

EXPANDED OFFERINGS: 20 NEW COURSES ARE COMING IN SPRING 2020

Fall 2019

ACCESS

LAUNCH

THE VOICE OF VIRTUAL LEARNING IN MISSOURI



ROOTING FOR THE HOME TEAM

Learn how Launch is the Show-Me State's local solution for providing high-quality public virtual education options

Free College Credit

Launch's MSU partnership can benefit Missouri high school students

Access for All

Launch's virtual world language offerings are meeting needs statewide

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 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 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 or a traditional grade. Students get full course content with flexible course dates.

Launch's high school courses are available in the methods listed above. In addition to high school courses, Launch also has a full middle school catalog available.

Staff Poll

What's your favorite sports team?

The Launch Team

Dr. Ben Hackenwerth *Executive Director*
The St. Louis Cardinals. Especially in October!

Dr. Nichole Lemmon *Director, Digital Learning*
Do the Real Housewives count as a sports team?

Janna Elfrink *Coordinator, Digital Learning*
Kansas Jayhawks, because I'm a loyal Kansan!

Editor's note: Janna, we're sorry!—love, your Missouri-based Launch team

Christopher Kensinger *Specialist of Student Services*
THE Ohio State University. GO BUCKS!

Dave Schuman *Launch Counselor*
The St. Louis Cardinals—I used to go to Cardinals games with my dad when I was a kid.

Amanda Moskalew *Administrative Assistant, Springfield*
The Kansas City Chiefs! #SUPERBOWL2020

Shelby Blankenship *Launch Registrar*
The Kansas City Chiefs. "TOUCHDOWN KAN-SAS CITY!"

Jessica Johnson *Launch Attendance Secretary*
St. Louis Cardinals. I danced at a Cardinals game when I was a kid!

Shannon Gilliland *Launch Support Specialist, Kansas City*
M-I-Z! You know heartache if you're a Tigers fan—fifth down and Tyus Edney with 4.8 seconds! #BleedBlackandGold

Missy Sandbothe *Launch Support Specialist, St. Louis*
Z-O-U! Never forget the "fifth down!"

Stacey Walker *Administrative Assistant, Kansas City*
The Kansas City Chiefs. Patrick Mahomes II and I share the same hometown!

Caitlin Seiler *Administrative Assistant, St. Louis*
I'm a St. Louis girl... St. Louis Cardinals!

Development

Dr. Meghan Roe *Coordinator, Course Development*
I'm a graduate of Missouri State (undergrad) and TCU (grad school), so those are my teams. Go Bears and Horned Frogs!

Linda Ayres *Quality Assurance Specialist*
My favorite sports team is any team my kids are on.

Nicki Dickson *Digital Developer*
Houston Rockets... Westbrook and Hardin duo.

Justin Thomas *Digital Developer*
The St. Louis Cardinals.

Brad Maples *Digital Developer*
The Oklahoma Sooners. I'm from originally from Oklahoma where football can be considered a religion. Boomer Sooner!

Amy Jackson *Digital Developer*
The St. Louis Cardinals. I was born in STL and raised on Cardinals baseball.

Melissa James *Digital Developer*
L-G-B! Let's Go Blues!

Darren Rush *Launch Software Developer*
The St. Louis Cardinals. Go Cards!

Adam Shawley *Launch Help Desk*
The South Bend Blue Sox. (I don't watch sports.)

Tyler Gray *Launch Help Desk*
The Kansas City Chiefs. I was born and raised in Kansas City.

Creative Services

Savannah Waszczuk *Manager, Marketing and Engagement*
M-I-Z forever. J-School, class of 2007!

Jared Chester *Graphic Designer*
Slytherin from Hogwarts. Go Ssssnakes!

Daniel McDonald *Video Producer*
Manchester City!

Sean Wright *Video Producer*
Hearts, Hearts, glorious Hearts... Hearts FC!

Contact Us

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

✉ email
support@fueledbylaunch.com

🌐 website

🐦 twitter

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Students at Staley High School in North Kansas City enjoy cheering for their friends at a football game. North Kansas City is one of Launch's 236 district partners.

← WHY I LAUNCH

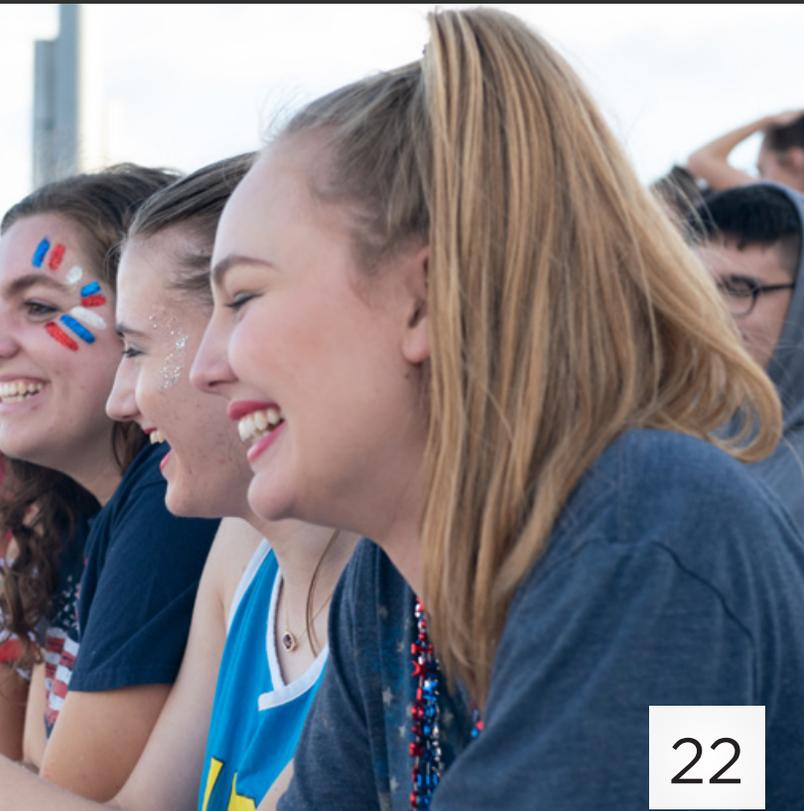
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ROOTING FOR THE HOME TEAM

Nearly 240 school districts strong, Launch is helping Missouri's public educators collaborate to provide the very best in virtual education for all Missouri students. Learn the details that make us Missouri's local choice in the world of online learning.

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Launch partners with Quality Matters to ensure its online classes are the very best they can be.



“Lucky for me, I now get to lead Launch, an initiative that is all about the home team. Our focus is Missouri, and we are your biggest teammates in virtual education.”
-Dr. Nichole Lemmon

Director’s **Note**

Launch’s Director shares how Launch is Missouri’s “local” choice in the world of virtual education.

If you know me and follow me on Twitter (@NicholeLemmon, if you don’t), you know I love learning mascots. At nearly 240 partners strong, Launch has introduced me to some of my all-time favorites: Clarkton Reindeer, West Plains Zizzers, St. Genevieve Dragons, Alton Comets and Doniphan Dons and Donettes (to name a few). I’ve always wondered how mascots came to be, and I’ve discovered that if you dig into it there is usually a fantastic local story to go along with these unique symbols of school pride.

As a former cheerleader (and later cheerleading coach), I know the power of home field advantage. And there are few things better than spending a Friday night

packed into a space with your friends cheering your team to victory. (Also, I happen to be a fan of that weird yellow nacho “cheese” poured over tortilla chips exclusively found at stadiums.)

Lucky for me, I now get to lead Launch, an initiative that is all about the home team. Our focus is Missouri, and we are your biggest teammates in virtual education. As we travel all over the state and meet the students, teachers, administrators and communities that make Missouri a great place to live, I’m reminded that our “Show Me” mantra is real. We believe what we can see and know to be quality and have value. This is why Launch exists and, thanks to you, just keeps getting better.

Dr. Nichole Lemmon was a cheerleader in middle school and high school. In 1992, she cheered for Reed Middle School (below).



See you online,

Dr. Nichole Lemmon
Director, Digital Learning



What's Online

The Launch team is hard at work building out Launchpad, our exclusive liaison portal! You can find our upgrades and much more online!



LAUNCHPAD

Easing the Enrollment Process

Is there any way for a district to get a list of the students they have enrolled in Launch? Now there is, and you can find it with the click of a button! With our new Launchpad "Reports" tab, district liaisons have the ability to download enrollment reports and bulk download enrollment printouts (the documents that include all of the student's login information).

Grade Reports and Invoices

Launch liaisons are now able to download grade reports on Launchpad at the end of every semester. Grades are posted within 5 days of the end of the term. Also available at the end of the semester are invoices—districts can now download their billing invoice straight from Launchpad!

Streamlining the IEP and 504 Plan Process

In previous semesters, district liaisons had to enroll students on Launchpad, then separately email in each individual student's IEP or 504 plan. This is no longer the case. Now liaisons can upload IEP and 504 plans as they enroll students.

Individualized Student Updates!

Our Launch IT Specialist recently announced that partner district liaisons can now update student guardian information directly on Launchpad (rather than having to email our enrollment team). We are excited, as this update will save district liaisons a lot of time!



Follow, Tweet and Retweet!

The best way to keep up to date with @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**

Dr. John Jungmann discusses how Springfield Public Schools is working with districts statewide to provide Missouri students the best in virtual education.

Public educators are part of the best, most vital work in our communities: educating the next generation. Unfortunately, political attacks on public education are nothing new. As virtual education has become more popular, it is not surprising that it, too, has become politicized.

