

LAUNCH OFFERS 200+ MISSOURI-ALIGNED VIRTUAL COURSES

Spring 2020

# ACCESS

LAUNCH

THE VOICE OF VIRTUAL LEARNING IN MISSOURI

# BUILD YOUR SUMMER!

Utilize Launch's virtual courses to create summer programming beneficial for your school and your students.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL MAKEUP

Ensure all middle schoolers are ready for next fall with Launch's summer remediation courses

## PREVENT LEARNING LOSS

Launch's summer academies combat summer slide for students in grades 1-12

# 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](http://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 and learn course details, and you can even view sample assignments. We can also send a couple of Launch team members to your district to talk to your team and see how we can help your students with course access issues. If you have specific questions you can't find answers to online or would like to set up an appointment, contact our Marketing and Engagement Manager, Savannah Waszczuk, at (417) 523-0417 or [savannah@fueledbylaunch.com](mailto: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 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.

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## Staff Poll

What's the coolest thing you've ever built yourself?

### The Launch Team

**Dr. Ben Hackenwerth** *Executive Director*

I've built a number of things for various home improvement projects, minus those involving electricity and plumbing.

**Dr. Nichole Lemmon** *Director, Digital Learning*

Thanks to the help of a lot of talented team members, we built Launch! The best project of my life!

**Janna Elfrink** *Coordinator, Digital Learning*

I built a snowman family once.

**Christopher Kensinger** *Specialist of Student Services*

My wife and I tore down and remodeled our kitchen in our 1944 house by ourselves.

**Dave Schuman** *Launch Counselor*

I built a K'NEX roller coaster that had an upside down loop. It was a 3,000-piece build.

**Caitlyn Kapple** *Executive Secretary*

I built a teepee for my hedgehog, Stella.

**Shelby Blankenship** *Launch Registrar*

I built a shelf for my living room last week... It was from Walmart and came with really great directions.

**Jessica Johnson** *Launch Attendance Secretary*

When I was 7, my brother and I helped our dad build a go-cart from scratch! (We also fixed it after I crashed it into the house.)

**Shannon Gilliland** *Launch Support Specialist, Kansas City*

We built a retaining wall next to the garage in my first house. Twice. It was a great lesson in structural engineering!

**Missy Sandbothe** *Launch Support Specialist, St. Louis*

I successfully put together an IKEA desk. I think they cut the materials into the smallest pieces possible just to increase the piece count in the box. It is more like putting together a puzzle than furniture!

**Stacey Walker** *Administrative Assistant, Kansas City*

I built a triple scoop banana split once! It was complete with nuts, sprinkles and whipped cream!

**Caitlin Seiler** *Administrative Assistant, St. Louis*

I built a pretty epic fort with my nieces and nephews! We hung sheets from the ceiling fan, which gave it a total circus vibe.

### Creative Services

**Savannah Waszczuk** *Manager, Marketing and Engagement*

I built some make-shift planters to create my very own patio garden. I'll do anything for fresh herbs and homegrown tomatoes!

**Jared Chester** *Graphic Designer*

When I was 8 I made a robot friend complete with a turning head and moving eyebrows. I made it from a table fan. His name was Steve.

**Daniel McDonald** *Video Producer*

When I was a kid, me and a friend built a massive fort that spanned about 90% of my basement. It was up until my mom wanted to vacuum.

**Sean Wright** *Video Producer*

I made my living room furniture from wood my Grandpa brought back from the California Redwoods in the 1980s!

### Development

**Dr. Meghan Roe** *Coordinator, Course Development*

I love building travel itineraries. My husband and I visited Europe a few years ago, and I planned the whole thing: six countries, 17 days, and not one missed connection!

**Linda Ayres** *Quality Assurance Specialist*

I've built some pretty spectacular Valentine's Day boxes, both for my kids and for work competitions. I'm the reason we no longer have Valentine's Day box competitions at Launch—1st place, baby!

**Nicki Dickson** *Digital Developer*

I built some shelves for my closet.

**Justin Thomas** *Digital Developer*

In various shop and technology classes, I've built toolboxes, chess sets and small motors. I've also manufactured my own computers and firearms.

**Brad Maples** *Digital Developer*

I have built several computers for friends and family, but the newest one I built for myself is probably the coolest one I've ever built.

**Amy Jackson** *Digital Developer*

When my siblings and I were kids we built model cars. I built a Ford Model T.

**Melissa James** *Digital Developer*

I built a Halloween cake that was supposed to look like a witch's hat.

