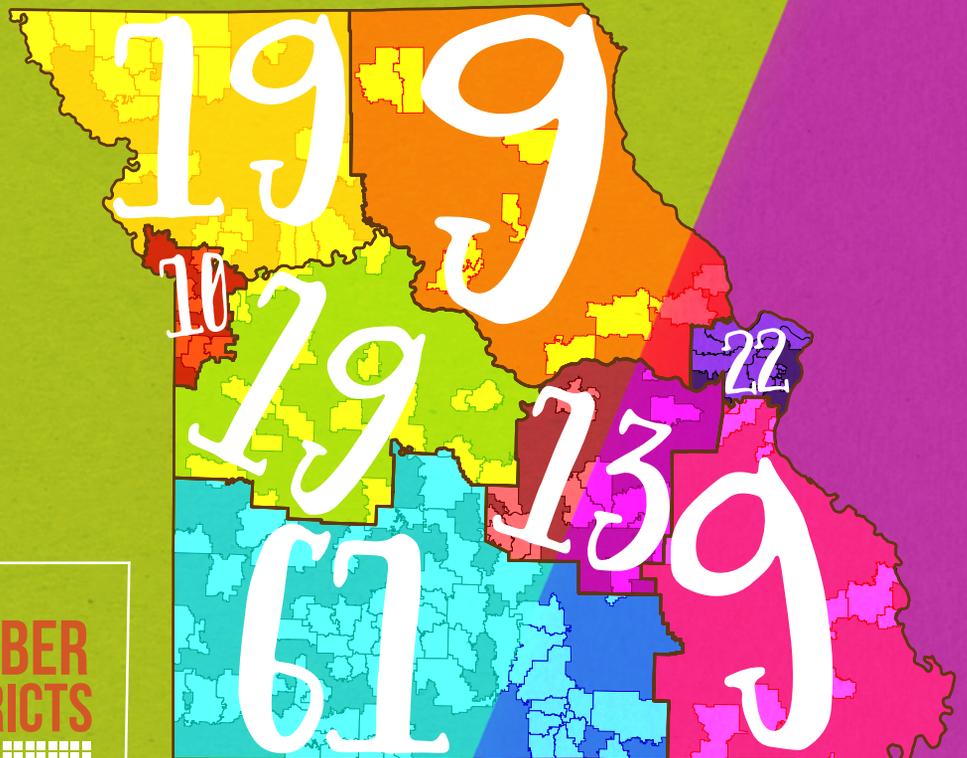
9% Credit Recovery

77% Traditional Virtual



20,825 mi²

Number of square miles in Missouri covered by Launch partner districts



162

MEMBER DISTRICTS



Partners by MASA Region

Launch Letters

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



Quality Checked, Times 2!

Thank you very much for submitting your course for a Quality Matters Course Review. The course, Personal Finance 0975, was reviewed by a trained Quality Matters Review Team. We are pleased to inform you that the course met Quality Matters review expectations. Your Final Report is now available.

Clay Ham

QM Master Reviewer

At Launch, Quality Assurance Specialist Dr. Meghan Roe and Senior Digital Developer Linda Ayres work with teams of curriculum coordinators and digital developers to make sure we create top-notch quality courses. Launch received its first nationally recognized Quality Matters Certification Mark for meeting course design standards in an Official Quality Matters (QM) peer review of Personal Finance on February 19. On March 1, the Launch team was notified that Health also received a Quality Matters Certification Mark.—Editor

Supportive of Launch's Support

"Thank you so much. I appreciate how prompt all Launch personnel have been in responding. We love working with you guys!"

Kristy Jones

Carl Junction High School Counselor

When Carl Junction Counselor Kristy Jones wanted to assist one of her students in our English II course, she needed a bit of tech support. Our teacher worked with our support team to help her right away. To provide support around the clock, Launch offers tech support from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days per week.—Editor

Thanks for Stopping By!

Thanks again for coming out the other day and visiting Ava High School! We appreciate you taking time out of your schedule to come see us! On another note, I truly do mean what I said about Launch being easy for me as a counselor. We get thrown so much, with so many programs and so many offers, that sometimes your head starts to swirl! I take pride in figuring out what's best for my entire student body. Launch has really been too good to be true! Thank you so much for making this process easy for me, and also a good experience for my students.

Kati Burkdoll

Ava High School Counselor

Ms. Burkdoll shared this note with a couple of Launch team members after they visited Ava High School for a touch-base visit. Launch visits partner districts statewide each week to stay engaged with the staff and students. We were happy to hear that Launch is easy to use from a counselor's perspective!—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.

High School Catalog

Advanced Placement

- AP Calculus AB ■●
- AP Calculus BC ■●
- AP Computer Science ●
- AP English Lit. & Comp. ■●
- AP Physics ■●
- AP Statistics ■●
- AP US Gov. & Politics ■●
- AP US History ■●

- Grammar & Comp. II ■●
- Introductory Speech ■●
- Reading ■●

Fine Arts

- Fine Arts Appreciation I: Music ■●
- Fine Arts Appreciation II: Art ■●
- Music Theory ■●

Health

- Health ■●
- Physical Education I ■●
- Physical Fitness ■●

Mathematics

- Algebra I ■●
- Algebra II ■●
- Foundations of Algebra ■●
- Geometry ■●
- Intro to Computer Science ■●
- Pre-Calculus ■●
- Trigonometry ■●
- Professional Math ■●

Practical Arts

- Computer Applications ■●
- Digital Communications ■●
- Early Childhood ■●
- Financial Accounting ■●
- Personal Finance ■●
- Web Design ●

Science

- Astronomy ■●
- Chemistry ■●
- Earth Science ■●
- General Biology ■●
- Introductory Biology ■●
- Introductory Chemistry ■●

Social Studies

- American Baseball History ■●
- American Civil War ■●
- Economics ■●
- Liberty & Law (Gov.) ■●
- Psych. of the Holocaust ■●
- Psychology ■●
- US History ■●
- World Geography ■●
- World History ■●

World Language

- French I-II ■●
- Japanese I-II ■●
- Spanish I-II ■●

Electives

- ACT Prep ■●
- Driver Education ■●
- Employment Internship ■●
- FACS Internship ●
- HiSet Prep ●
- Hunter and Boater Safety * ●
- Volunteerism ■●

*Summer only

English Language Arts

- Contemporary Lit ■●
- Creative Writing I ■●
- Creative Writing II ■●
- English I ■●
- English II ■●
- English III ■●
- English IV ■●
- Film as Literature I ■●
- Film as Literature II ■●
- Grammar & Comp. I ■●

- Honors Available
- Credit Acquisition
- Credit Recovery Available
- Dual Credit Available
- NCAA Approved
- 0.5 Credit Course
- 1.0 Credit Course

Middle School Catalog*

English Language Arts

- ELA 6th Grade
- ELA 7th Grade
- ELA 8th Grade

Mathematics

- Algebra I
- Mathematics 6th Grade
- Mathematics 7th Grade
- Mathematics 8th Grade

Health & Physical Education

- Health 6th Grade
- Health 7th Grade
- Health 8th Grade
- Physical Education 6th Grade
- Physical Education 7th Grade
- Physical Education 8th Grade

Science

- Science 6th Grade
- Science 7th Grade
- Science 8th Grade

Social Studies

- Social Studies 6th Grade
- Social Studies 7th Grade
- Social Studies 8th Grade

World Language

- French I
- Japanese I
- Spanish I

*Core middle school courses are offered as remediation-only during summer months. Traditional versions are available during fall and spring semesters.

Summer Academies

Academies

- Code Academy - Computer Coding (Grades 3-8)
- Lexia Academy - Reading (Grades 1-5)
- Dreambox Academy - Math (Grades 1-5)
- Reading Plus Academy - Reading (Grades 3-12)
- ALEKS Academy - Math (Grades 6-12)

Visit fueledbylaunch.com for full course details and to view sample assignments.

Launch's Future Physicist

Get to know Thayer High School student Cole West, a University of Missouri-bound senior who is currently taking Launch's AP Physics course.

Access Launch: What is your favorite thing about AP Physics?

Cole West: What I like about AP Physics is the fact that you really get an understanding of the world around you. You don't realize how everything is affected by physics and mathematics until you take a physics course, and AP Physics really gives you a deeper understanding of how everything works, at least to some extent.

Access: Could you have taken this course seated in Thayer?

C.W.: No. Thayer does offer a Physics course, but it's a rudimentary course, and it's not available AP or dual credit. I wanted to take AP Physics strictly for the reason that I wanted the college credit, and because it was more advanced and more at my pace.

Access: Has your online learning experience been what you expected it to be?

C.W.: I was really surprised about how comprehensive Launch is. The teachers are surprisingly interactive, unlike other online courses I've taken at other schools.

It just makes you feel like you're actually in a class.

Access: Tell me a bit about the physics kit you received after enrolling in the course.