For decades, lawmakers, for-profit companies, and special interest groups have repeatedly targeted the important work we do each day. While this is concerning, I want you to know that Springfield Public Schools has been working with school districts across the state of Missouri to solve course access challenges and to ensure all Missouri students have access to high quality virtual options. With nearly 240 public school district partners, this collaboration continues to grow. I want to remind you that unlike other programs, Launch is “designed, developed, and delivered by Missouri educators for Missouri students.”

From the beginning, we have committed to ensuring quality course access and have made this the foundation of our processes. We have guaranteed that all of our courses are developed by Missouri educators and align to Missouri Learning Standards. We have committed to hiring

teachers from partner districts across the state to ensure that our students have access to local educators. By continuing to invest in additional teachers, course development, infrastructure and support staff, we have proven that we are driven by purpose, not profit. Finally, Launch has committed to do this work in partnership with school districts and to refrain from direct marketing to students and parents.

Launch is working for Missouri students. We believe that the way to make progress is through collaboration and partnership among school districts, not through competition and an attempt to drive profit for schools or corporations with shareholders. There is strength in numbers, and working together as a unified front is the best way to guarantee virtual education continues to be designed, developed and delivered by Missouri educators for Missouri students. We appreciate your continued partnership.



Dr. John Jungmann
Superintendent, Springfield Public Schools



“By continuing to invest in additional teachers, course development, infrastructure and support staff, we have proven that we are driven by purpose, not profit.”
–Dr. John Jungmann

BY THE NUMBERS

Learn the latest facts and figures fueling Launch's Fall 2019 semester.

550k

MO students have access to Launch



41%

Missouri Public School Districts use Launch



4,000+

Support emails answered in the first quarter of 2019



3,000+

Support calls answered in the first quarter of 2019



20,434

Fall 2019 virtual course enrollments

236

Launch Partner Districts



152

Fall adjunct MO educators



206

High School Launch courses



18

New Courses released in Fall 2019



20

New courses being released in Spring 2020



Launch Letters

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



Parents Praising Teachers

"These last few years have been hard for my son with his education. Homeschooling is hard for myself and my husband. We have had a good experience with Launch. The team keeps us informed and helps us in any way. My son is an amazing person far beyond his age. He's been hospitalized for heart problems and depression last year, and has severe anxiety. He is a little socially awkward in group settings. But he is very intelligent and outgoing towards what he's interested in. I also want to thank Leslie, his online PE teacher, for being an outstanding teacher. I feel she goes above and beyond to help Joey with his work! She messages me and asks if everything is okay and if there's anything she can do to help. It makes me feel good to know she really does care about his education and future.

Erica Miller

Launch Parent

Ms. Miller sent this note to Launch Director Dr. Nichole Lemmon. Ms. Miller, we are so happy that Launch is providing solutions for your son and allowing him to continue his education, and we are so happy that he is enjoying his PE class! Good luck to Joey as he finishes his high school education!—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.

More Parent Praise

I just talked to a parent that was so excited about Launch! Her child suffers from a circadian rhythm sleep disorder that made school difficult last year. Now, with Launch and its flexibility, he is being very successful! Launch is awesome!

Brad Jennings

Troy Middle School

Thanks for the note, Brad! We're so grateful of Launch's flexibility and how it can meet various student needs!—Editor

Students Praising Teachers

"Greetings! I'd really like to thank you for what you do for this class. It's a great experience, and because of teachers like you, I'm able to truly excel in my classes and independently learn without restraints. I truly wish that most classes resembled Launch and, extensively, the school system. I am extremely proud to say that over the past few months I have been personally applying calculus to my research project. It is one of my passions this year and, hopefully, will be quite fruitful.."

Launch Student

AP Calculus AB Course

As a Springfield Public Schools Launch student emailed his Launch AP Calculus teacher—Anna Nelson—a few questions, he started his note with this message. We love student feedback and are grateful for Anna and all of our other Missouri educators! If you're interested in teaching, we hire adjunct teachers from partner districts each semester. Learn more at fueledbylaunch.com/careers—Editor

Partner Promotion



J.D. Hunter

Assistant Principal
Camdenton High School

J.D. Hunter, who works as our Launch Liaison in the Camdenton School District, tweeted this at [@fueledbylaunch](https://twitter.com/fueledbylaunch) on October 17. J.D. has worked with us since we began in summer 2017. Thanks for the kind words, J.D.! Also, if you're not following us on Twitter, you should be! Follow [@fueledbylaunch](https://twitter.com/fueledbylaunch)!—Editor

High School Catalog

Advanced Placement

- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Computer Sci. Principles
- AP Computer Science A
- AP English Lit. & Comp.
- AP European History
- AP Physics
- AP Psychology
- AP Statistics
- AP US Gov. & Politics
- AP US History

Electives

- ACT Prep
- Driver Education
- Employment Internship
- FACS Internship
- HiSet Prep
- Volunteerism

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
- 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
- College Algebra
- Foundations of Algebra
- Geometry
- Intro. to Computer Science
- Pre-Calculus
- Professional Math
- Statistics
- Trigonometry

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
- Physical Science

Social Studies

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

World Language

- Chinese I-IV
- French I-IV
- German I-II
- Japanese I-II
- Spanish I-IV

- Honors Available
- Credit Acquisition Available
- 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
- Reading Middle School

Exploratories

- Art I
- Computer Coding I
- General Music I

Health & Physical Education

- Health 6th Grade
- Health 7th Grade
- Health 8th Grade

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

Mathematics

- Accelerated 7th Grade Math
- Algebra I
- Mathematics 6th Grade
- Mathematics 7th Grade
- Mathematics 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

- Chinese I
- French I
- German I
- Japanese I
- Spanish I

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

Beyond the Books

Brentwood High School Senior Ben Haug shares how AP Calculus with Launch reformulated his concept of math class.

BY CAITLIN SEILER

Access Launch: How did you hear about Launch's AP Calculus course?

Ben Haug: I asked about it, because I was curious about taking AP courses and I wanted to know if there were any online.

Access: Are you enjoying it so far?

B.H.: It's pretty exciting because it's not normal classwork. I've struggled with competition with other people, and taking this course online makes it easier to feel comfortable learning at your own speed.

Access: We're glad to hear that. Is Launch what you thought it was going to be?

B.H.: No, it's very different. It's actually a lot more interactive—you can really connect with people and do different things, not just bookwork.

Access: Do you feel like you interact with the other students in class much?

B.H.: At some points we have discussion questions, so we'll all be answering the same questions and answer each other's questions or look back and see how we each thought about a problem.

Access: Do you know your teacher?

B.H.: Yes, Anna Nelson.

Access: What's it like to work with an online teacher?

B.H.: If you reach out, she'll respond. Also, there are online resources that you can use, or you can go to anyone with the Launch support team. It's pretty easy to get help.

Access: What is your favorite thing about your class?

B.H.: I like how the work isn't always exactly the same. Rather than just bookwork, every once in a while we'll have a presentation or a video. It's cool to have that in a math class.

Access: What do you think of the course's pacing?

B.H.: I feel like I've learned more than I thought I would this fast. I feel like I've learned a good amount!

Access: What about your experience with Canvas—has it been easy to navigate?

B.H.: It's pretty straightforward. I like the way it's laid out, it's very easy to access assignments.

Access: How long have you been a student in Brentwood?

B.H.: Since fourth grade. I was born in St. Charles, raised in St. Peters and then came here.

Access: Are you involved in any sports or extracurricular activities?

B.H.: I play tennis—I've played all of high school. For



clubs, I'm in Speech and Debate—I've been in that for four years. I'm in Stuco—I'm the Vice President. I've been in NHS (National Honor Society) since junior year, plus German NHS, Feminist Coalition and Students Demand Action.

Access: Wow, that's awesome. What's your favorite?

B.H.: Speech and Debate, by far.

Access: We heard that you competed at the Speech and Debate

Nationals competition last summer. Tell us more about that.

B.H.: My favorite event is Storytelling, and they offer that at Nationals. You compete with hundreds of other kids from around the nation. This year it was in Dallas, Texas, and I made it to the final round.

Access: Awesome, congratulations! Do you have a job outside of school?

B.H.: I work at FroYo in Webster Groves. Last week I worked around 15 to 20 hours but this week I work 5, so it varies.

Access: Do you watch TV?

B.H.: Not really, I used to watch a lot of the Cooking Channel. Ree Drummond is my favorite! I watch Netflix.

Access: What do you watch on Netflix?

B.H.: *Jane the Virgin* is my favorite show, by far. I watch *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*, just for a laugh, and I've been rewatching a lot of *Dr. Who* on Amazon.

Access: Are you on social media? What is your favorite platform?

B.H.: I'm on almost every platform. I'd say Snapchat is probably my favorite because it's easy to converse with people quickly.

Access: What website would you say you spend the most time on?

B.H.: Speechanddebate.org—I like to keep up with everything that's going on. It's fun to keep updated and excited about the community and everything going on.

Access: Are you reading any books right now?

B.H.: I'm reading "The Scarlet Letter" for school. I've been prepping a lot for Speech and Debate so I've also been reading a lot of articles and plays.

Access: Do you have plans or goals for after high school?

B.H.: Yes, I'm going to go to college and study Elementary Education and eventually hope to become an elementary school principal.

Access: That's exciting! Do you know where you want to go to college?

B.H.: Not yet—there are a lot of options!

Access: What is your favorite thing about living in St. Louis?

B.H.: The community. It's a very welcoming, diverse and open community.

Access: Do you have a favorite subject?

B.H.: I like different subjects for different reasons. I like History because it relates to everywhere, not just one place. I like English because I like writing. And Math is cool because everything has a solution.

Access: iPhone or Android?

B.H.: iPhone. It's the only phone I've had.

Access: What would you do first, read the book or watch the movie?