**Darren Rush** *Launch Software Developer*

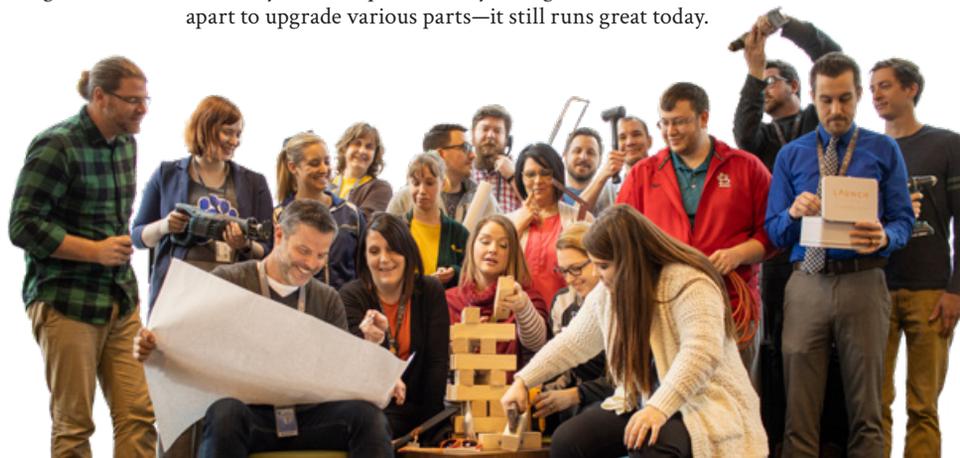
I rebuilt a Game Boy and loaded it with a Raspberry Pi Zero that could play all of the retro, old-school games.

**Adam Shawley** *Launch Help Desk*

I built a floor-to-ceiling climbing wall in my kids' room.

**Tyler Gray** *Launch Help Desk*

I built my first computer a few years ago. I have taken it apart to upgrade various parts—it still runs great today.



# Contents



16

## DISTRICT PROFILE: GAINESVILLE

Thanks to Launch, students at Gainesville High School have an expanded course catalog. Learn how the small school is doing big things for its students.



18

## DISTRICT PROFILE: FORT ZUMWALT

Fort Zumwalt Schools is one of the largest K-12s in the state. Learn how the St. Louis area district uses Launch to provide students opportunities all year long.



32



## ⌂ WHY I LAUNCH

Read, write, rodeo! Meet Alaina Gatz, a Ray-Pec 8th grader who utilizes Launch virtual courses to allow time for following her true passion—competing in rodeos all around the country.



28

**SUCCESS STORIES**

Warrensburg junior Alexis Jeffrey has a dream of competing in the Olympic trials. Learn how Launch provides the UCLA-bound gymnast extra time for an intense training regime.



20

**BUILD YOUR SUMMER**

Now is the time to offer your district's best summer programming yet! Learn how you can utilize Launch's summer courses to create programming that's beneficial for both your school and your students.

- 4 **DIRECTOR'S NOTE**  
Dr. Lemmon explains how—thanks to district partnerships—we built Launch into a statewide virtual learning program.
- 5 **WHAT'S ONLINE?**  
Haven't you heard? We redesigned our website! Learn about it, plus a Launchpad update that saves district liaisons time.
- 6 **SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTE**  
Dr. John Jungmann expresses the importance of providing learning opportunities all year.
- 7 **BY THE NUMBERS**  
Here we grow again! Learn the interesting numbers that make up Launch's world of virtual learning.
- 9 **COURSE CATALOG**  
Explore our full high school and middle school catalogs and our summer academy offerings.
- 10 **STUDENT Q&A**  
Alac Gamble is a rockstar student, and he's also a standout on the ice! Learn about the St. Louis area hockey player here.
- 12 **TEACHER PROFILE**  
Meet Jeremy Faust, who is known for the creative ways he communicates with his Launch students.
- 13 **MEET A STAFFER**  
She ships Chromebooks. She distributes Garmins. Shelby, a.k.a. our amazing registrar, makes Launch possible for learners statewide.
- 14 **COURSE HIGHLIGHTS**  
American Baseball History sounds more like a game than a class! Learn what makes it great.
- 31 **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**  
Students interested in the performing arts are able to do big things at Springfield Little Theatre, all with the help of Launch.

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 twitter



“Starting this work 9 years ago, we didn’t have a blueprint, and I could never have predicted what it would become.”  
—Dr. Nichole Lemmon

## Director’s **Note**

Launch’s Director shares how we work with districts statewide to build our virtual course offerings.

I’ll admit it. I’m not great at Do-It-Yourself projects. As much as I’ve tried to be a weekend warrior and complete home improvement projects that mirror those on HGTV, I usually end up making multiple trips to Lowe’s in a 6-hour period. Inevitably, the project ends with me calling an expert to finish the job on Monday morning.

Recently, I watched a friend put together IKEA furniture with ease and wondered exactly how she made it look so easy. “I just look at the pictures and follow the directions,” she explained. Right! That...