C.W.: You get an electrometer, tape, dual force sensors, a standard sensor that uses sonic pulses to track movement and velocity, various experiments, wiring kits and such. The reason why I really enjoy the kit is because, personally, I couldn't afford any of that stuff! The kit is rather expensive, and I just love that I get the opportunity to have hands-on interaction with all of these things that help me get a better understanding of Physics.

Access: What do you plan to do after you graduate high school?

C.W.: My plan for after high school is to attend Mizzou. I have been admitted, and I'll begin there this summer with summer courses. I would like to have my general education done in a year, and then after that I will begin pursuing my pre-doctoral degree in Physics, and then my graduate degree and doctorate in physics.



Access: What's your dream job?

C.W.: I want to be a theoretical physicist—one who does math to understand what, as of right now, we don't. I want to be able to affect our understanding of how the universe works, and particle physics is all about that.

Access: Where would you work as a theoretical physicist?

C.W.: My dream place to work is the CERN Large Hadron Collider in Geneva. What I would do is analyze the data that experimental engineers and physicists take. I would write papers about theories, such as the theory of the graviton—things like that. I'd be thinking about how to better conceptualize ideas. I'd be more of an idea man there.

Access: Do you interact with your Launch teacher often?

C.W.: Yes. I remember an occasion in which I had a question on a piece of homework. I sent a message about 8 p.m., and I wasn't expecting a response until the next day. Within five minutes, my teacher responded. That's where I think Launch differs from standard schooling, and that's one of the reasons that I think Launch is so beneficial. It's a level of connection, because the teachers really care.

Access: Do you watch any TV shows?

C.W.: I really like *Game of Thrones*. The story behind it is very comprehensive, and I've actually read the books, which are awesome as well. I also watched a show called *The Masked Singer* on Hulu recently.

Access: What about books—are you currently reading anything?

C.W.: I'm reading a psychology book called "Surfaces and Essences: Analogy as

the Fuel and Fire of Thinking." It's about the sociology of humans in general, and it's pretty interesting. I was reading a Dale Carnegie book about how to be a successful individual before this, and it was very comprehensive as well. It's difficult for me to find a book that I read simply for pleasure—there's usually something that somebody would consider a benefit.

Access: What are your other hobbies?

C.W.: I read a lot of physics journals—I like to stay caught up with the field that I want to eventually go in to. I also read a lot of academic literature. I play video games, too—I am actually a dungeon master for *Dungeons & Dragons*, and I enjoy playing *Skyrim*. It's fantasy, and it offers a certain level of disconnect to the real world—everyone needs that on occasion. Just some time for themselves—not necessarily a dissociation from reality, but a reprieve.

Access: Do you engage with any forms of social media?

C.W.: I have a Snapchat, a Twitter that I don't use too often, an Instagram and a Facebook. Facebook or Twitter would probably be my favorite—I like Facebook because it's more widely connected, and a lot of my family is on there.

Access: Is there anything else you'd like to say about Launch?

C.W.: I advocate for it thoroughly, and very often. When students say, "I want to get into this class, but we don't have it here," I tell them to ask if it's offered with the Launch program. AP Physics wasn't on the original roster list of classes we could take here in Thayer, but all you have to do is ask. ■



In it for the **Kids**

Launch physical fitness teacher Chris Bodoin, who attended 45 schools before his own high school graduation, shares how his journey helped him develop a passion for helping students.

This is my tenth year as a teacher. I taught at Springfield Public Schools my first five years—I taught a variety of elementary PE settings, and then I coached football and basketball. I was at Reeds Spring the following four years, and this is my first year in Ozark.

I was born in Orlando, Florida, and I mostly grew up in Florida. I actually spent most of my life homeless, so I moved around a lot. I attended 45 different schools before high school graduation. We moved to Springfield when I was in eighth grade, and Springfield was the most consistent place I lived, but even

“One of the greatest things about Launch is having the flexibility to meet the needs of all types of students.”



Launch Physical Fitness teacher Chris Bodoin teaches full time at Ozark Middle School. Old football helmets are displayed in his office—he played in high school and then for Evangel University.

through that there were a lot of times that I was considered ‘homeless.’ If I had a program like this—like Launch—and I could have worked online, it would have helped me out a lot.

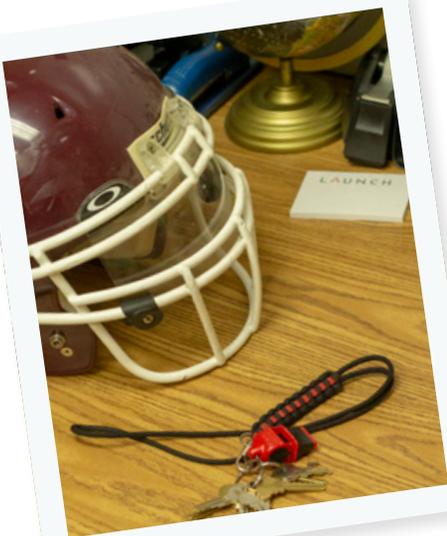
I obviously had a lot of people who influenced me and a lot of people who guided me along the way growing up, and that’s why I got into education today. I know I wouldn’t be where I am today without so many of those people who helped me along. I’m the first person in my family to have a college degree. I helped break the cycle in my family, and my kids will be in a much different situation.

It was after my freshman year in college that I decided I also wanted to be able to help kids. There were so many coaches who used to pick me up. They’d bring me

to school or take me home after practice, things like that. I realized really quickly that I wouldn’t be where I am today without a lot of those people who went above and beyond to help me, and that’s when I decided ‘Okay, I want to help as many people as possible.’

I love teaching middle school students. I love the middle school age, because I feel like students are at a point in their lives where they’re either going to go left or right. You can really touch and influence kids at this age and try to help guide them on to the right path. This is still doable in our online setting, and that’s what I strive to do when I teach.

One of the greatest things about Launch is having the flexibility to meet the needs of all types of students. As a teacher, you can kind of personalize your Launch course and tailor it to the student’s needs. It’s powerful to be able to meet the needs of all these different types of students from all over the state, and even personalize it all. I think that’s my favorite thing about teaching for Launch, because it’s really important to me that I build relationships with my students. ■



Chris Bodoin
Online Teacher

Home District: Ozark R-VI

Years as a Teacher: 10

Degree: Bachelor’s degree in physical education, Evangel University; master’s degree in education, Southwest Baptist University

Favorite Subject: PE

Fun Fact: After graduating college, I signed a contract to play professional football in Finland for the European Football League.

Behind the Scenes

We joined Launch Support Specialist Darren Rush for a day of computer programming (and a quick golf break).

7:41 a.m.: Every morning, Launch Support Specialist Darren Rush starts his day by uploading a Dropout Detective file. Dropout Detective is a tool built within Canvas, Launch's learning management system, and it allows Launch to notify districts when their students are failing or inactive. Darren

works behind the scenes to make sure these notifications take place.

8:17 a.m.: Once his Dropout duties are complete, Darren moves on to his next task: managing his email inbox. "I usually look for anything involving Launchpad first," Darren says.

Launchpad is our liaison portal that allows Launch partner districts to enroll and manage students in Launch courses, and Darren had a major part in creating it. Now he helps manage it.

9:24 a.m.: "Hello, how can I help you?" Darren answers a phone call from a partner district. "Sure, I'll get that uploaded on our end." Once a district's Launch liaison registers for a Launchpad account to enroll students, they must gain access to the portal. Darren approves their information and gives them this access. This process never takes longer than

24 hours, but it can happen immediately with a quick phone call or email.