B.H.: I used to read a lot more, so I would say book.

Access: Is there anything else you want to say about Launch?

B.H.: I like where it's going—all the different schools that are trying it and having success with it. Also, I like that it's diversifying the classes that are available to students. There are a lot of kids in Brentwood that would never have taken an Astronomy class or a Psychology of the Holocaust class or anything like that, and now they can. Launch has classes that are interesting and are not offered anywhere else. ■



Teaching from the Road

Learn more about Launch from instructor Dr. Kerri Cox, who taught ACT Prep while traveling across the country in her family's travel trailer last summer.

I started off as a high school English teacher. I did that for 10 years, and then I worked in an elementary library for 11 years. Now I work for GO CAPS, and I teach for Launch—over the summer I taught ACT Prep, and this semester I'm teaching English IV.

Building relationships with my students is important to me. I have a spreadsheet to help me keep track of everyone, and I try to put some personal notes in it so I think of who my students are as people. Since my classes require a lot of writing, I also try to keep feedback as specific and as helpful as it can be. I'm trying to make it worth their while, really.

"I think it's neat that Launch exists and provides an opportunity for kids no matter where they are—it gives them a chance to learn on their own and in their own way."



Dr. Kerri Cox, Launch's English IV teacher, taught ACT Prep from her travel trailer (above) last summer.

Last summer—before I found out I was hired for Launch—my family had planned a 25-day road trip along the east coast. That's something our family likes to do—we have a travel trailer, and we've used it to go across the country multiple times. But I really wanted to teach for Launch, so when I learned I was hired to teach ACT Prep I decided I was going to make it work. And that's what I did. Before we would stop, I would have to make sure I had a data connection. We were busier than we thought we were going to be—on a lot of our travels, we'll get back to our trailer and have time in the evenings to relax, but we were busier on this trip—but I would set aside 'work time' and we would sit down and work. It was nice because my son was taking some online classes, too, and we'd sit down together and work in the morning or in the evening.

I did a few video announcements from some of the places we visited, too, which was fun. We were touring colleges with my son, so I recorded an announcement at Cornell and an announcement at the Brown University campus. This was fun, especially since I was teaching ACT Prep and the kids in my courses were looking towards college.

I really like the innovation of Launch. Education is kind of in transformation right now—schools have to figure out how to meet this new generation of kids and meet their needs in personalized ways. It's not going to look the same for every kid. I think it's neat that Launch exists and provides an opportunity for kids no matter where they are—it gives them a chance to learn on their own and in their own way. ■



Dr. Kerri Cox

Launch English IV Teacher

Home District: Springfield R-XII

Years in Education: 21

Degree: Bachelor's in English Education from Missouri State University; Master's in Reading Education from Missouri State University; Doctorate in Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis from University of Missouri-Columbia

Fun Fact: "My husband and I hope to sell almost everything and live in an RV when we retire," Kerri says.

Behind the **Scenes**

What's it like to work for Launch? We joined Digital Learning Coordinator Janna Elfrink for a day of Launch teacher, student and partner district support.

6:43 a.m.: Janna grabs her backpack from her car and heads into the Launch headquarters. The office doesn't officially open until 7:30 a.m., but Janna arrives early most days. "Mornings are the best part of my day," she says. "I'm usually here by 6:45 or so."

7:40 a.m.: After Janna finishes sending a few emails, she logs into her Canvas account on her computer. Canvas is Launch's learning management system, and Janna performs course walk-throughs to check in on Launch's online teachers. **8:45 a.m.:** A little over an hour later, Janna has made it through four walk-throughs. "We look to make sure our teachers are keeping up with grading, providing adequate feedback and regularly communicating," says Janna. She and Christopher Kensinger, Launch's Specialist of Student Services, perform teacher walkthroughs quarterly. The two are responsible for coaching online teachers. "It's a very important part of our job," Janna says. "It's important that our teachers are doing what's best for students."

10 a.m.: Janna grabs papers from the printer and pulls out her highlighter. It's time for her next task—calling Launch partner district liaisons to notify them of inactive students. "We offer support and also provide

documentation," Janna says. She makes dozens of these calls each week.

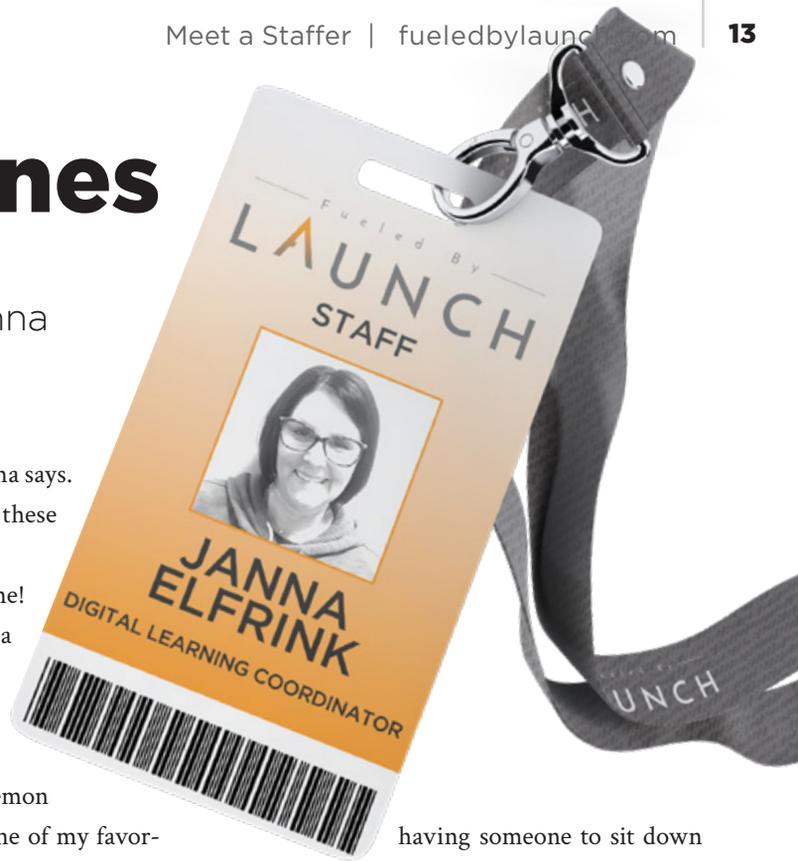
11:30 a.m.: Lunch time! Janna is having a shake from Healthy Edge—her favorite locally owned drink shop. "The lemon blueberry shake is one of my favorites," she says. Bonus: it has less than 300 calories!

1:17 p.m.: Janna picks up the phone and dials the number for Webb City High School. "I'm going to meet with Joplin next week, so I thought I'd swing by Webb City, too," Janna says. Janna's Joplin meeting is to discuss the possibility of a Launch partnership, but Webb City is already a Launch partner district, so she wants to check in. "I go on multiple check-in visits every week," Janna says. "Liaisons always appreciate the personable service. They like

having someone to sit down with to talk out their implementation plan for virtual learning."

2:30 p.m.: Student Services meeting time! "I manage our Launch Student Services team," Janna says. "Our team is responsible for all Launch enrollments. We also train and support all of our online teachers."

4:02 p.m.: Janna packs up for the day. "I have to go and take Chappy for a walk," Janna says, referring to her evening plans with her dog. "We had to cut last night's walk short because it started raining, and he was not happy!" ■



Access for All

Launch's world language offerings are helping fill a statewide need.

As Launch partners with districts statewide, the need for world language offerings becomes more and more apparent. "Many colleges require students to have two years of foreign language," says Sara Lile, Launch World Languages teacher. "At universities where it's not required, it's highly recommended. We have found that there aren't enough teachers in the state to meet this need."

Launch is working to help fill the void. In the beginning we offered Spanish I and II and Japanese I. Fast forward to today, and you'll find French I-III, Spanish I-III, Japanese I and II and German I and II in our online course catalog. We also offer French I, German I, Japanese I and Spanish I to middle school students.

The Writing Process

Launch courses are built with the Springfield Public Schools curriculum team, teachers and developers. But what happens when Springfield Public Schools doesn't have a teacher or specialist in a particular content area—for example, German? That's when our partnerships come into play.

Launch partnered with specialists in the Rockwood School District to write our German courses, and Launch is currently working with Liberty 53 School District to write Chinese. "Prior to partnering with Launch, we were often nervous about where to send our kids that needed a language class for one reason or another," says Jeff Tamaroff,

World Language and ESOL Curriculum Content Facilitator at Rockwood School District. "The ability to partner with Launch has made me much more confident that students will be taking a class that really focuses on skill building and communication."

Coming Soon

Chinese I, French IV and Spanish IV are all scheduled to be released for the Spring 2020 semester. While content area specialists for French, Japanese and Spanish work for SPS, Launch works with Shianguu Hsieh from the Liberty school district to write Chinese I. ■



Find more courses online!

Check out our online catalog at fueledbylaunch.com/courses to find out more about each of Launch's 180 courses. You can view major topics and concepts and see sample assignments.



Anatomy of a Course: Early Childhood

Launch’s Early Childhood course helps students develop life skills with engaging and interactive content.

Course Facts:
Course Type: Practical Arts
Credits: Half (0.5) credit course
Estimated Completion Time:
 2 Semesters/18-36 weeks

FROM PREPARATION TO BIRTH, & BEYOND:

In semester I, students study topics from the decision to conceive to giving birth. The course’s second semester is built to provide foundational skills for the child’s growth and development during their first three years of life.