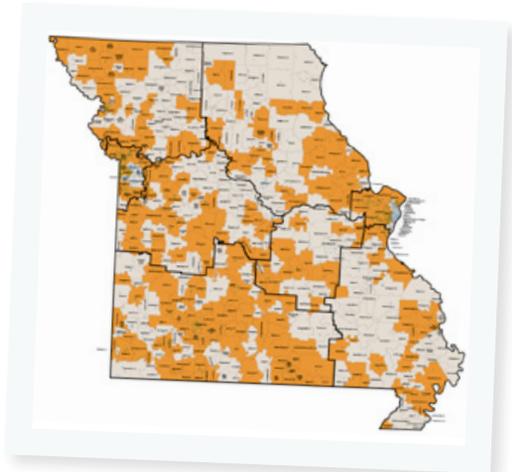
As we prepared this issue of *Access Launch*, I reflected on how educators build opportunities for students without manuals, pictures, diagrams or TV shows as guides. Our role is to design

for the future. In 2011, Springfield Public Schools committed to developing online programming designed for students using Missouri teacher expertise and curriculum. Starting this work 9 years ago, we didn’t have a blueprint, and I could never have predicted what it would become.

From 3 classes to now more than 200, every course in our catalog is built by a dedicated curriculum and development team. Teachers from across the state of Missouri design engaging and connected environments for students. A group of 266 (and growing) districts partner to provide opportunities for all learners, no matter their zip code.

Together, we built Launch, and we are serving thousands of learners statewide. How cool is that?

Launch partners with Missouri districts statewide (indicated in orange). Together, we built Missouri’s largest virtual learning platform.



Dr. Nichole Lemmon  
Director, Digital Learning

# What's **Online**

Have you heard the news? We redesigned our website! Learn about our new page, and find a time-saving Launchpad tip, below.

## **FUELEDBYLAUNCH.COM 2.0**

### **DISCOVER LAUNCH**

So, what is Launch, and how does it work with Missouri's virtual learning law? We thought you'd never ask! Our website's new "Discover Launch" feature is where parents, students and partner districts can learn everything they need to know about Launch and MOCAP. It also features the most-current list of Launch member school districts (please, feel free to reach out and ask questions), and it shares the many benefits of becoming a Launch partner.

### **OUR STORY**

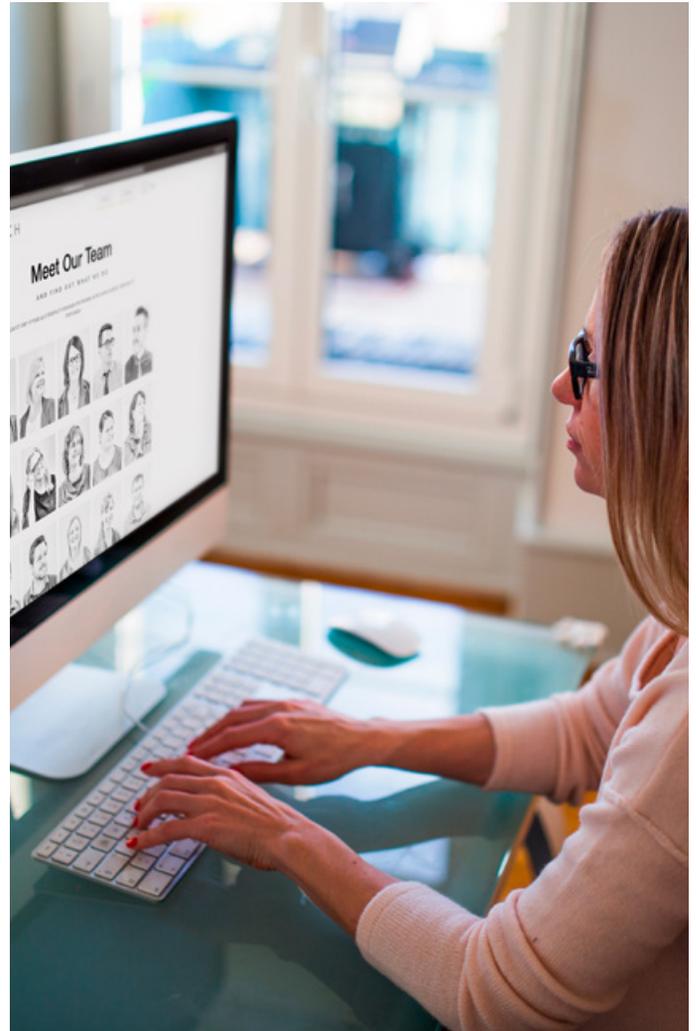
Visit the "Our Story" section of our new website to learn how Launch started at Springfield Public Schools and later grew into a statewide program that provides access to nearly 600,000 students. Also, meet the dozens of employees who tirelessly work to serve students by reading mini Launch staffer bios in the "Meet Our Team" section. We're a fun and interesting crew—promise!

### **COURSE OPTIONS**

Drumroll please... Our new course catalog is perhaps the most impressive part of our new website! Once you click on "Course Options," then "Course Catalog," you will be directed to a page that lists Launch's High School, Middle School and Summer Academies courses. A key on the top of the page lists "Honors," "Dual Credit," "Credit Recovery," "Credit Acquisition" and more, and you are able to click on each category to easily filter through our courses. Enjoy!

### **Are you following Launch on Twitter?**

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 about our latest district partnerships.