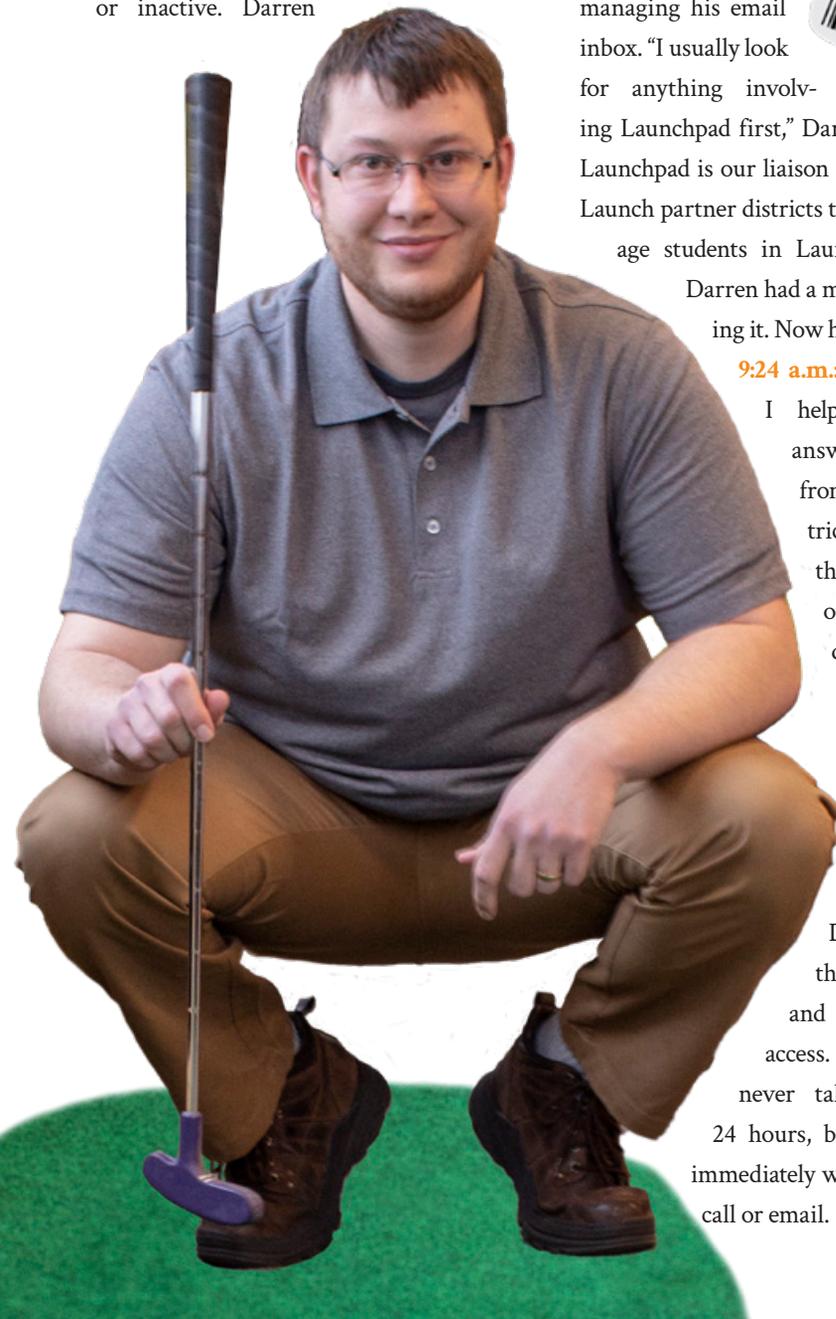


11 a.m.: Lunch time! Darren steps out to eat Indian food—his very favorite!

1:11 p.m.: Darren is back at his desk and staring at a screen filled with dozens of lines of numbers, symbols and letters. "I'm working on writing some code for Launch Tools," he says. Darren collaborates with Digital Developer Justin Thomas for the program, which was built to assure all Launch courses run smoothly. "Most of what I do is on the back end—it involves processing student records and auditing course information," Darren says.

3:53 p.m.: As the afternoon winds down, Darren makes a quick trip to the office putting green for a brain break. Justin and fellow Digital Developer Brad Maples are putting a few balls, and Darren—who is also known as the Launch office's official golf commissioner—is asked to confirm a ruling. "Fair!" Justin won.

4 p.m.: After he congratulates Justin on his victory, Darren grabs his backpack and heads for the door. He's headed home to his family—he and his wife, Katrina, have a 4-year-old, a 2-year-old and a baby on the way. "Bye guys—have a great night!" ■



Expanded Offerings

Launch has a team of curriculum coordinators and digital developers that is constantly working to expand our course catalog. Read about the newest electives that will be available to students statewide starting this summer.



American Baseball History

Baseball fans—this class is for you! Launch's American Baseball History course surveys and interprets the history of baseball in the United States. Students study both the role and significance of baseball in American society over the past 150 years and the history of the game itself.



Grammar & Comp I

Launch's Grammar & Comp I course offers an introduction to college-level writing, making it a valuable course for students interested in pursuing an advanced education. It provides additional training in writing and a thorough review of grammar and usage and is available for dual credit through Missouri State University.



Early Childhood

Students in Launch's Early Childhood course study concepts related to the areas and stages of child growth and development. The course also explores careers in child development, which is great for students who are interested in pursuing the field as a career option in the future.



Economics

Launch's Economics course engages students by presenting the philosophy and principles of economic concepts. Students complete projects that include the elements of research, exploration and evaluation, and they read extensively, think critically and write.

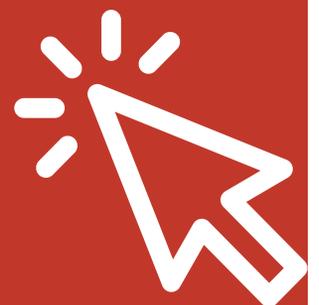


Grammar & Comp II

This course is designed for students who desire intensive training in writing, whether for college or advanced technical purposes. Students taking this course must have a firm grasp of grammar, usage and punctuation. The course is available for dual credit through Missouri State University.

Find more courses online!

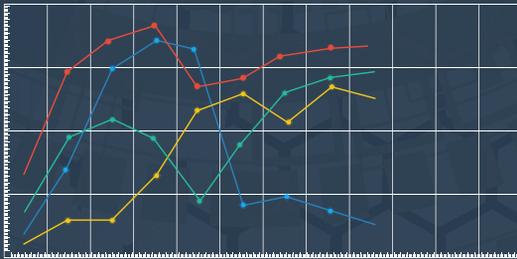
Check out our online catalog at fueledbylaunch.com/courses to find out more about each of Launch's 160+ courses. You can view major topics and concepts and see sample assignments.



Anatomy of a Course:

Driver Education

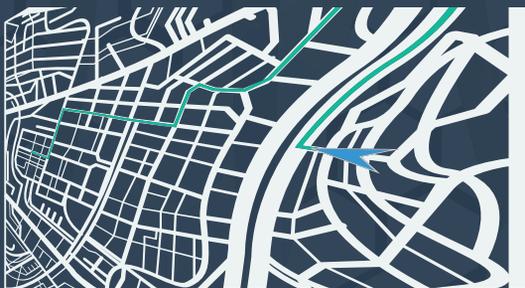
We know what you're thinking... "You can take Driver Education online?" The answer is yes! Check out an overview of Launch's Driver Education course, which teaches students the skills, attitudes and behaviors needed to become a safe driver and prepares them for their written and driving exams.



● Intersection with lights ● Left/right with yield
● Shared turn lane ● Lane changes

THE DRIVING LOG

In Launch's Driver Education course, students ride or drive with an adult, then submit a journal entry about their experiences. Successful completion of the course meets requirements for insurance discounts, when applicable.



LET'S BUY A CAR AND HIT THE ROAD!

Driver Education requires students to engage in multiple interactive assignments. One requires them to make a list of must-haves for a vehicle, then search online to compile a list of five cars that meet their needs. Another has students plan a vacation—they pick a destination, then decide on activities and entertainment, find a hotel, set a budget and, of course, get directions!

Drive 1: Parking lot. This drive focuses on the practice of stopping and starting smoothly and making right and left turns both from a stopped position and while on the move.

Drive 2: Neighborhoods. Students navigate through neighborhoods to work on driving in the proper lane, stopping at stop signs and making right and left turns.

Drive 3: City driving. Driving in the city allows students to practice lane changes and the obedience of traffic lights and yield signs, and it also introduces the need to communicate with other drivers.

Drive 4: Country driving. A drive on country roads allows students to drive at higher speeds with a road filled with hills, curves and passing lanes. Students are also encouraged to watch for animals during this experience.

Drive 5: Highway/Interstate. Once students merge onto the interstate, they experience driving at higher speeds and accompanying passing and lane changes.

Drive 6: Road course. This experience allows students to practice parallel parking, parking on a hill, lane changes and more to help prepare for the driving test.



Expanding Options in Neosho

The Neosho School District believes its students deserve as many options as possible—they utilize Launch to provide opportunities to all types of learners.



Sarah Martinez (right) and Emma Tribbey use Launch to take courses not offered at NHS.

When Neosho High School student Sarah Martinez sat down to plan her junior year schedule, she hit a bit of a roadblock while trying to take a foreign language class. “I’m a native Spanish speaker,” Sarah says. “This means I can’t take Spanish. But that’s the only seated foreign language offered at Neosho High School.” Fortunately, the Neosho School District is a Launch partner, so Sarah had expanded foreign language opportunities online. She enrolled in Launch’s French I course. “Launch gave me an opportunity to learn a language I would not have been able to otherwise,” Sarah says.

Classmate Emma Tribbey was in a similar situation. “We don’t have a lot of music offerings here,” Emma says. Emma enrolled in Launch’s Fine Arts

Appreciation: Music and Music Theory courses, as well as Launch’s AP History course. “AP U.S. History wasn’t working with my schedule, so I decided to take it online as well,” Emma says. These two student scenarios are perfect examples of why the counseling team at Neosho High is grateful for their Launch partnership.

Opportunities for All

As the Neosho High School counselors chat around a conference room table, their conversation illustrates their true passion for doing what’s best for all students. After first partnering with Launch, the district enrolled an at-risk student into a full Launch schedule. The student was no longer attending school. “Launch gave us another opportunity to try,” says Mickey Sandford, the 11th grade counselor. Jacob

Oakes, the senior counselor, agrees. “It’s nice to be able to try everything we can,” Jacob says. “I really like the flexibility of Launch, especially for kids who are having hardships or kids that are medically fragile and might not otherwise be able to get a traditional education.”