		
<p>Show Your Skills!</p> <p>Video assignments require students to demonstrate how to make a bottle, install a car seat, swaddle a baby, perform infant CPR (on a teddy bear!) and more.</p>	<p>Now Map it Out</p> <p>When mom goes into labor, what happens next? One assignment requires students to create a concept map with Google Drawings to path out a mom’s trip to the hospital.</p>	<p>Educating on Abuse</p> <p>In this course students learn about the various types of abuse (physical, verbal and sexual) as well as the signs and symptoms.</p>



SEMESTER I
Unit 1: Preparing for Parenting
Unit 2: Baby Under Construction
Unit 3: Nurture vs. Nature
Unit 4: Nature vs. Nurture
Unit 5: Ready or Not, Here I Come!
Unit 6: Now What? Caring for a Newb.
SEMESTER 2
Unit 7: What a Year
Unit 8: Go Baby Go
Unit 9: Careers in Early Childhood
Unit 10: Daycare Dilemmas
Unit 11: 1... 2... 2½...
Unit 12: Infant & Toddler Concerns

Advanced Early Childhood, Coming Soon!
 The Launch team is currently writing Early Childhood II, which will be open for student enrollment beginning with the Fall 2020 semester.

Expanding Clinton's Course Catalog

For the fall 2019 semester, some 200 Clinton High School students are enrolled in Launch courses. Learn how the district is utilizing Launch to offer students a wealth of opportunities.



As administrators in the Clinton School District were looking for a virtual course provider, Launch stood out. “I think for me it was the first time I felt like someone wasn’t trying to sell me a product,” says Jarrod Steffens, Clinton High School Principal. Jarrod is referring to his original meeting with Launch’s Director, Dr. Nichole Lemmon—Dr. Lemmon and other team members often meet with districts who are considering a Launch partnership. “It was obvious we were talking to someone who works in education and who understands how schools work,” Jarrod says. “You all were advocating for kids.”

Approximately one year later, Clinton now has nearly 200 students enrolled in all types of Launch courses. Read on to learn how the district is utilizing Launch’s virtual courses to provide their students a wealth of opportunities.

CHS counselors Jamie McCoy and Stacy Pitts (above) have enrolled nearly 200 CHS students, including Katie Mitchell (below) in Launch courses.

Jumping in with Both Feet

Launch doesn’t require seat commitments—each semester, school district Launch liaisons have the opportunity to enroll as many or as few students as they’d like. This flexibility is great for some districts, as they choose to smart small and pilot Launch with a handful of students. Clinton, however, took the accelerated route. “As soon as we partnered, one of our teachers became a Launch teacher,” says High School Counselor Jamie McCoy. “We started in the spring 2019 semester with that one teacher, and she taught a class of Clinton Personal Finance students.”

After a positive experience last spring, this teacher—Jennie

Jaynes—taught for Launch in the summer 2019 semester. Jenny had many Clinton students in her courses, and she also had students from other districts. Since Launch has as many as 33 students in each online class, teachers often have students beyond their own district. The Clinton School District also expanded student offerings to provide students the opportunity to take other courses not offered in Clinton. “We had students in Driver Education, Health and Personal Finance last summer,” Jarrod says.

Open to all in the Fall

The fall 2019 semester led to many more Launch opportunities for Clinton High School students. “A big thing for us was when our foreign language teacher retired—we didn’t have a replacement,” Jarrod says. “We knew that with Launch, we could go from offering one foreign language to four.” The district decided to utilize Launch for all foreign language offerings. “This got us into the idea of what else we could offer,” Jarrod says.



“Launch is helping equalize opportunities for students at smaller, rural districts in Missouri.”

—Jarrod Steffens, High School Principal

“Launch is helping equalize opportunities for students in smaller, rural districts in Missouri, like us. There are some things we can’t offer because we just don’t have enough students interested in it. We can’t offer a course if only two kids want it. But Launch helps us with this.”

Clinton’s 200 some Launch enrollments include a lot of variety. “We have some students enrolled in Credit Recovery,” says Jamie McCoy. “Of course we have a lot of foreign language enrollments. Then we have multiple other enrollments in courses we don’t offer here—AP Physics, AP Statistics, Astronomy, Driver’s Ed.” These students all work in a computer lab and library area, and they’re supervised by a virtual learning coordinator. “We did not replace our foreign language teacher, but we hired a virtual learning coordinator,” Jarrod says. “He is in the lab with the students—he has 20 to 30 students every hour between students in Launch classes and students who are taking dual credit classes online.”



What Students are Saying

Clinton High School student Katie Mitchell has taken one Launch course and is currently enrolled in two others. “My favorite thing about Launch is that it allows me to take classes I wouldn’t otherwise be able to take here,” Katie says. She has taken Personal Finance for dual credit, and she’s currently in Trigonometry and Spanish III. “I like to challenge myself,” Katie says. “We have seven classes in a day, but I choose to take eight over seven.”

Before she enrolled in Launch classes, Katie had taken one other virtual class—she says she prefers the layout and ease of use in her Launch class. “I like that Launch uses Canvas,” Katie says. Canvas is Launch’s learning management system (think of it as an online classroom). “In the beginning of your class, you learn about the platform through modules,” Katie says.

As Katie talks about the culture of Launch at CHS, she says students love the options it provides. “I’d say the general idea is pretty positive,” Katie says. “Everybody likes having options for their courses. And a lot of people like the independence of being able to take a class online and working at their own pace.”

While Clinton students like the opportunity, Clinton’s high school counselors like the support that Launch teachers provide these students. “From the beginning, I was really happy that there was a teacher for the students to talk to,” says High School Counselor Stacy Pitts. “Our kids still need that—we like that they’re still getting one-to-one attention, even though the class is online.” Jamie agrees. “Launch teachers communicate with the students, with the parents and with us,” she says. “They’re good to reach out, and we need that piece to our online learning here. It’s been good.” ■



Clinton at a Glance

K-12 Enrollment: 1,779

High School Population: 569

MASA District: West Central

School Colors: Red, White and Blue

Mascot: Cardinals

Fun Fact: The Katy Trail is the longest developed rail-trail in the country, and it all starts in Clinton! The 225-mile-long path runs from Clinton to St. Charles.



Pattonville's Path to Virtual Learning

The Pattonville School District partnered with Launch to provide students with virtual education opportunities that help with both earning a high school diploma and achieving post-secondary goals.



Odetta Smith and Michael Boulanger of Pattonville (left) work with many PHS Launch students, including Joseph Brown and Devin Henson (opposite).

The Pattonville School District also wanted to make sure the virtual learning program they selected had courses taught by Missouri-certified teachers. Since all Launch instructors teach at Launch partner school districts and are highly qualified in their content area, this need was also met. The administrators in Pattonville soon decided to partner with Launch.

Working Better, Together

Odetta and other administrators and educators in the Pattonville School District are happy to work with Launch team members to provide what's best for students. "We really appreciate the strong partnership we have," Odetta says. "Nichole helps us with a lot of components of the virtual law, like ADA requirements and proper state reporting. She's helped us in designing our own schedule so everything matches up. These are services that

Changes to Missouri's virtual education law and MOCAP (the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program) have prompted many districts to seek out virtual learning options. While this includes districts who are just now looking to offer virtual learning opportunities, it also includes districts that have used other virtual learning platforms in the past. These districts want to learn what is required by law, research what is available and make sure they are offering what is best for students. The latter was the case for Pattonville—a school district in the St. Louis area—so they set up a meeting to learn more about Launch. Read on to learn about the district's partnership process and understand some of the multiple ways they utilize the program to meet all types of student needs.

Forming a Partnership

Odetta Smith, Director of Innovation & Life Readiness at the Pattonville School District, explains that a team of district leaders originally met with Launch's Director, Dr. Nichole Lemmon. "We wanted to go with a virtual learning program that provided us with a few key things," says Odetta. "One thing was access to curriculum aligned to Missouri Learning Standards." After meeting with Dr. Lemmon, Odetta was confident in Launch's ability to meet this qualification—she learned how all of Launch's courses are written with teachers, developers and curriculum specialists at Springfield Public Schools. "We liked that it is a public school district—Springfield Public Schools—that creates and designs Launch courses," Odetta says.

"We liked that it is a public school district—Springfield Public Schools—that creates and designs Launch courses." —Odetta Smith, Pattonville School District



Launch offers that other vendors don't, so it's super helpful."

Another Launch benefit that Pattonville administrators appreciate is connecting with other Launch partner districts around St. Louis. "We really like the ability to connect with other partner schools," Odetta says. "We'll reach out and learn how other districts are using it. It's helped us think through these next steps to make sure the program is successful for all of our students."

Getting Students Started

Students in the Pattonville School District are engaging in Launch courses in a variety of ways. "The bulk of our courses right now are credit recovery," Odetta says. "But we have some students enrolled in classes we do not offer. We have some students working off campus,

for example, a middle school student who is working off campus."

Some of these students first meet with Michael Boulanger, the counselor for positive school—an alternative program in the Pattonville

School District. "For me, it's much more about that one-on-one conversation," Michael says. "We want to sit down with students and really explain what online learning looks like. We also consider the student's learning habits and how they may align with online learning." Another thing Michael discusses with students is what they want to do after high school. "Our students come up with post-secondary goals, and together we figure out how we can utilize programs like Launch to help them accomplish their goals. I think discussing it with students this way helps them with their success.

Paving the Path to Post-Secondary Goals

Pattonville High School senior Joseph Brown is one of many PHS students who has worked with Michael to come up with

a post-high school plan. "I'm taking government with Launch right now," Joseph says. Joseph hopes to become a firefighter after he graduates. "In the mornings, I go to North County Tech to take a firefighting class," Joseph says. "Then I drive here for the rest of my classes, but my government class is only offered in the morning." Launch provides Joseph the ability to take both his firefighting class and government class, all while staying on track for graduation.