## **LAUNCHPAD**

### **ENROLLMENT UPDATE**

Breaking news for Launch partners: A new feature has been added to Launchpad! You will now find a field titled "Student MOSIS Number" at the top of the page on which you create students. This allows liaisons to enter a student's MOSIS number and click 'Find Existing Student.' Students who have been entered at your district in previous semesters will populate (so you won't have to re-enter all of their information). This should be a huge time saver!



# Superintendent's **Note**

Dr. John Jungmann discusses the importance of offering educational opportunities all year long.

**A**s superintendents and school leaders, we build futures every day; futures for our students, futures for our staff and futures for our communities. Strong foundations require innovative processes and approaches to educational opportunities that extend beyond brick and mortar facilities, and also beyond the months of August through May.

Due to recent calendar changes and now more than ever, our students and parents need us to design programming that serves their learning needs all year long. Launch is here to help you build a summer learning experience for every learner. From required courses to accelerated options and remediation and enrichment, we have course opportunities for every student.

Launch now offers more than 200 high school and middle school courses, as well as elementary academies focused on literacy, numeracy and coding. All Launch courses are designed, developed, and delivered by Missouri educators, for Missouri students. Summer learning opportunities have never been more important for our students, and our commitment to public education has never been stronger.

Together, we can continue to build education options for students that take advantage of summer months, fight the summer slide, and build futures for our students in ways we never before thought possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John E. Jungmann".

Dr. John Jungmann  
Superintendent, Springfield Public Schools



“Due to recent calendar changes and now more than ever, our students and parents need us to design programming that serves their learning needs all year long.”  
—Dr. John Jungmann

# BY THE NUMBERS

Check out the fascinating figures building Launch's world of online learning.

**592K**

MO STUDENTS WITH ACCESS TO LAUNCH

**46%**

MO SCHOOLS ARE LAUNCH PARTNERS

**266**

LAUNCH PARTNER DISTRICTS

**252**

SPRING LAUNCH TEACHERS

**20**

NEW SPRING 2020 COURSES

**+4K**

SUPPORT EMAILS SENT IN FALL 2019

**+5K**

SUPPORT CALLS TAKEN IN FALL 2019

**50**

TOTAL MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES

**226**

TOTAL HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

**25,080**

SPRING 2020 VIRTUAL COURSE ENROLLMENTS

# Launch Letters

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



## THREE CHEERS FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT

"I just wanted to thank the team at Launch for working so hard to find solutions for kids. We have a student expecting a baby in February. She is technically finished with her coursework, but needs to complete the healthcare program at our technical schools so she can get a job as a medical tech to support the baby. We needed to enroll her in an online class to keep her enrolled at tech school. Fortunately, Child Development is available for CA. It is a win-win that she can complete her studies to be gainfully employed AND will learn about the care and growth of her child. The work you do makes such a difference!"

### Dr. Shelley Willott

*Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Support Services  
Rockwood School District*

*Dr. Willott sent this note to Launch's Director of Virtual Learning, Dr. Nichole Lemmon. While Launch's Child Development course was beneficial to this student because the student is an expectant mother, Dr. Willott was extra grateful that the course is available as a Credit Acquisition course. Credit Acquisition courses have more flexible start dates.—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 partner, and you want to share your experience with our magazine readers? We would love to hear from you! Contact [savannah@fueledbylaunch.com](mailto:savannah@fueledbylaunch.com) with all questions, comments or visit requests.

## TOP-NOTCH SERVICE IN ST. LOUIS

"Hello! I will be on the lookout for it today when delivery is made! Thank you so much for the heads up. You all have the best customer service."

### Alysha McGuirk

*School Counselor  
Northwest High School*

*Alysha sent this note to Caitlin Seiler, our administrative assistant in St. Louis, after Caitlin helped track down a replacement Garmin heart rate monitor. Launch ships or delivers Garmins to partner district students after students are enrolled in Launch's physical education and physical fitness courses.—Editor*



## PHONE SUPPORT SUPERSTARS

"The past week has been crazy at our school, and I can't even imagine what it has been like for Launch. I wanted to give a huge shout out to your team. Whenever I call, they are always friendly, they answer my questions immediately, and they even sound like they enjoy their jobs! Adam (pictured above) and Jessica are two names that I remember from today, but every experience I have with your support team has been great. Their customer service skills are truly remarkable."

### Brian C. Vega, LPC, NCC

*School Counselor  
Springfield Public Schools*

*Mr. Vega, who supports middle school students at SPS, sent this note to Launch's Director of Virtual Learning, Dr. Nichole Lemmon, at the start of the Spring 2020 semester. The early days of January 2020 were extra busy since Launch had more than 20,000 virtual course enrollments, but our support team was happy and willing to help with every call!—Editor*

## High School Catalog

### Electives

- ACT Prep ○
- Driver Education ○
- Employment Internship ○
- FACS Internship ○
- HiSet Prep ○
- Hunter & Boater Safety ○
- 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 ■ ●
- French I-IV ■ ●
- German I-II ■ ●
- Japanese I-II ■ ●
- Spanish I-III ■ ●

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

## Middle School Catalog

### English Language Arts

- ELA 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Remediation
- ELA 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Remediation
- ELA 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Remediation
- Reading Middle School