In addition to helping at-risk students, the team also utilizes Launch to help traditional students—students like Sarah and Emma. “Launch helps us greatly expand our course catalog,” Mickey says. “If we don’t have it, we’ll find it. We’ll look to see if Launch has it.” But Mickey is also the first to admit—a new partnership was a bit nerve-racking at first. “I was afraid we were going to do away with teachers,” he says. “I thought, if everybody does Launch, we won’t need these people. And I didn’t like it.” But he soon learned the true mission of Launch—providing access and accessibility when needed, as needed. “Then after we enrolled our first student, you all mailed us a computer for the student to use,” Mickey says. “I thought, ‘Who are these people, just giving us computers?’ After that, I knew you were going to take care of us, and you were going to take care of our kids. I liked that.”

The Launch Difference

Heather Hughes, the freshman counselor, says she was also a bit nervous about partnering with Launch in the beginning. This changed after Launch’s first Neosho

“I really like the flexibility of Launch, especially for kids who are having hardships or kids that are medically fragile and might not otherwise be able to get a traditional education.”

—*Jacob Oakes*

engagement visit. “I think your meeting with us—when you all came out and visited with us—that really put my mind at ease,” Heather says. As a part of Launch’s engagement commitment, our team regularly visits partners to answer questions and meet students. “Putting some faces with the program—and knowing that you all would be there to support us and knowing that you came to Neosho just to explain everything to us—that was the best thing for me while getting started.”

This relationship building is a huge part of Launch not only with partners, but also with teachers and students. By limiting class sizes and providing our teachers with a list of expectations—they are expected to provide timely feedback,

to build relationships with students, to call home when needed—we strive to provide an elevated quality of online learning. “I talk with my teacher a lot,” Sarah says. “Launch also provides the ability for a web conference, where I can see my teacher through my computer, even though I can’t see her in real life. I think that’s pretty cool.”

Launch’s online classes are also built to be as dynamic as possible, so students have opportunities to work with classmates all over the state. “I really like how interactive Launch is,” says Emma, who has taken online classes with another online provider in the past. “I get to see how other students are learning and how they’re understanding the material. I think that helps me understand the material as well.”

As more and more Neosho students enroll in Launch courses, the word continues to spread. “In the beginning, students heard about Launch from us,” Heather says. “But now students are talking about it, and they’re hearing about it from each other. Parents are calling—the kids are really marketing it for us.” And now that the district is off to a successful start, they’re ready to expand—Neosho is actually including all Launch courses in its selection of studies for next fall. “We’re seeing success for our upper-level students who are working to get into advanced courses,” Heather says. “It’s a new push for our kids—they’re wanting to take more, and now we can offer it to them.” ■

The Neosho High School counseling team appreciates how Launch provides them one more tool to meet student needs.



Neosho at a Glance

K-12 Enrollment: 4,753

High School Population: 1,307

MASA District: Southwest

School Colors: Black and Gold

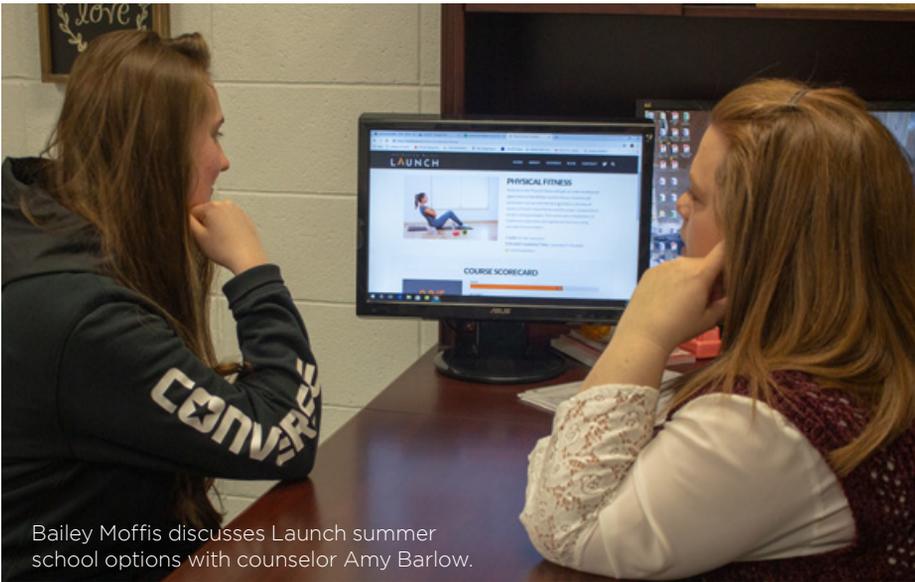
Mascot: Wildcat

Fun Fact: Neosho is often referred to as “the City of Springs.” Nine springs and a network of streams and tributaries have provided the town’s residents easy access to a clear and abundant water supply throughout the city’s history.



Launch Success at SHS

At Seymour High School, nearly 40 percent of students are enrolled in at least one Launch course. A designated learning lab provides these students a place to work, interact and take classes that are often not offered seated.



Bailey Moffis discusses Launch summer school options with counselor Amy Barlow.

Near the end of her junior year, Seymour High School student Justus Benson received some disappointing news from her former high school counselor. “He told me I probably wasn’t going to be able to graduate on time,” Justus says. Justus is a motivated, talented student, and she excelled in her English and art classes. It was science and math where she needed a little extra guidance and support, and it was in those subjects that she needed to recover credits.

At the time, Seymour was providing its students virtual credit recovery opportunities, but the courses were offered through a national, for-profit company, and the program wasn’t proving to be as successful as the district hoped. Students were struggling

their way through the program’s courses, and tech-related issues often caused frustration and discouragement. At the pace things were moving, Justus wasn’t going to have time to both recover courses and still earn the credits she needed to graduate with her cohort class.

Fast forward one year, and Justus is now nearing the end of her senior year and is on track to graduate on



time. She credits this in large part to Launch, which the district partnered with at the start of the 2018-2019 school year. “Launch works a lot better for me, because it gives me more time to work through and understand things,” Justus says. “I like how Launch breaks the assignments and units down. It has more videos to explain things, and it even reads things to me if I needed help.”

Building Paths for Student Success

When Seymour High School Counselor Amy Barlow joined the SHS staff in summer 2018, she suggested the district partner with Launch to provide students virtual course opportunities. She came to Seymour with experience using Launch in both the Marshfield and Springfield school districts, so she knew of its success. “The national program Seymour was using didn’t seem to align with our Missouri standards as much, and it made a difference,” Amy says. “I think that’s why our kids weren’t as successful in those credit recovery courses.” Amy was no stranger to the district—she formerly spent six years there as a high counselor, and she was there for three years as a teacher as well.

While Seymour now uses Launch for all of its credit recovery offerings, the

Justus Benson will graduate with her class in May 2019—Launch’s credit recovery made this possible.

“Launch has provided a great extension to our curriculum, because we are such a small district.”

—Amy Barlow

district also allows students to earn credits in Launch’s traditional virtual and credit recovery courses. In fact, nearly 40% of the district’s 180 high school students are enrolled in some type of Launch course. “Launch has provided a great extension to our curriculum, because we are such a small district,” Barlow says. “AP and dual credit courses have been great for students. They also love the expanded electives.”

An expanded catalog is great for students like Bailey Moffis, who is currently a sophomore and is already mapping the path to her college education and a future career as a dermatologist. “I’m taking AP Government and Spanish I right now,” Bailey says. “Launch allows me to manage my time however I want, and it’s allowing me to take classes that I’ll need for college one day.”

Launch Learning Lab

As districts consider partnering with Launch, they often ask a common question: Where will students sit during the hour (or hours) they are in a Launch class? This is a district-level decision, but many districts across the state are creating “Launch Labs” for students to utilize as they take their online courses.

“We have a learning lab where students taking online courses are able to work,” Amy says.

In Seymour, students who are taking dual credit courses through local universities also utilize the lab. “It’s available to students seven hours a day, and we have a teacher there to monitor students and provide support,” Amy says. This teacher is Abby Ruiz, who is also Seymour’s dual credit English teacher. “Adding Launch has been the best move for our students,” Abby says. “Our students have been so much more successful, and I have seen new-found confidence in them. It makes me love my job so much more.”