Devin Henson is another student who works with Michael and takes Launch courses. "When Devin came into our program he was credit deficient," Michael says. But he worked last summer to make up some courses with Launch's credit recovery offerings, and he's making up two more previously failed courses right now. "Launch allows Devin to catch up on acquiring the credits he needs so he can still graduate and accomplish his post-secondary goal," Michael says. This goal is to go into the Army. "I'm currently enlisted in the Army reserves," Devin says. "It's nice to have a resource like Launch to use to get caught up—you just have to have the want or the drive to do the work. But it's great for me because it's available at any time." ■

Pattonville at a Glance

K-12 Enrollment: 6,015

High School Population: 1,728

MASA District: Greater St. Louis

School Colors: Green and White

Mascot: Pirates

Fun Fact: Pattonville consists of 27 square miles and encompasses parts of the municipalities of Bridgeton, Maryland Heights, St. Ann, and a small portion of Creve Coeur.



College Credit at **No Cost**

Qualifying Launch students can benefit from free dual credit courses with Missouri State University.

What if we told you that qualifying students in your district could earn up to 6 hours of college credit for free every semester? Sounds great, right? Thanks to Missouri State University, this is now a reality for Launch students statewide.

At the start of the Fall 2019 semester, Missouri State University announced the pilot of a program in which the university would provide dual credit tuition assistance to students who qualify for free and reduced lunches. The university chose to pilot the initiative with students in the Springfield Public School District as well as students enrolled in virtual courses via SPS's Launch program. This means that students who

attend a Launch partner school district and enroll in dual credit courses online with Launch are eligible to qualify! The partner district is still charged a Launch tuition, but there is no additional dual credit fee for qualifying students.

Launch and Missouri State University are hopeful that this will provide opportunities for students who have financial barriers by allowing them to gain a head start on a college education while in high school. This is a pilot program that the university would like to be able to implement for the foreseeable future.

For more information about the Missouri State Dual Credit program and dual credit course registration, please visit DualCredit.MissouriState.edu. ■

Launch Student Qualifications for Free Dual Credit:

- The student must qualify for free or reduced lunches.
- The student must have at least a 3.0 high school Grade Point Average.
- The course can only be a dual credit course.
- The students will be required to meet course prerequisites, if applicable, to enroll in a class.
- The pilot covers the tuition cost of \$70 per credit hour for up to 6 credit hours each semester.





Partnering to Provide

When looking to provide virtual course options to students, districts that partner with Launch benefit in a multitude of ways.

Have you heard the news? Launch is listed in the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program (MOCAP) Course Catalog. Launch was added to the catalog in late summer 2019 and now appears alongside nine other courseware providers. But we feel that providing students with virtual education opportunities is about much more than simply choosing from a name on a list. That’s why we still partner with districts statewide to provide our virtual courses to Missouri students.

Launch had 236 partners at presstime, and students at these 236 partner districts were previously (and still are) eligible to take Launch courses due to Launch acting as a Local Educational Agency (LEA) provider. Every teacher that Launch hires is a Missouri teacher that lives in and works at a Missouri school district. Every course that Launch writes is aligned to Missouri Learning Standards. Every school district Launch partners with is a Missouri school district. Are you seeing a pattern here? Unlike multiple options in the MOCAP catalog, Launch is a product that was and continues to be designed, developed and delivered by Missouri educators for Missouri students. ■

Become a Partner! Interested in partnering? Contact Savannah Waszczuk at 417-523-0417 or savannah@fueledbylaunch.com.

Partnership Perks

Why would you simply use as a provider when you could be our partner? Check out the multiple benefits provided to Launch partner districts.

Launch Services	Partner District	Non-Partner District
.5 Credit Tuition (Traditional Virtual)	\$255.00	\$300.00
Access to Credit Recovery courses, Credit Acquisition courses and alternative programing	✓	✗
Free custom marketing for your district	✓	✗
Core Data Reporting Assistance	✓	✗
Free Device Usage (as needed)	✓	✗

A photograph of a football game at night. The scene is illuminated by a large stadium light on the left, creating a bright glow. The sky is dark with some light clouds. In the foreground, several football players in white jerseys with red numbers and red pants are lined up on the field. Some players have their backs to the camera, while others are facing it. The numbers 79, 4, 58, 9, 41, 13, 48, 33, and 4 are visible on their jerseys. In the background, a crowd of spectators is visible in the stands, and the field is marked with white yard lines. The overall atmosphere is that of a high-stakes night game.

ROOTING FOR THE HOME TEAM

A photograph of a football field at dusk. The sky is a mix of dark blue and orange from the setting sun. In the background, a large crowd of spectators is visible in the bleachers. A football team in red and white uniforms is lined up on the field. A referee in a black and white striped shirt is standing in the foreground, looking towards the field. The field is green with white yard lines. A large black text box is overlaid on the right side of the image.

When it comes to selecting a virtual learning platform for students, Missouri school districts are presented with numerous options. Some providers boast a “nationwide presence.” Many providers are headquartered halfway across the United States. And then there’s Launch.

Based in Springfield Public Schools (SPS), Launch’s virtual learning platform is designed, developed and delivered by Missouri educators. Launch courses are written with the curriculum team at SPS and are aligned to Missouri Learning Standards, and all teachers who work for Launch are also employed at dozens of public districts statewide. Nearly 240 public school district partners strong, Launch is helping Missouri’s public educators collaborate to provide the very best in virtual education for all Missouri students. Read on to learn how Launch is the Show-Me State’s local solution for accessing high-quality public virtual education.

SHOW ME!

MISSOURI LEARNING STANDARDS



Show Me: Missouri Learning Standards

Launch's online courses are written and reviewed in Springfield Public Schools.

Online courses developed at Launch undergo a rigorous process including the use of curriculum expertise, content-area instructors and digital developers. Courses are selected for development by the curriculum department at Springfield Public Schools or suggested by Launch partner school districts or the Launch Advisory Council (a group comprised of educators from more than 40 districts statewide). Highly-qualified Missouri teachers are selected to write the content. "We ensure all courses are aligned to Missouri Learning Standards both during the writing process and through our course refresh process," says Dr. Hope Gallamore, Secondary Literacy Coordinator at Springfield Public Schools. As the expert in online pedagogy, the Launch digital developer collaborates with the course's teacher to translate material to a virtual classroom environment.



Quality Checked

A formal review process is also built into all Launch course development. The Launch quality assurance specialist reviews each course after its initial development and provides detailed notes to the digital developer for improvement. Next, a curriculum specialist in the course's discipline reviews the course for alignment with Missouri Learning Standards. After the course has been released to students, the content is again reviewed and

revised every year. "We work to ensure that courses are updated regularly to reflect state expectations with regards to content limits and depth of knowledge," Dr. Gallamore says.

Additionally, an increasing number of Launch courses are reviewed by Quality Matters, an international organization that certifies the quality of online courses. During a Quality Matters review, a three-person review team—made up of

experienced teachers and administrators from across the country—review a course by using an extensive rubric of best practices for online course design. Recently the Launch program was recognized by Quality Matters as the recipient of the 2019 K-12 Making a Difference for Students award, which demonstrates "a commitment to ensuring high course quality and using different but valuable approaches to improving learner outcomes."

Launch Course Development Process

Online courses developed through Launch undergo a rigorous process including the use of curriculum, content area instructors, and Digital Learning Developers. A formal review process is also built into all course development.

1. Course Selection

Course is identified as needing to be included online.

2. Content Teachers Selected

The SPS curriculum team selects content area teachers to serve as course writers.

3. Writing Process Begins

Course writers meet with Digital Learning Developers to start constructing the course.

4. Digital Developer Constructs Course

Developer builds online course into Canvas.

5. Quality Assurance Reviews Course

Quality Assurance Specialist reviews course. Digital Developers make revisions to course as needed.

6. Course Reviewed & Finalized

Curriculum reviews and approves course for release.

7. Online Teacher Trained

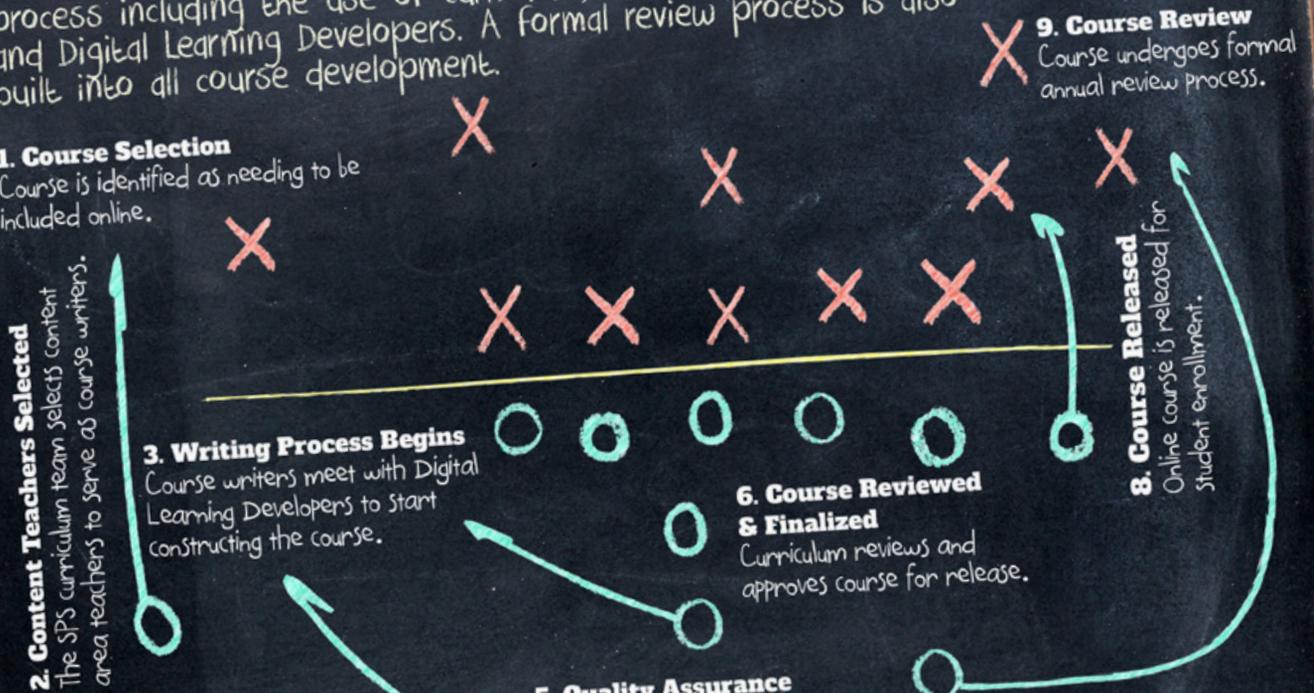
Online teacher is trained on content and review process.