### Mathematics

- Mathematics 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Remediation
- Mathematics 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Remediation
- Mathematics 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Remediation

### Science

- Science 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Remediation
- Science 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Remediation
- Science 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Remediation

### Social Studies

- Social Studies 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Remediation
- Social Studies 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Remediation
- Social Studies 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Remediation

### Health & PE

- Health 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Health 7<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Health 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- PE 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- PE 7<sup>th</sup> Grade
- PE 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Summer Academies

- Launch Into Math: Elementary
- Launch Into Math: Middle School
- Launch Into Math: High School
- Launch Into Coding: Elementary
- Launch Into Coding: Middle School

- Launch Into Reading: Elementary
- Launch Into Reading: Middle School
- Launch Into Reading: High School

Visit [fueledbylaunch.com](http://fueledbylaunch.com) for Fall/Spring options and full course details.



# Puck, Pass, Class!

Thanks to a full-time courseload with Launch, Northwest High School student Alac Gamble is spending his senior year playing hockey in the Windy City.

**BY CAITLIN SEILER**

**Access Launch:** How long have you been a Launch student?

**Alac Gamble:** Last semester was my first time taking Launch courses.

**Access:** Why did you decide to utilize Launch courses for your learning?

**A.G.:** I play for the Chicago Cougars, a junior hockey league team in Illinois. I knew that some of my friends who have played junior hockey in the past had done online school, so instead of transferring to a school in Chicago, I decided to do the same. I talked to my high school, and they told me that they had just started working with Launch. It was great—they allowed me to pick my classes and what I needed so I can graduate.

**Access:** What have been some of your favorite Launch courses?

**A.G.:** Last semester I took Liberty & Law. I liked

that class because I enjoy history, and the teacher I had was really knowledgeable and would always get back to me quickly if I had questions. I also took English 4, and I enjoyed that because I'm really good at English. The teacher I had provided good information, and we did a lot of interesting projects that helped me gain more knowledge in the English field.

**Access:** It sounds like you've had some pretty great teachers! What have you enjoyed most about working with Launch teachers?

**A.G.:** You really have that one-on-one interaction with the teacher whenever you need it, and they have the ability to make personal connections with each student. Joshua Douglas, my Liberty & Law teacher, would send out announcements every week, making sure everyone was caught up on work. He encouraged us to get ahead and turn the work in on time.

**Access:** Has it been easy to navigate Canvas, Launch's LMS?

**A.G.:** Yes. I really like how it tells me what I need to have done each day. It shows me all of my due dates, and I always make sure I'm a day ahead of them.

**Access:** Tell me more about Junior League Hockey. How does that differ from a typical club or high school team?

**A.G.:** Unlike most sports where you can go straight to college and play, hockey has become so big that you can't just go through college to get noticed. The Junior League

helps athletes get looked at for college and gives us a better chance to get noticed. My parents encouraged me to do it because it really prepares you for college and to be away from home and on your own.

**Access:** What does a typical day look like for you?

**A.G.:** I wake up around 10 a.m. and drive to the rink to start working out at 12 p.m. We're in the gym until about 2 p.m., and then we have an 80-minute practice that starts at 2:30 p.m. After practice we have the rest of the day off, so I come home, eat dinner and then work on my classes the rest of the night.

**Access:** What position do you play for the Chicago Cougars?

**A.G.:** I play both defense and forward. I enjoy defense because it's physical, but I like playing forward because I can actually go end-to-end and get more goals.

**Access:** When does the Junior Hockey season start and end?

**A.G.:** My season started on my birthday—August 22. It lasts until around March 16.

**Access:** When did you start playing hockey?

**A.G.:** I started playing at age 4, as soon as my family moved to Missouri. My parents are both in the military, so we moved around a lot.

**Access:** What are some of your other hobbies?

**A.G.:** Right now, I pretty much only have time for hockey and school. I also

like to play video games on Xbox and hang out with my friends.

**Access:** Have your friends missed you since you've been in Chicago?

**A.G.:** Yeah. As soon as I get back, all my friends start asking to hang out. I just stopped telling them when I was coming back because they'd all be texting me at one time! I actually did come up here with my best friend, who plays on the team, too. He graduated last year, though.

**Access:** What social media platforms do you use?

**A.G.:** Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat—all of the ones we're using these days.

**Access:** What is your favorite NHL team?

**A.G.:** The Boston Bruins.

**Access:** What are your post-high school plans or goals?

**A.G.:** I would like to play hockey for Missouri State University and get a degree in Accounting and Business. I love math, and MSU has a good program, so that's what I've had my eye on.

**Access:** What is your dream job?

**A.G.:** I would like to own my own accounting firm.

**Access:** What would you tell another student about the experience you have had with Launch?

**A.G.:** It was definitely a good idea to take online courses through Launch. I've learned a lot from it, which I don't think people can always say about online classes! Launch classes have made me think and require me to put in time, because they are actually real courses, and that is a good thing! ■



# Music Matters

Jeremy Faust, a Launch music instructor and Band Director in North Kansas City Schools, discusses his passion for teaching online.