Both Justus and Bailey spend time with Abby in the learning lab, and they also both work on Launch at home. They



Bailey Moffis, a sophomore at Seymour High School, is taking Launch classes to get ahead for college.

say they’re grateful to have options. “Mrs. Barlow got me a computer and wireless internet,” Justus says. “I like having the flexibility to work at home. I play softball and I babysit, so sometimes I stay up late working on Launch after everything else.” Bailey balances a job at McDonald’s with her coursework, and she also takes advantage of the flexible schedule. “I can manage my time how I want,” Bailey says. For Seymour’s additional Launch students, situations are similar, and the district is happy to provide expanded options. “From credit recovery to advanced offerings, we have many students enrolled,” Amy says. “It reaches every gamut.” ■

Seymour at a Glance

K-12 Enrollment: 716

High School Population: 180

MASA District: Southwest

School Colors: Maroon and White

Mascot: Tiger

Fun Fact: Every September, many SHS alumni travel back home for the annual Seymour Apple Festival. The town began celebrating the annual fall festival almost 50 years ago to honor its original cash crop—Seymour was among the state’s leading apple producers in the early 1900s.



Partners for Performance

Launch partners with Missouri State University and Drury University to offer students dual credit for select virtual courses.

When it comes to the benefits of taking a dual credit course in high school, the list is quite long. Students are exposed to advanced curriculum, they're getting a jump-start on their college education, and they typically pay only a fraction of the tuition that they would pay if they were to take the course while in college. Add the virtual aspect of Launch to the mix, and students can now earn dual credit from anywhere in the state.

Launch expanded its dual credit offerings in fall 2018 and works with both Missouri State University and Drury University to provide its expanded offerings to students. "We're excited to be working with these two universities to provide students dual credit options," says Launch Director Dr. Nichole Lemmon. "Our goal is always to do what's best for kids. This is a great opportunity for students statewide."

The majority of Launch's dual credit courses are offered in conjunction with Missouri State University. "For us, it's

all about getting access and affordability to students," says Angela Young, Director of Dual Credit and Outreach at Missouri State University. And by affordability, Young is referring to the reduced cost: in addition to Launch tuition, the student or partner district is charged a discounted price of \$70 per credit hour. "The minimum a student would pay if they were attending Missouri State University is \$212 a credit hour," Young says. This means students from anywhere are able to earn college-level credit at approximately a third of the traditional cost.

As with all Launch courses, dual credit offerings are taught by highly qualified Missouri teachers. These teachers not only instruct and provide feedback in their virtual courses, but they also reach out to parents and guardians, if needed. "Our teachers call home if a student is inactive or not passing," Dr. Lemmon says. "It's important to us that they're doing everything they can to help our students." ■

Launch's current dual credit offerings:

- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Computer Science
- AP English Lit & Comp.
- AP Physics
- AP Statistics
- AP US Gov. & Politics
- AP US History
- Financial Accounting
- Personal Finance
- Introductory Speech



Missouri State
UNIVERSITY



DRURY
UNIVERSITY

HiSET Help

Launch's new HiSET Prep course helps students statewide prepare for the HiSET exam.

As Launch grows, it's important to us to provide all students opportunities. Enter our newest prep course. "Launch offers a HiSET Prep course through Essential Education," says Launch Instructor Darrin Ankrom. The HiSET exam is a component of the Missouri Option Program, which also requires students to complete Health, Personal Finance and Government credits and additional components (required by DESE) in order to earn a diploma.

Launch is able to provide districts with both the course work components required by the Missouri Option Program as well as HiSET exam prep. "Launch

monitors students and provides progress reports to partner districts," says Director Dr. Nichole Lemmon.

Launch's HiSET Prep course is personalized, so every student's learning path looks different. "Students take practice tests in each subject, and this reflects what they need to work on the most," Ankrom says. "The entire program is also self paced, which is a huge benefit." The program is already proving to be successful. "I've had several students who came into the program with low scores, and after working through the HiSET Prep course, they were able to pass the official HiSET exam," Ankrom says. ■



Launch helps students statewide by offering prep and courses for the HiSET and the Missouri Option Program.

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View our 2019 AP Catalog
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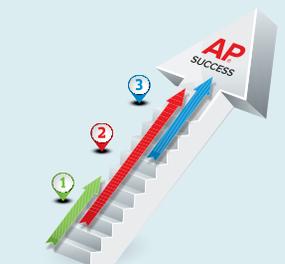
AP Course Prep

- Self-paced, diagnostic, interactive AP course prep
- Builds prerequisite skills and knowledge before the first day of class

2 APcore

AP Course Resources

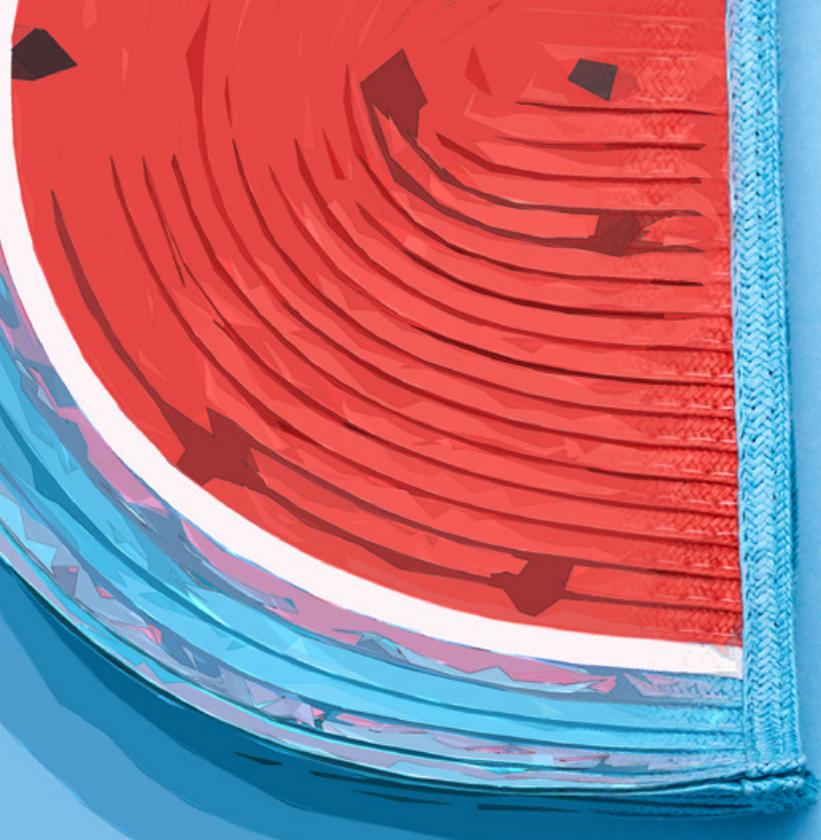
- Robust online teaching and learning resources that extend class instruction
- Powerful reporting tools and customizable content

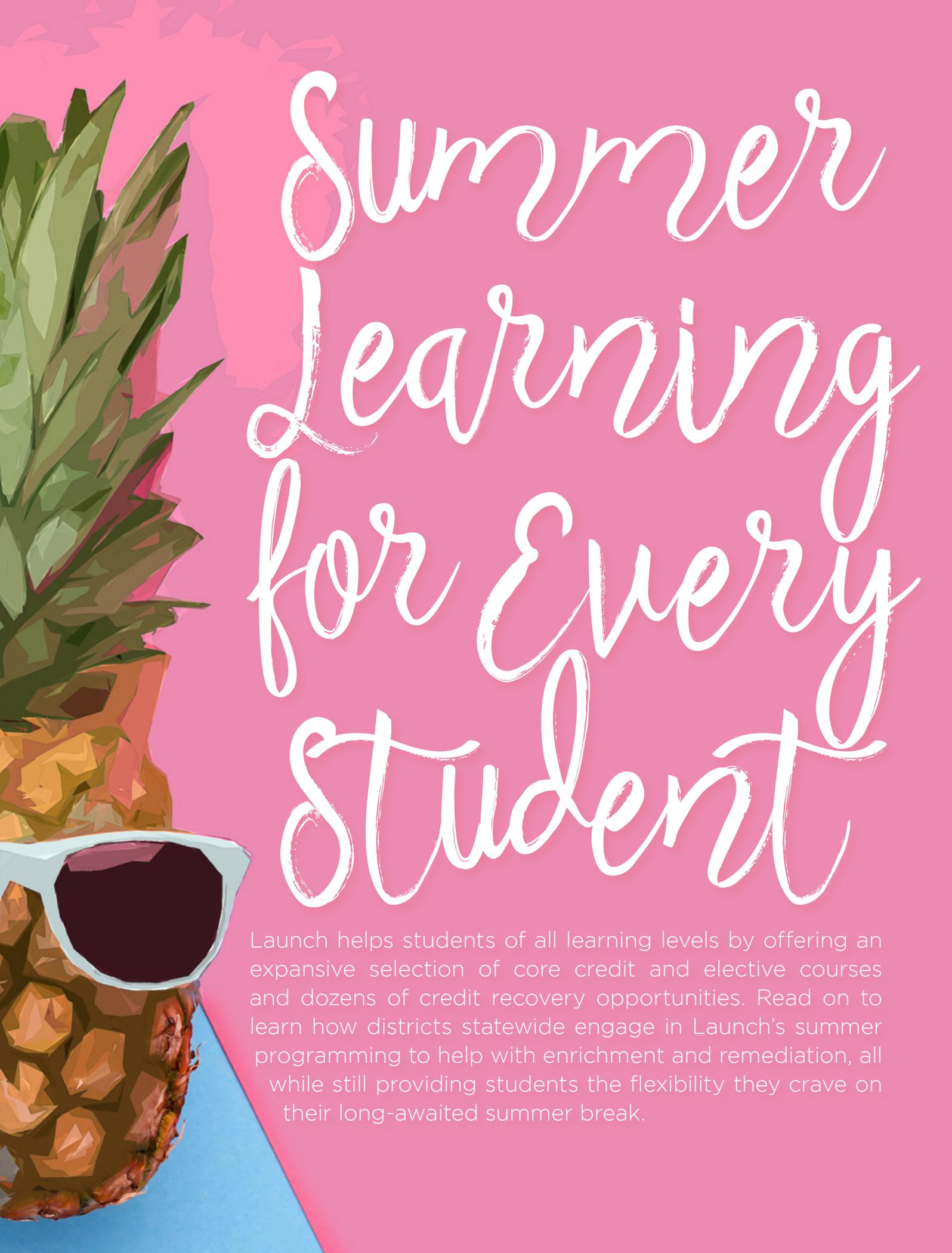


3 SCOREboard

AP Test Prep

- Personalized, adaptive AP content review
- Four complete, auto-graded or printable AP practice exams