8. Course Released

Online course is released for student enrollment.

9. Course Review

Course undergoes formal annual review process.



High school students from Reeds Spring, Kirkwood and Carrollton cheer for their home teams at football games (opposite). All three districts are Launch partners.

**Show Me:
Missouri Educators**
Launch employs Missouri teachers who live and work in public school districts statewide.

Bethany Laws turns away from her computer, picks up her cell phone and dials a phone number. “Hi, is this Megan Smith?” she says. After a pause, Bethany smiles and starts speaking again. “Hi Megan, this is Bethany Laws,” she says. “I’m with the Launch online program, and I’m going to be your son Jeffrey’s Personal Finance teacher this semester.”

There were thousands of these calls on the first few days of the Fall 2019 semester, as Bethany joined 151 other Launch teachers—all who work for Launch in addition to teaching at Missouri school districts—to personally welcome students and parents to our classes. “We started making calls home on the first day of classes,” Bethany says. “A lot of parents were appreciative of us calling and welcoming them to our online classes.”

These calls home set the precedent for the entire semester—Launch teachers pave a path to both provide quality instruction and also to build personal relationships with students and parents.

How Launch Hires Missouri Teachers

For the Fall 2019 semester, Launch has four full-time instructors and 148 adjunct teachers. The full-time teachers are employed by Springfield Public Schools, and the adjunct teachers teach in dozens of districts statewide. So, how does that process work?

Once a school district partners with Launch, all teachers who teach in that district are eligible to apply to teach a Launch online course. Interested teachers apply at fueledbylaunch.com/careers, and applications are reviewed by Launch’s internal hiring committee. Once the committee selects qualified quality applicants, a Launch team member reaches out to the home district’s Launch liaison or administration for a personal reference. “This process helps us find quality educators for all content areas,” says Dr. Nichole Lemmon, Director of Digital Learning at Springfield Public Schools. “We’re able to hire the very best teachers from districts all over the state.” A Launch teacher may have as many as 33 students in a section.

Before the beginning of the semester, all of Launch’s online educators are required to attend an in-person training at one of Launch’s offices (located in Springfield, Kansas City and St. Louis). Teachers spend the day training and collaborating with their peers, and they leave with a plan to provide quality instruction and help develop culture in their online classrooms.



By the Numbers

33

Maximum number of students per course

152

Launch teachers in the fall 2019 semester

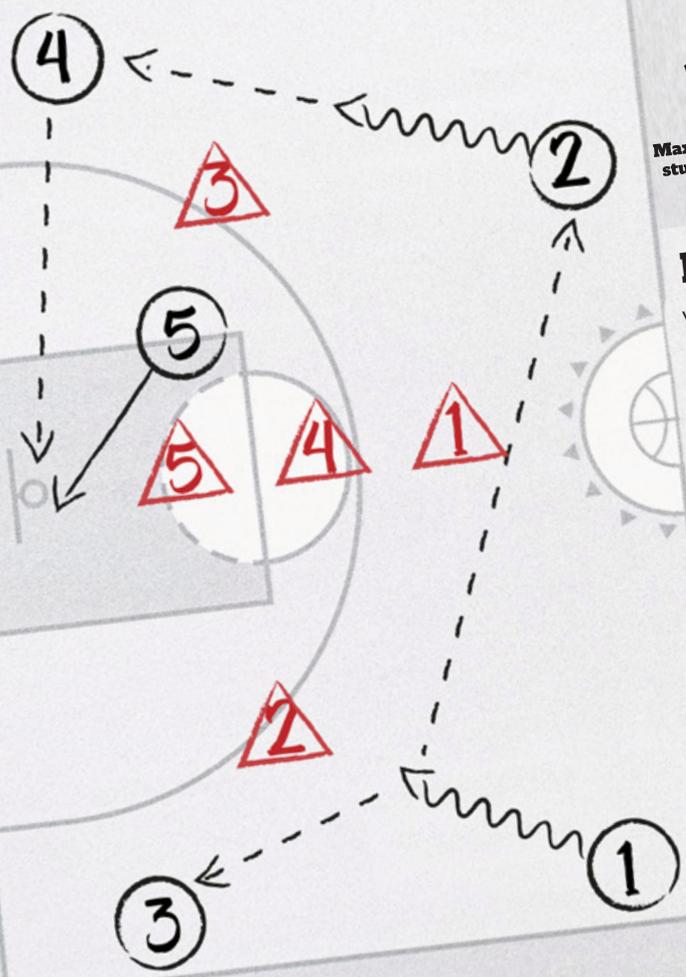
\$1,005,480

Total paid to Launch adjunct teachers in Fall 2019

Launch Teachers Statewide

Where do Launch teachers come from? All over! In the Fall 2019 semester, Launch teachers worked at the following public Missouri school districts:

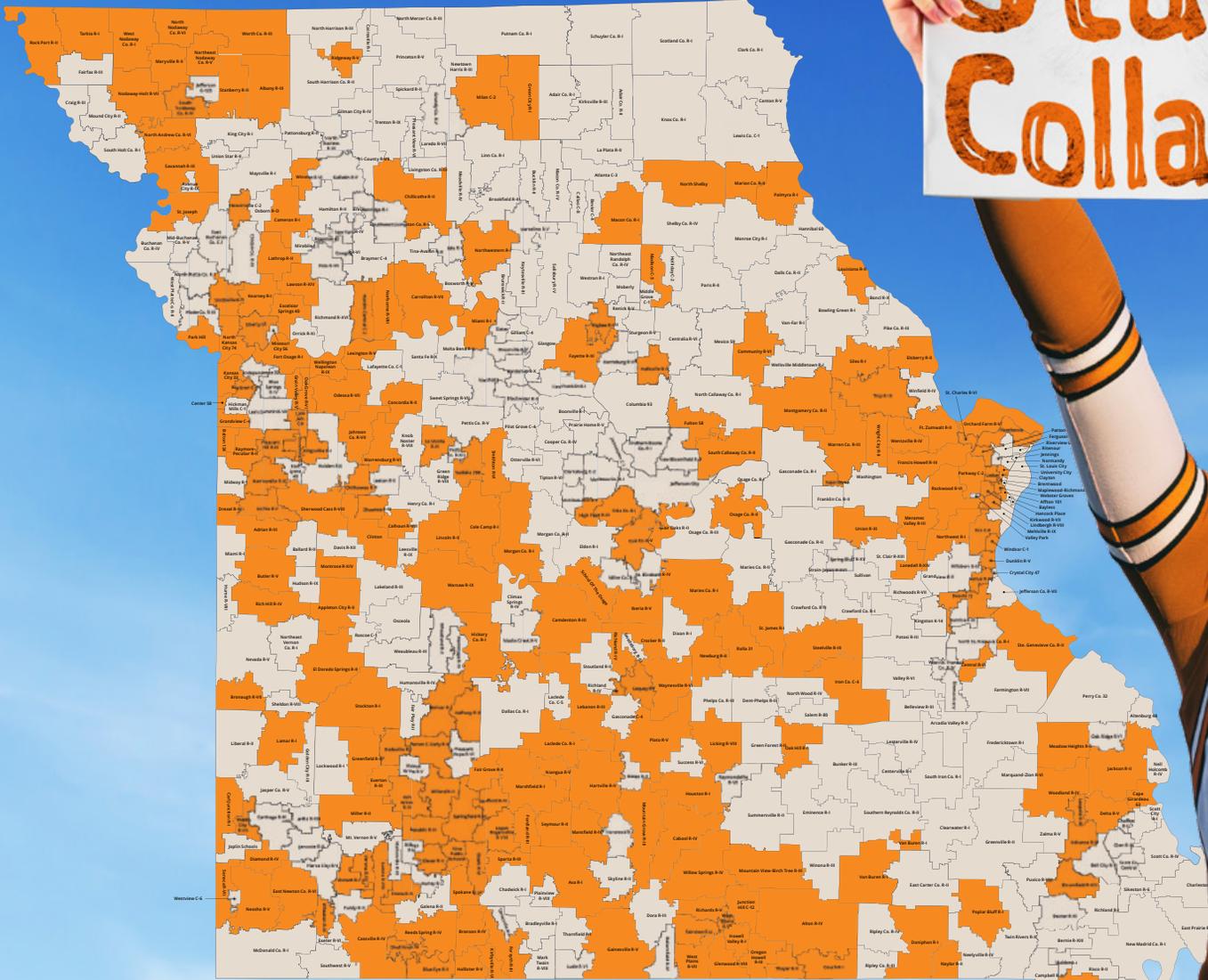
- | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Albany | Grain Valley | Sedalia |
| Aurora | Kirkwood | Sparta |
| Ava | Lathrop | Springfield |
| Bolivar | Nixa | Troy |
| Branson | North Kansas City | Pattonville |
| Chillicothe | Ozark | Webb City |
| Fair Grove | Raytown | Wentzville |
| Fox | Reeds Spring | Willard |
| Fort Zumwalt | Rockwood | |



Students from Launch partner districts North Kansas City, Camdenton, Reeds Spring, Kirkwood and Forsyth show their school spirit.