When I was in 7th grade, our school counselors had everyone take a future career survey. Mine came back with the result 'Music Teacher.' Since then, I have not only loved learning to play a lot of different instruments, but I have also enjoyed teaching those instruments to my students.

By 2008, I earned a Master's degree in Education Technology and a Specialist's degree in Secondary Administration. It was then that

"In my experience, Launch has been a great way for students to open up their schedules."

—Jeremy Faust



Jeremy Faust teaches band in the North Kansas City School District as well as Launch music courses online.

I learned about online learning and the teaching opportunities provided within the North Kansas City School District's eCampus program. I started teaching Music Appreciation online for eCampus in addition to teaching band at North Kansas City High School and Northgate Middle School.

In Fall 2019 I started teaching online for Launch. I teach Fine Arts Appreciation: Music and Music Theory. I really enjoy it. I hope students complete my classes with a newfound appreciation of music. I want them to develop a love of live music concerts, have an interest in the history behind the composer—I want them to know what makes harmonies so special. These online classes are the perfect outlet for students who are wanting to learn about music in those ways.

Throughout the semester I try to create fun announcement videos for my Launch students. One thing I like to do is read my class announcements in front of a green screen, then take current events or other trending videos and show those in the background. After the Chiefs won the Super Bowl, I put up Patrick Mahomes' top 10 touchdowns of the season.

In my experience, Launch has been a great way for students to open up their schedules. It provides them flexibility for what they want to take and when they want to "attend class." Students who have experienced online learning also are better prepared for future learning in a virtual setting as they prepare for their careers or post-secondary education. ■



**Jeremy Faust**

Launch Fine Arts  
Appreciation: Music and  
Music Theory Teacher

**Home District:** North  
Kansas City Schools  
**Years in Education:** 21  
**Degree:** Masters of Education  
Technology; Specialist in  
Secondary Administration  
**Fun Fact:** Jeremy enjoys  
coaching high school soccer and  
cheering for Sporting KC.

# Behind the Scenes

What's it like to work for Launch? We joined Launch Registrar Shelby Blankenship for a day of shipping Chromebooks, delivering Garmin's and requesting records.

**7:40 a.m.:** Shortly after arriving at the Launch office, Shelby logs in to her computer and opens up the Launch Physical Fitness enrollment spreadsheet. "One of the first things I do every day is check and see if any new Physical Fitness or Physical Education enrollments have come through," Shelby says. As the Launch Registrar, Shelby is the individual responsible for shipping Garmin heart rate monitors to PE students at Launch partner districts.

**8:45 a.m.:** Shelby wraps a Chromebook in bubble wrap and places it in a small cardboard box. Next she grabs a roll of shipping tape and begins to seal the box shut. As she unrolls the tape, a loud shrieking sound fills the office. "Sorry, guys—Shelby's Shipping!" she says.

Shelby is preparing to take this Chromebook to Ozark Mailing Center along with multiple heart rate monitors—she is overnight shipping the devices to

Launch partner districts so those districts can share them with students.

**10:12 a.m.:** After taking the day's shipments to Ozark Mailing, Shelby returns to the office and grabs an empty coffee pot from the Launch snack bar area. "I make coffee for the office every other day," she says. "Our team drinks a lot of coffee—especially when it's cold outside!"

**11:19 a.m.:** Once she settles back in at her desk, Shelby begins to work on the Executive Summary report that tracks all full-time virtual (FTV) students at Springfield Public Schools. "This is how we track attendance and grades," Shelby says. "I update the report every Tuesday. It usually takes me a full day's time."

**12 p.m.:** Lunch break! Shelby decides to take a quick trip to QDOBA. "I'm not sure what I'm having, but there will likely be queso involved," she says.

**1:38 p.m.:** A few clouds have rolled in, and the skies outside

the office are turning gray. Launch Video Producer Dan McDonald walks towards Shelby's desk and yells out a question. "Hey Shelby, how's the Doppler looking?," he asks. Since Shelby sits by the window, she has been designated as the office's full-time weather watcher.

**2:53 p.m.:** Shelby's desk phone starts ringing. She pulls out an earbud and picks it up. "This is Shelby," she says. "Yeah, sure, I'll grab it and be right up." An online student in Springfield has been enrolled in a Launch PE course, and he dropped by the office to pick up his heart rate monitor.

**3:38 p.m.:** Shelby is working to try and finish up an enrollment request before she leaves for the day. "Whenever we get a new student, I request records for that student," she says. "I then have to enter their transcripts into eSchool."

**4:03 p.m.:** After sending a few last emails, Shelby shuts down her computer, puts on her jacket and heads for the door. "Buy guys," she says. "I have a nail appointment. I'll see you all tomorrow!" ■



# Middle School Makeup

Launch's middle school remediation courses help students recover key skills and prepare for the upcoming school year.

In high school, students who fail courses can often make up credits and recover key skills by taking a credit recovery course. But what about middle schoolers? Thanks to Launch, they are able to take a remediation version of the course they failed during the summer session.