Summer Learning for Every Student

Launch helps students of all learning levels by offering an expansive selection of core credit and elective courses and dozens of credit recovery opportunities. Read on to learn how districts statewide engage in Launch's summer programming to help with enrichment and remediation, all while still providing students the flexibility they crave on their long-awaited summer break.

EXPANDING Opportunities

Jackson High School student Charles Collins attended Boys State—and four other leadership academies—last summer, all while taking Launch’s government course online.

It would be hard to find a student more motivated than Jackson High School’s Charles Collins. “I always joke that I’m going to be working for him one day,” says Dr. Matt Lacy, the associate superintendent of Jackson R2 School District. “He is a really great kid, all around.”

Charles is the student who capitalizes on all opportunities that come his way—he started earning high school credit in 8th grade, and he began taking AP classes his sophomore year. “This year I’m in three AP classes,” he says. This determination has always been there—in fact, he engaged in five leadership academies, including Missouri Boys State, last summer, and he managed to juggle a job and earn his government credit at the same time.

So, how did he do it all? With a little help from Launch. Charles arranged his schedule to build study time in with all of his other summer activities. “It took some planning and setting time aside during the day,” Charles says. “It’s very flexible, so you’re able to make it work.” In addition to Launch’s flexibility, Charles also enjoyed interacting with his teacher. “In the online courses I’ve taken before Launch, I never really knew my teachers,” Charles says. “My Launch teacher Mr. England made video announcements every day, and he was always really quick to help.” All in all, Charles was very happy with his summer Launch experience, and he would recommend it to other students. “If you’re nervous about fitting something into your schedule, Launch is great,” Charles says. “It’s a spectacular tool that is so necessary for a high-achieving student.”

While Charles Collins had many activities going on last summer, he worked on his Launch course after hours.



“If you’re nervous about fitting something into your schedule, Launch is great. It’s a spectacular tool that is so necessary for a high-achieving student.”

—Charles Collins

RECOVERING Credit

Excelsior Springs High School student Kyle Bender enjoyed all of his favorite summer activities, and made up two credits in the process.

For Excelsior Springs High School student Kyle Bender, summer has always meant many things. It's when he makes extra money harvesting beans and corn. It's when he heads to the lake for fishing and kayaking. It's when he sleeps in and hangs out with his friends. But last summer, it was also when he needed to recover Algebra and Geometry credits. Thanks to Launch, he was able to do it all.

"On most

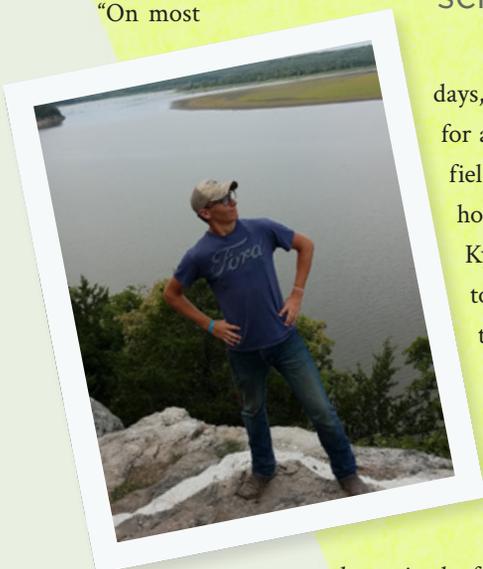
Last summer, Kyle Bender spent his days working, fishing and boating and then worked on his Launch courses in the evening.



"I'd come home and do my school work in the evenings."

—Kyle Bender

days, I'd wake up and go to the lake with my friends for a while," Kyle says. Next he would head to the fields, where he'd work a few hours. "I'd come home and do my school work in the evenings," Kyle says. If he knew he was going to be out of town or super busy one day, he'd work ahead the day prior. It all worked out well, as he was able to recover two credits and still enjoy all of his favorite summer activities. "I liked that I didn't have to spend time sitting in a classroom during the summer," he says. As a rising junior, Kyle plans to take more Launch classes in the future. "I really liked my experience."



How to Make Summer Work for Your District

With these helpful tips and Launch, you can help prevent summer slide and enrich your school's course catalog.

- 1. Make Your Summer Twice as Long.** Offer students Launch's online classes in both June and July to engage more students. You can increase your summer school offerings on your DESE Summer School Application.
- 2. Expand Your Course Catalog.** Think about courses you don't offer seated. Expand your course catalog to attract students with a variety of interests.
- 3. Think Practical and Popular.** Consider encouraging students to take popular required courses, such as Health and Personal Finance, online during the summer months.

ENGAGING Middle Schoolers

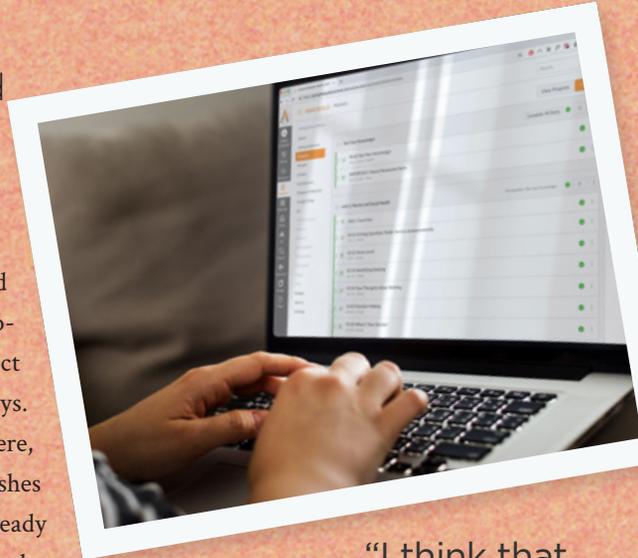
Eighth grader Rahma Abdelhakiem shares what it's like to learn online while in middle school, and why she's learning online again this summer.

While many high schools statewide offer students virtual course access, another question is posed: What about access for middle school students? Thanks to Launch, virtual course offerings for this younger demographic are also now a reality.

"I have taken online Health and Physical Education," says Rahma Abdelhakiem, an eighth grade student at Carver Middle School in Springfield. Rahma enjoyed her experience, especially the flexibility and pacing options. "One of my favorite things about Launch classes is that I can go at my own speed," Rahma says. This

meant she was able to work ahead, or catch up if she ever got behind.

When it was time to log on and get started, Rahma found the process seamless. "It was very direct and easy to navigate," Rahma says. "All my assignments were right there, and I loved that." As Rahma finishes out her time at Carver, she's already planning her summer engagement—her family has tentative plans to travel to Egypt, and she has plans to take another Launch class. "I think that every student should try taking a Launch class to see how it is," Rahma says. "You won't be disappointed."



"I think that every student should try taking a Launch class to see how it is. You won't be disappointed."
—Rahma Abdelhakiem

Engaging Grades 1-12

With certified teachers and adaptive software, Launch's summer academies engage students grades 1-12.

Code Academy **Computer Coding; Grades 3-8**

This academy was created for all computer-loving kiddos. Students learn how apps and games are created, and they even make a video game!

Lexia Academy; **Reading; Grades 1-5**

Lexia Academy learners use adaptive software that meets them at their current reading level. Students complete the course with enhanced skills and confidence.

Dreambox Academy **Math; Grades 1-5**

Students are assessed on their current math skills and met at their learning level. They enhance their math skills through a variety of interactive curriculum.



Reading Plus Academy **Reading; Grades 3-12**

Students roll their reading skills into this academy for increased reading independence, interest and knowledge enhancement.

ALEKS Academy **Math; Grades 6-12**

Students enhance their math skills through this interactive math instruction. Learners are able to select from 6th grade math through trigonometry support.