Show Me: Statewide Collaboration

Launch currently works with 236 districts statewide to provide virtual course access.



Join us! Is your school district interested in becoming a Launch partner?
 Contact Savannah Waszczuk at savannah@fueledbylaunch.com



Students at all 236 Launch partner school districts, including Reeds Spring, Willow Springs, Ava and Republic, demonstrate school spirit.

ME:
wide
ation



Students at Aurora, Republic, Carrollton and Marshfield high schools enjoy camaraderie at football games. Since Launch partners with each of these schools, all students have access to Launch classes.

Show Me: Partner Benefits

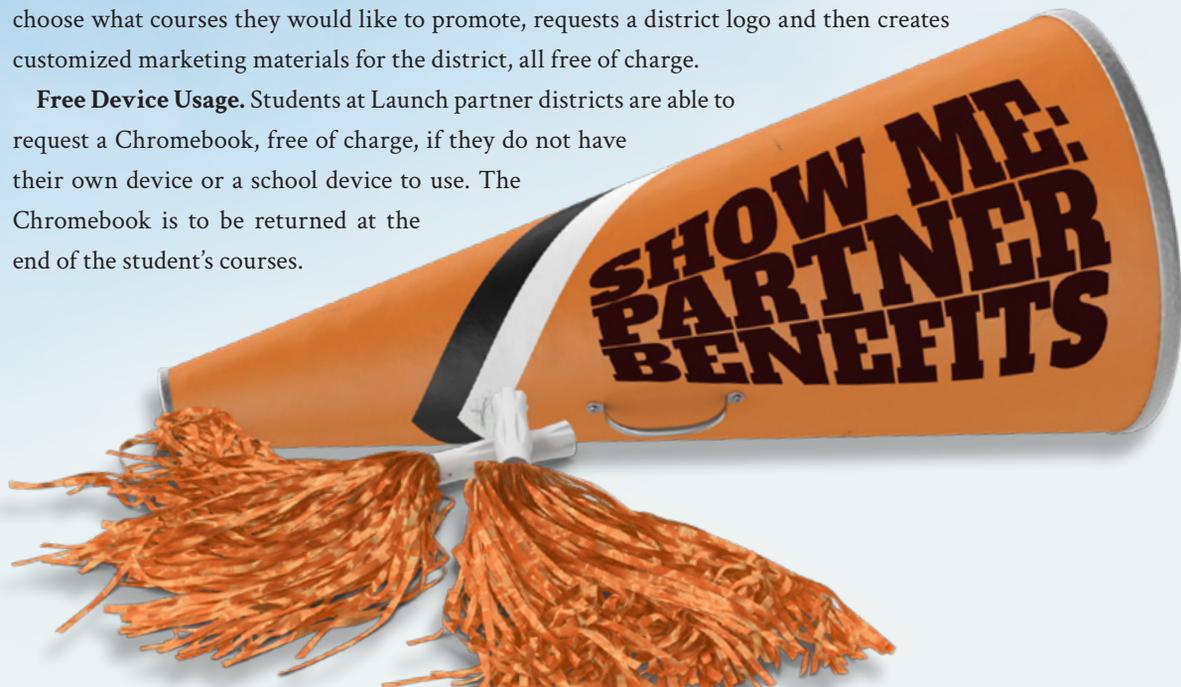
Why partner with Launch? We provide multiple benefits to our school district partners.

Localized Representation. The Launch Advisory Council was developed as a quality measure to ensure Launch continuously meets virtual education needs existing in school districts statewide. The council is comprised of more than 40 educators who work in districts throughout the state. Every MASA region is represented in the council, which meets multiple times per year.

Free Custom District Marketing. After a school district partners with Launch, Launch helps the district communicate online course opportunities with parents and students. Launch allows districts to choose what courses they would like to promote, requests a district logo and then creates customized marketing materials for the district, all free of charge.

Free Device Usage. Students at Launch partner districts are able to request a Chromebook, free of charge, if they do not have their own device or a school device to use. The Chromebook is to be returned at the end of the student's courses.

Photos courtesy of each school district.



Change of Course

Springfield Public Schools student Savannah Hollan went from a life of playing volleyball and attending sporting events to learning she had a cancerous brain tumor. Learn how Launch allows her to continue her high school education.

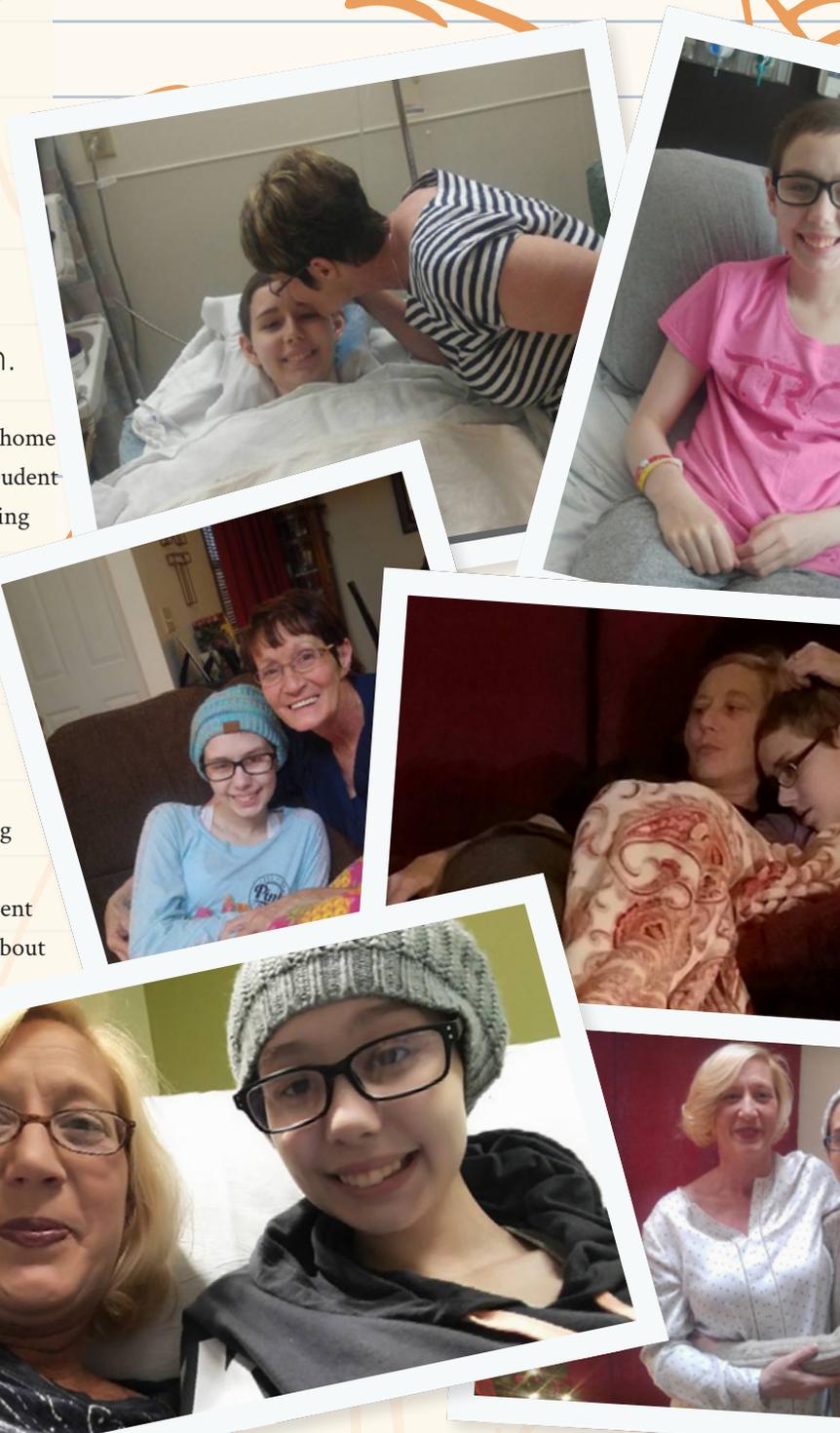
If it was a Friday night and the Parkview Vikings had a home game, you'd likely find Springfield Public Schools student Savannah Hollan cheering from the stands. "I loved going to games," says Savannah, who is reflecting on her years in middle school. "I'd always go to games with my friends. We'd go to football games and basketball games."

Savannah continues reminiscing. Next she talks about all of the time she used to spend with her friends outside of school or school-related functions. "We would go to the mall a lot," she says. "We'd either be at the mall, or we'd be going different places around town taking pictures."

Today things are different. In fact, they've been different since March 3, 2016. "March 3 was the day we found out about the tumor," says Krissy Clayton, Savannah's mother and (now) full-time caretaker. What Savannah's doctors discovered was medulloblastoma, a cancerous tumor that—upon removal—drastically changed Savannah's life.