"We offer middle school remediation courses for all key subject areas," says Launch Coordinator of Course Development Dr. Meghan Roe. "The goal of these courses is to prepare students for the curriculum they'll encounter in the next grade level."

Launch's remediation offerings cover content that is aligned to Missouri Learning Standards, and each course comes with a full-time, Missouri-certified teacher who works at a Launch partner district. Read on to learn more about Launch's middle school remediation offerings.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The content in sixth grade ELA focuses on four methods of effective communication including writing, reading, listening and speaking. Grade 7 ELA content helps students develop critical language arts skills revolving around the four above areas plus research. In grade 8, students further develop competency in reading, writing, speaking, listening and information literacy.

## MATHEMATICS

In sixth grade, mathematics students study ratios and proportional relationships; number sense and operations; expressions, equations and inequalities; geometry and measurement; and data analysis, statistics and probability. Grade 7 features content around multiple areas including scale drawings, proportional relationships and rational number arithmetic, and eighth graders study transformational geometry, proportional relationships, linear equations, exponents and scientific notation and more.



### Find more courses online!

Check out our full catalog at [fueledbylaunch.com/courses](https://fueledbylaunch.com/courses). You can see our middle school and high school course offerings, view the major topics and concepts of each course and see sample assignments.

## SCIENCE

Sixth grade science students investigate objectives within the subject content area of earth science and explore the relevance of science and technology to society. In grade 7, students increase learning about life science concepts and apply those concepts to the world around them. In eighth grade, science students focus on introductory chemical and physical science concepts.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Students enrolled in Launch's sixth grade Social Studies course study an introduction to ancient world history. Topics of focus include early civilizations, classical civilizations, foundations for representative government and more. In seventh grade, students begin to focus on world geography by studying various countries and regional areas, and grade 8 features content that focuses on American history from Colonization through the Civil War. ■

## ANATOMY OF A COURSE

# AMERICAN BASEBALL

*History*

Students in this course study American history as it unfolded alongside the development of America's favorite pastime.

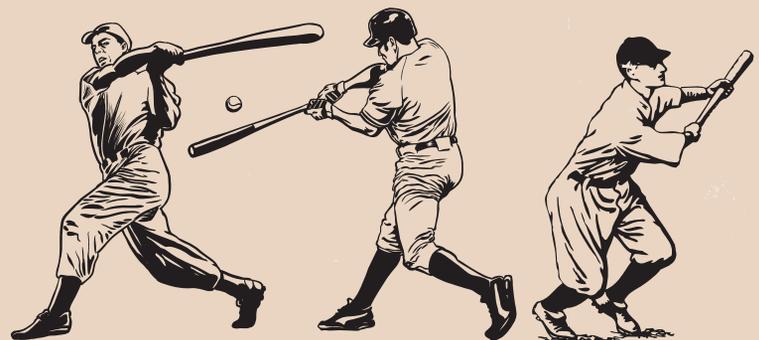
Launch's American Baseball History course features engaging assignments that are sure to entertain baseball lovers and history buffs alike. While the majority of the course covers the history that took place from the early 1800s through World War II, the final few themes include more modern content. Students participate in multiple culminating events, watch and reflect on multiple films and have several opportunities to collaborate with classmates located statewide.

### Presenting on the Pastime:

For a culminating event in this course, students pick a decade (their choice, from 1880 to 1940) and build a presentation that discusses the developments of baseball and events of American History during that time frame. Students narrate their presentation from a first-person perspective, then share it on a discussion board and discuss it with their classmates.

### Course Facts:

**Course Type:** Social Studies  
**Credits:** Half (0.5) credit course  
**Estimated Completion Time:**  
 1 Semester/9-18 weeks

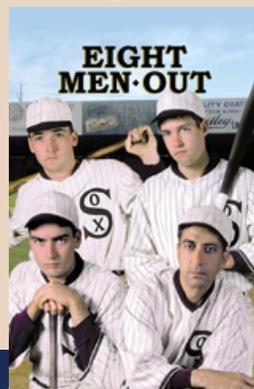


### Movie Mania:

Students watch three movies in this course—*Eight Men Out*, *42* and *A League of Their Own*—then complete assignments related to the films. After watching *Eight Men Out*, students write a paper about the ideas of capitalism and socialism in relation to baseball.

### Course Topics:

- Theme 1:** Origins of the Sport
- Theme 2:** Professionalism and the National Pastime
- Theme 3:** Baseball and the Troubles of Big Business
- Theme 4:** Baseball and America from the Progressive Era through the Roaring 20s
- Theme 5:** Baseball, the Great Depression and World War II
- Theme 6:** Baseball and the African American Experience
- Theme 7:** Baseball and Post-War America
- Theme 8:** Baseball and America in the 1970s and 1980s



# Growing Opportunities in **Gainesville**

While the Gainesville School District has less than 1,000 students K-12, it works with Launch to provide its high school students an expanded selection of course offerings.