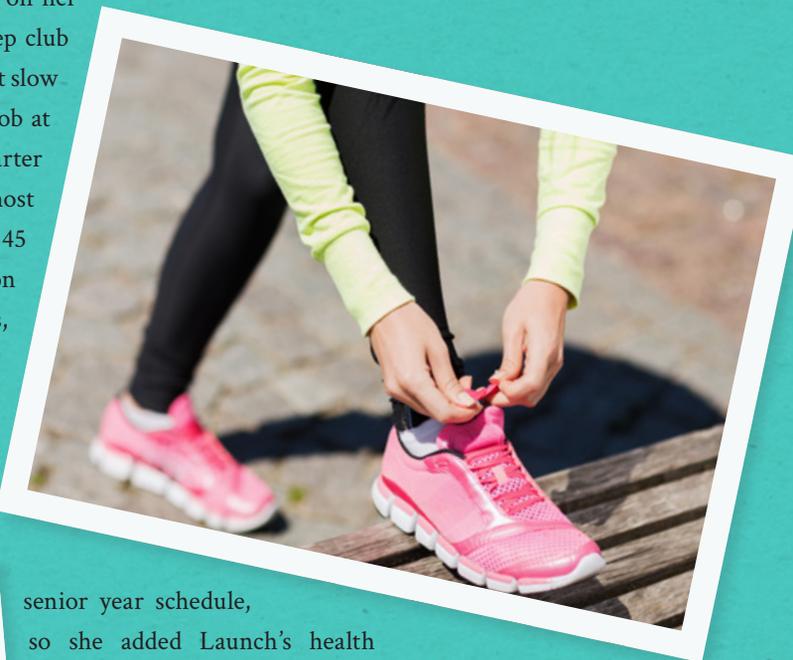
PROVIDING Flexibility

Ava High School student Carter Crews balanced a full-time job with two summer camps, two vacations and Launch's Health course.

Carter Crews is a busy student. In addition to keeping up on her grades, she also runs cross country and participates in pep club and technology club during the school year. And she doesn't slow down during her time off, either. "Last summer I had a full-time job at

"I balanced my work and vacations with my online class by getting up an hour to an hour and a half early."
—Carter Crews

the city pool as a lifeguard," Carter says. "I worked six days almost every week and averaged about 45 hours each week. I also went on two week-long summer camps, and two weekend family vacations." As a rising senior at Ava High School, Carter wanted to take a class online to add some flexibility to her



senior year schedule, so she added Launch's health course to her already-busy summer days.

"I balanced my work and vacations with my online class by getting up an hour to an hour and a half early," Carter says. "I didn't like that I couldn't sleep in, but the online work allowed me not to sit in a classroom like traditional summer school." As she looks back on her last summer, she says she is happy with her experience. "I would tell other students it's a good option to help complete credits, and it's easy to use," Carter says. As for this summer, Carter won't be enrolling in Launch—instead, she's preparing for her time in college. "I'm excited about starting college in the fall," Carter says. "I plan on attending Missouri S&T."



When she wasn't working or learning in her Launch Health course, Carter Crews enjoyed another fun summer activity: gardening.

WORK, WORK OUT Earn Credit

A summer job and off-season color guard activities helped Camdenton High School student Carmalita Leuenberger earn her Launch PE credit.

M eet Carmalita Leuenberger. The Camdenton High School sophomore worked and attended an off-season band camp last summer, and she earned her Physical Education credit in the process. “I actually had my first job ever,” says Carmalita, who worked as a lifeguard at Big Surf Waterpark at Lake of the Ozarks. This worked out perfectly for Carmalita, who was required to exercise wearing a heart rate monitor for her Launch PE course. By wearing her monitor to work, she was able to track the exercise required for her lifeguard duties. “Every morning when I came into work, I had to swim laps in the wave pool,” Carmalita says. “Then, we’d always jog from one workstation to the next.”

Carmalita also participated in off-season color guard activities for the Camdenton High School band last summer. “This also helped me log activity for my workouts,” Carmalita says. If there ever was a time when she didn’t meet her exercise requirements, she would run to the lake from her house and enjoy the scenery. “I liked how convenient my Launch PE class was,” Carmalita says. “I take honors classes at school, so this helped me make room in my schedule for the school year.”

“I liked how convenient my Launch PE class was. I take honors classes at school, so this helped me make room in my schedule for the school year.”
—Carmalita Leuenberger

Carmalita Leuenberger lived an active lifestyle last summer—this helped her earn her Launch PE credit.



Get Certified With Launch

Launch offers a Hunter & Boater Safety course in conjunction with the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Highway Patrol, allowing students to receive their hunting and boating certifications for free.

- 1. Enroll.** Students who are 16 or older on the first day of Launch’s summer sessions (June 3 and July 8) are eligible to enroll in the Hunter & Boater Safety course.
- 2. Engage.** Students must log on and work their way through the course’s content, which teaches them all they need to know to become a responsible hunter and boater.
- 3. Get Certified.** Learners simply follow the instructions in their Launch course to receive their digital certifications for both hunting and boating.



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 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



Nevertheless, *She Persisted*

While Savannah Gibbs was presented with a series of challenges as she entered high school, she always found a way to carry on. Learn how Launch helped her find a path to earning her high school diploma, despite an unexpected knee injury and family hardships.

As she entered her freshman year at Kickapoo High School, Savannah Gibbs lived a storybook life. Her days mirrored the days of most teenage girls—she balanced schoolwork and social time with TV, social media and a plethora of hobbies. Her father had a great job, so she was used to lifestyle perks such as getting her nails done and enjoying mother-daughter shopping trips. She had been playing volleyball competitively for nearly a decade—a childhood of club and traveling teams elevated her skill set—and she was ready to join the Kickapoo Chiefs team and even dreamed of eventually playing at the University of Arizona. And then one day she landed wrong during practice, and her life took a huge turn.

“All of my ligaments snapped on that fall,” Savannah says. “They call it the perfect trifecta.” This is the injury that occurs when the knee bends inward, the outside of the femur lands on the tibia and crushes the lateral meniscus and the MCL stretches until it tears. At that very moment, Savannah’s volleyball career came to an abrupt halt, and four knee surgeries followed. “I’ve had a total knee reconstruction,” Savannah says. “I’ve had three knee surgeries and one meniscus removal.” Due to her major surgeries and their recovery times, Savannah ended up transitioning to a half-online schedule by her junior year.



As time carried on, Savannah began to face challenges in other areas of her life. “My dad lost his job, and my family went through some financial hardships,” Savannah says. Naturally, this resulted in many lifestyle changes for Savannah. She not only had to sacrifice the regular nail appointments and shopping trips she’d grown accustomed to, but she also had to think about paying her own phone bill, making her own car payment and paying for her own insurance. “I had never even really had a job before,” says Savannah. “It was like a smack in the face, really.”

Savannah Gibb, who grew up playing volleyball, was faced with a knee injury and other hardships that led her to become a full-time Launch student. In addition to carrying a full course load, Savannah works full-time at CoxHealth and even finds time to be a “Super Sister” to her little brother, Nicholas (pictured above).

The changes continued. Not long after all of the financial changes took place, Savannah’s parents told her and her siblings that they were getting a divorce. “They had been married for 24 years,” Savannah says. Her older sister is in Africa until June, but Savannah and her 10-year-old brother, Nicholas, were still both in the household, and they dealt with the news together. “I don’t really have any other family here—most of my extended family lives in Michigan,” Savannah says. “That’s really when I knew it was my time to become “Super Sister.”

Savannah quickly got a full-time job to keep up on her bills. “I had previously done a Medical Explorers Program through CoxHealth and job shadowed doctors,” she says. “My aunt knew of a job fair at the hospital, and she encouraged me to go and apply for a job.”

Savannah was hired as a Unit Assistant at CoxHealth, and she’s been working 40 hours a week ever since. She spends the majority of her time on the Pulmonary Medical-Surgery floor. “I really do a little bit of everything,” Savannah says. “I’ll help take care of patients and make sure they’re comfortable. I’ll make sure their families are comfortable. I’ll help give showers or take patients for walks.”

Starting each day at 6 a.m. and working in a hospital came with its own challenges, and it was a lot for a 17-year-old entering her senior of high school to handle. “I attended the first three full days of school senior year,” Savannah says. “I was tired—really just exhausted. My school wasn’t getting enough time, and I wasn’t getting enough time. I talked to my counselor and said I really wanted to go full-time online.”

Savannah became a full-time online student in August 2018. “Launch was kind of a gift from God for me,” Savannah says. “I have a set time that I work on my classes after work.” This works well for Savannah as she continues to pay her own bills and helps care for her brother. “I love the flexibility I have with Launch,” she says. “If I need to go and help my little brother during the day, and I’m not at work, I can do that. I can pick him up.”