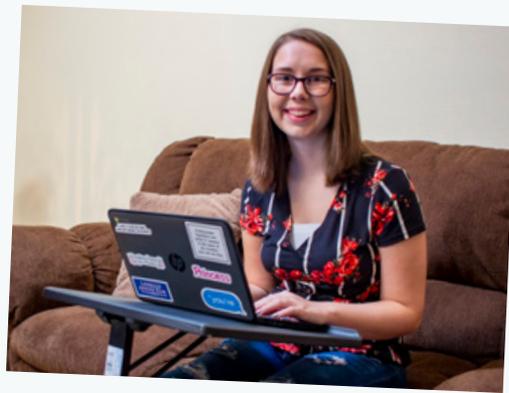
The End of Eighth Grade

For most of her time at Carver Middle School, Savannah earned good grades. She dabbled with the debate club, and she played on the volleyball team. In fact, she was looking forward to continuing volleyball as a freshman at Parkview High School. But it was near the end of eighth grade when her grades plummeted. She started going home early frequently—often from headaches and other flu-like symptoms.



After two brain surgeries, Savannah Hollan began taking all of her classes online with Launch. Savannah's mom and grandmother help her complete many tasks each day, and they're very supportive of her online coursework.

"I started getting dizzy a lot, and my vision was messed up," Savannah says, discussing the many complications she was suddenly experiencing. "I had headaches and motion sickness. Eventually I started throwing up from any type of movement at all."



away. I have had really good experiences every time I've talked with the teachers. A lot of them are parents, so they get it. They allow us flexibility."

Savannah credits this flexibility for allowing her to complete her courses. "One of the bad side effects from the tumor is that I have terrible headaches," Savannah says. "Sometimes I just can't pick it up and get school work done. But I work ahead at other times when I feel well. And if I end up having to turn something in late, I know the teachers will be understanding."

In addition to flexibility, Savannah is also grateful of her homebound teacher, Mr. Jason Arredondo from Kickapoo High School (pictured below). "He comes to help any time we need him to," Savannah says. "He's incredible." Krissy and Kimmy agree. "Sometimes he'll stay an hour, or sometimes he'll stay five," Krissy says. "When she was getting ready for finals, he was here seven days in a row. If she has a test she's getting ready for, he'll come help. I think he's excited that she wants to work. If she's willing to work, he's willing to show up."

Going "Back to School"

The effects of Savannah's surgeries made it nearly impossible for her to go back to sitting in a classroom all day. Today she isn't able to walk without assistance—she uses a wheelchair or a walker. And that's after months of physical therapy. She also has double vision, and she suffers from frequent headaches. Due to all of these complications, it was decided that Savannah would begin her freshman year as a full-time virtual student with Launch.

It was rough in the beginning. "She was still so sick at that time, and she got behind," says Kimmy Carr, Savannah's grandmother who lives two houses down from Savannah and also helps care for her.

"She was only able to earn three credits that year." But she eventually found her rhythm and her way. Last semester she took 10 classes, and in spring 2020 she will take the final four classes she needs to graduate.

Finding Flexibility With Launch

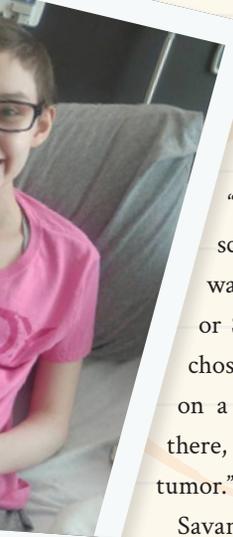
Now that Savannah has several semesters under her belt, she and her family are well-versed in making sure she is successful in her Launch courses. "The teachers all call home at the beginning of each semester to welcome us to the class," Krissy says. "This gives me a chance to tell them about Savannah's situation right



As Savannah continues to balance her days with physical therapy and Launch coursework, she says she is nothing but grateful—she feels that if it weren't for Launch, she likely wouldn't be able to graduate. "I'm really thankful that it was there," Savannah says. "It was nice to have the option to go at my own pace." ■

Savannah's first operation was at 7 a.m. the next morning. "That first surgery took six hours," Krissy says. "After it was over, they told us that it was medulloblastoma—it was cancerous—and she would need radiation and chemo."

The family moved to Memphis for three months of radiation treatments. Not long after arriving in Memphis, they learned Savannah would need another surgery—specialists discovered more of the tumor that still needed to be removed. "She actually walked out of the first surgery in St. Louis," Krissy says. "They ended up doing a second brain surgery within 30 days, and that was the surgery that took away her ability to walk. It affected her voice and her motor skills."



Raising the Barre

Eureka High School Freshman Dominic Cefalu utilizes Launch to give an applause-worthy performance in school and on the stage.

BY CAITLIN SEILER

Dominic Cefalu began studying ballet when he was 8 years old. “Originally my older brother started doing it,” says Dominic, who is now age 14 and a freshman at Eureka High School in the Rockwood School District. “My younger brothers and I were in some of his shows as background characters and had so much fun. That’s when we decided to start doing ballet, too.”

Six years later, Dominic spends approximately four hours a day, five days a week studying with Saint Louis Ballet in Chesterfield. At press time, he was preparing to take the stage for his third year to perform in the ballet’s production of “The Nutcracker”—this time, he’s fulfilling the roles of Party Boy and Clown.

Dominic credits Launch for providing the flexibility he needs with his busy schedule. Currently seated for four classes at Eureka High School, he spends the remainder of the school day working on Launch classes at home before he heads to the studio. “I like the fact that you can learn at your own pace,” Dominic says. “You can always go back and see presentations and documents that the teacher posted. With Launch, you always have the information at your disposal.” ■



Four hours of ballet a day, five days a week doesn’t leave Dominic Cefalu much time for school work. Launch helps him keep a complete courseload.

Member District **Directory**

Below are the Missouri school districts who are partnered with Launch to help give all Missouri students equal course access.

Academie Lafayette
Adrian R-III
Advance R-IV
Affton 101
Albany R-III
Allen Village
Alton R-IV
Appleton City R-II
Archie R-V
Ash Grove R-IV
Aurora R-VIII
Ava R-I
Bakersfield R-IV
Belton 124
Blair Oaks
Bloomfield R-XIV
Blue Eye R-V
Bolivar R-I
Branson R-IV
Brentwood
Bronaugh R-VII
Butler R-V
Cabool R-IV
Calhoun R-VIII
Camdenton R-III
Cameron R-I
Cape Girardeau 63
Carl Junction R-I
Carrollton R-VII
Caruthersville 18
Cassville R-IV
Center 58
Central R-III
Chilhowee R-IV
Chillicothe R-II
Clarkton C-4
Clayton
Clever R-V
Clinton School District
Cole Camp R-I
Cole Co. R-I
Cole Co. R-V
Community R-VI
Concordia R-II
Couch R-I
Crane R-III
Crocker R-II
Dadeville R-II
Delta R-V
Desoto 73
Diamond R-IV
Doniphan R-I
Drexel R-IV
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
Fort Osage R-I
Fox C-6
Francis Howell R-III
Ft. Zumwalt R-II
Fulton 58
Gainesville R-V
Gideon 37
Glenwood R-VIII
Grain Valley R-V
Grandview C-4
Green City R-I
Greenfield R-IV
Greenwood
Laboratory School
Halfway R-III
Hallsville R-IV
Hardin-Central C-2
Harrisonville R-IX
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
Johnson Co. R-VII
Junction Hill C-12
Kansas City 33
Kearney R-I
Kingsville R-I
Kirbyville R-VI
Kirkwood R-VII
La Monte R-IV
Laclede County R-1
Ladue
Lamar R-I
Laquey R-V
Lathrop R-II
Lawson R-XIV
Lebanon R-III
Leopold R-III
Lexington R-V
Liberty 53
Licking R-VIII
Lincoln R-II
Lindbergh Schools
Logan-Rogersville
R-VIII
Lone Jack C-6
Lonedell R-XIV
Louisiana R-II
Macon Co. R-I
Madison C-3
Mansfield R-IV
Maries Co. R-I
Marion C. Early R-V
Marion Co. R-II
Marshfield R-I
Maryville R-II
Meadow Heights 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
Mountain View-
Birch Tree R-III
Naylor R-II
Neosho School District
New Haven School District
Newburg R-II
Niangua R-V
Nixa
Nodaway-Holt R-VII
Norborne R-VIII
North Andrew Co. R-VI
North Kansas City 74
North Nodaway Co. R-VI
North Pemiscot Co. R-I
North Shelby
Northeast Nodaway Co. R-V
Northwest R-I
Northwestern R-I
Oak Grove R-VI
Oak Hill R-I
Odessa R-VII
Orchard Farm R-V
Oregon-Howell R-III
Osage Co. R-II
Ozark R-VI
Palmyra R-I
Parkway C-2
Park Hill
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
Risco R-II
Rock Port R-II
Rockwood R-VI
Rolla 31
Savannah R-III
School of the Osage
Sedalia 200
Seneca R-VII
Seymour R-II
Shawnee R-III
Shell Knob 78
Sherwood Cass R-VIII
Silex R-I
Smithton R-VI
Smithville R-II
South Callaway Co. R-II
South Nodaway Co. R-IV
Southland C-9
Sparta R-III
Spokane R-VII
Springfield Catholic Schools
Springfield R-XII
St. Charles R-VI
St. James R-I
St. Joseph
Stanberry R-II
Ste. Genevieve Co. R-II
Steeleville R-III
Stewartsville C-2
Stockton R-I
Strafford R-VI
Strasburg C-3
Success R-VI
Tarkio R-I
Thayer R-II
The Goodwill Excel Centers
Tipton R-VI
Troy R-III
Union R-XI
University City
Van Buren R-I
Verona R-VII
Warren Co. R-III
Warrensburg R-VI
Warsaw R-IX
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
Winston R-VI
Woodland R-IV
Worth Co. R-III
Wright City R-II Of Warren Co.

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



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