Today Savannah is close to her graduation date—she will be finished in May 2019—and she credits Launch for making it possible. “I needed relief,” Savannah says. “I needed emotional relief, and I needed physical relief. I needed something that could help me get through. Launch made it all possible for me.” ■

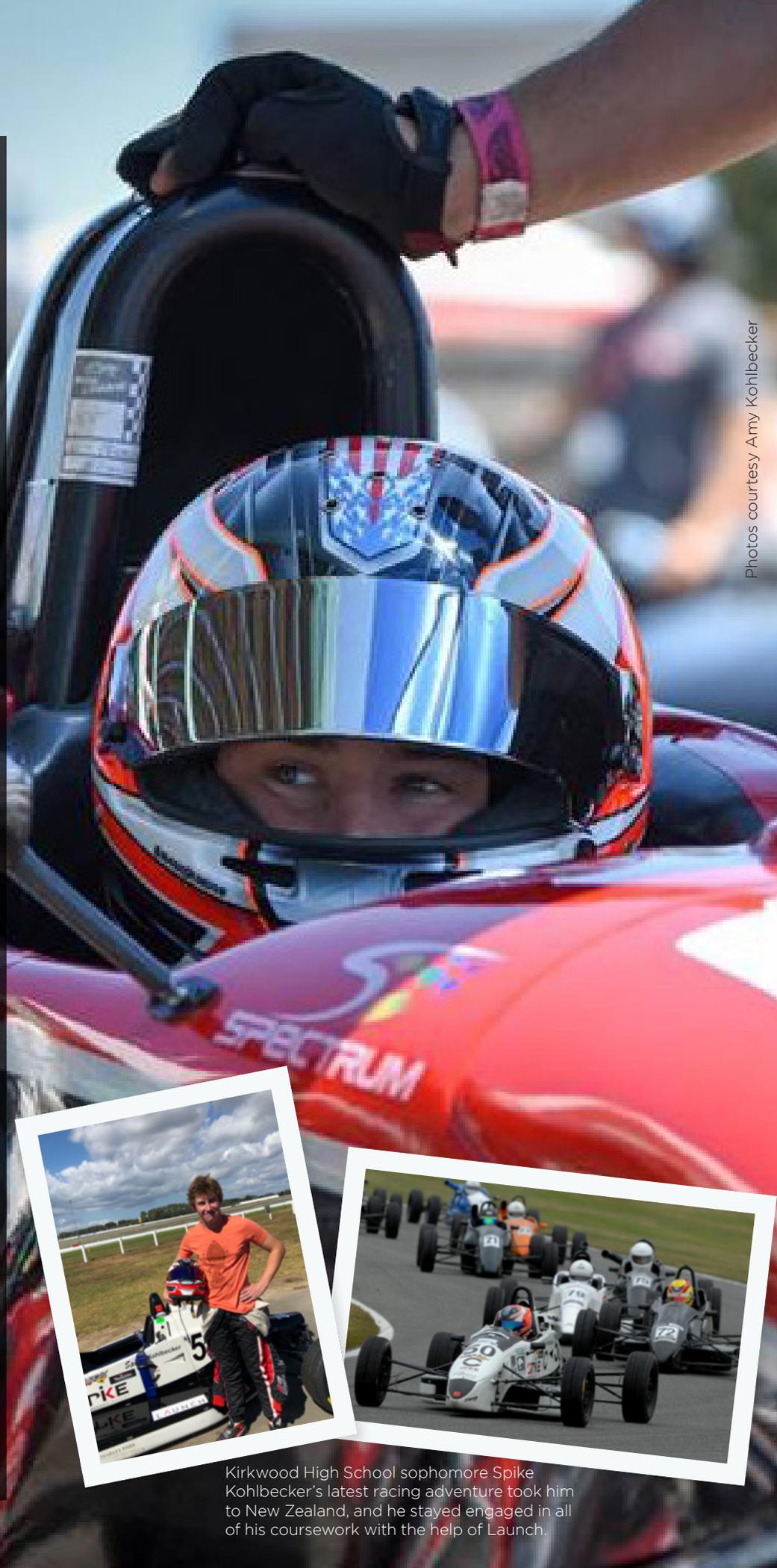


Chasing a Dream

By enrolling in Launch courses, Kirkwood High School student Spike Kohlbecker was able to follow his racing career overseas.

When Kirkwood student Spike Kohlbecker was offered the opportunity to travel overseas to race in the New Zealand Formula Ford National Championship Series, he knew it was too good to pass up. There was one issue, though—Spike is a sophomore in high school, and he couldn't exactly take off for three months. Thankfully, the Kirkwood School District partners with Launch, and Spike was able to transfer to a full online schedule for his time Down Under. "Launch affords me the ability to race in New Zealand, and also provides me with the flexibility to work on school work at times that fit in with my hectic schedule," Spike says.

When he logs on in New Zealand, Spike is actually 19 hours ahead of his instructors back in Missouri. "My teachers have been really great with it all," Spike says. "I let them know I'm on a different schedule, and they understand." This makes it much easier for Spike to blend racing in with his daily doses of reading, writing and arithmetic—all while chasing his dream. "I've been racing since I was 4," Spike says. "Motorsports is a passion—a way of life for me." ■



Photos courtesy Amy Kohlbecker



Kirkwood High School sophomore Spike Kohlbecker's latest racing adventure took him to New Zealand, and he stayed engaged in all of his coursework with the help of Launch.



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.

Affton 101
Albany R-III
Alton R-IV
Ash Grove R-IV
Aurora R-VIII
Ava R-I
Bakersfield R-IV
Belton 124
Bloomfield R-XIV
Blue Eye R-V
Bolivar R-I
Branson R-IV
Brentwood
Bronaugh R-VII
Cabool R-IV
Camdenton R-III
Cape Girardeau 63
Carl Junction R-I
Carrollton R-VII
Cassville R-IV
Chillicothe R-II
Clarkton C-4
Clayton
Clever R-V
Clinton School District
Cole Co. R-I
Crane R-III
Crocker R-II
Doniphan R-I
Dunklin R-V
East Newton Co. R-VI
El Dorado Springs R-II
Elsberry R-II
Everton R-III
Excelsior Springs 40
EYC Academy
Fair Grove R-X
Fairview R-XI
Fayette R-III
Festus R-VI
Fordland R-III

Forsyth R-III
Francis Howell R-III
Ft. Zumwalt R-II
Glenwood R-VIII
Grain Valley R-V
Grandview C-4
Green City R-I
Hardin-Central C-2
Hartville R-II
Hazelwood
Hickory Co. R-I
Higbee R-VIII
High Point R-III
Hollister R-V
Houston R-I
Howell Valley R-I
Iberia R-V
Iron County C4
Jackson R-II
Junction Hill C-12
Kansas City 33
Kearney R-I
Kirbyville R-VI
Kirkwood R-VII
Laclede County R-1
Ladue
Lamar R-I
Laquey R-V
Lawson R-XIV
Lebanon R-III
Lexington R-V
Liberty 53
Lincoln R-II
Logan-Rogersville R-VIII
Madison C-3
Mansfield R-IV
Marshfield R-I
Maryville R-II
Meramec Valley R-III
Miami R-I
Milan C-2

Miller R-II
Monett R-I
Montgomery Co. R-II
Montrose R-XIV
Morgan Co. R-I
Mountain Grove R-III
Neosho School District
New Haven School District
Niangua R-V
Nixa
Nodaway-Holt R-VII
Norborne R-VIII
North Andrew Co. R-VI
North Nodaway Co. R-VI
North Shelby
Northeast Nodaway Co. R-V
Northwest R-I
Oak Grove R-VI
Oak Hill R-I
Orchard Farm R-V
Osage Co. R-II
Ozark R-VI
Parkway C-2
Pattonville R-III
Plato R-V
Pleasant Hill R-III
Poplar Bluff R-I
Raymore-Peculiar
Raytown C-2
Reeds Spring R-IV
Republic R-III
Rich Hill R-IV
Richards R-V
Richland R-IV
Ridgeway R-V
Rock Port R-II
Rockwood R-VI
Rolla 31
School of the Osage
Sedalia 200
Seneca R-VII

Seymour R-II
Shell Knob 78
Sherwood Cass R-VIII
South Callaway Co. R-II
South Nodaway Co. R-IV
Southland C-9
Sparta R-III
Springfield Catholic Schools
Springfield R-XII
St. Charles R-VI
St. James R-I
St. Joseph
Stanberry R-II
Steelville R-III
Stewartsville C-2
Stockton R-I
Strafford R-VI
Success R-VI
Tarkio R-I
Thayer R-II
The Goodwill Excel Centers
Tipton R-VI
Troy R-III
Union R-XI
University City
Warrensburg R-VI
Waynesville R-VI
Webb City R-VII
Webster Groves School District
Wellington-Napoleon R-IX
Wentzville R-IV
West Nodaway Co. R-I
West Plains R-VII
Wheaton R-III
Willard R-II
Willow Springs R-IV
Windsor C-1
Woodland R-IV
Worth Co. R-III

Missouri

Disclaimer: Listed member districts are accurate as of press time (March 15, 2019).



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