**W**hen Gainesville High students returned to school in August 2019, they had a brand new shared learning space to explore. “Building a space for our students to work on their virtual courses was a goal of ours from the very beginning,” says Gainesville High School Principal Justin Gilmore. While it took a grant and other donated funding to

Jaxon Britt and Aubrey Turingan (above) are two of many GHS students in Launch courses. They work on these classes in the school’s new virtual learning lab (below).

transform the dream into a reality, a plan for it had been the works since fall 2018. “After our first meeting, we knew that Launch was the direction we wanted to go with our virtual learning,” Mr. Gilmore says. “We just needed to create a space for those students to learn.”



## THE JOURNEY TO JOINING LAUNCH

Sometimes school districts partner with Launch to fulfill an immediate need for a particular student’s virtual learning. Other times, districts reach out before a need arises in an effort to provide more opportunities for students. The Gainesville School District fell into the latter category.

The district has 655 students K-12, and 186 of those students attend Gainesville High School. “We’re small, but we have a lot of high-caliber students,” Gilmore says. “Last year we graduated 38 seniors, and four of them scored a 30 or higher on their ACT. We have students who are going on to Pepperdine and Johns Hopkins—we want to prepare them. We want to be able to offer our students all of the college prep courses we can.”

Mr. Gilmore has been working on expanding opportunities for GHS students since he began working at the rural high school in 2017. “Early on, we had plans for changing up our schedule,” Gilmore says. “When students have one class that’s offered one hour only, it’s tough. Especially in a small school. A goal of ours was to offer kids a bit more flexibility.”

While the district already had working relationships with area universities in place and offered a few Advanced Placement (AP) courses to students before partnering with Launch, they knew they could improve. And that’s where the Launch partnership came in. But there was one issue—where would all of these students sit?

“When students have one class that’s offered one hour only, it’s tough. Especially in a small school. A goal of ours was to offer kids a bit more flexibility.”  
*—Justin Gilmore*

**A WELL-CONSTRUCTED PLAN**

What was once an old math classroom is now a well-designed, modern virtual learning lab and shared library space. “We had a goal of getting our math teacher out in the main hall with the other teachers,” Mr. Gilmore says. “She was a loner back here. And we had a huge library, but when we would visit other schools, we’d get jealous. We wanted to fix our library up and make it nicer for our students.”

While Mr. Gilmore had drafts and dreams of what the space could look like, he needed to secure funding to make it all happen. “We wrote an application for a Coover Grant and were awarded \$20,000,” Mr. Gilmore says. “Then, we had funding from the McGinnis Family Funds with the Ozark County Community Foundation of the Ozarks. That provided us with \$10,000 more. So we had \$30,000 to work with.”

The district used the funds to transform the outdated classroom and tired library into a bright and open space complete with new flooring, fresh paint and all new



furniture. “Everything in here is new,” Mr. Gilmore says. “This building was built in 1963, so it was in need of an upgrade. We totally transformed how it looks here.”

**LAUNCH IN ACTION**

Students at GHS are utilizing Launch in a variety of ways. There are students who are recovering credits with Launch’s credit recovery program, and there are college-bound kids who are taking advantage of Launch’s multiple world language offerings. Many others enroll in ACT Prep. “I improved my ACT score by four points,” says Aubrey Turingan, a senior who hopes to study pre-med at Pepperdine University after she graduates this May. “The course has pre-tests that are set up just like the actual tests on the ACT. I would definitely recommend that students take this class if they are looking to improve their scores.”

Jaxon Britt, a fellow GHS senior who has plans to study at the University of Arkansas next fall, also increased his ACT score by four points. “Those practice tests are the biggest help when you’re studying for the ACT,” Jackson says. “They definitely helped me.”

High School Counselor Miranda Donley says many of the school’s juniors and seniors have benefited from Launch’s ACT Prep course. “I would say the ACT course is one of our biggest successes with Launch so far,” she says. “Between the ACT course and the use of credit recovery in our alternative school, we’re very happy with this partnership.” Mr. Gilmore agrees. “I’m glad that we are continuing to expand our offerings with Launch,” he says. “I want our students to have the opportunity to take things that they want or need to take that—unfortunately—a smaller, rural district isn’t able to offer.” ■

GHS Principal Justin Gilmore and Counselor Miranda Donley say Launch has greatly helped the district expand its course offerings.



**GAINESVILLE AT A GLANCE**

**K-12 Enrollment:** 655

**High School Population:** 186

**MASA District:** Southwest

**School Colors:** Red and White

**Mascot:** Bulldogs

**Fun Fact:** Every year, GHS alumni and residents alike gather for the town’s annual Hootin an Hollarin Festival. The festival is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> year!



# The Virtual Journey at Fort Zumwalt

Learn how the Fort Zumwalt School District utilizes Launch to serve all types of learners, all year long.



Vanessa Onuoha balances quite a busy schedule. In addition to taking a full course load at Fort Zumwalt West High School, she's the editor-in-chief of the school's newspaper, *The Solitaire*. Outside of the school day, Vanessa serves on a leadership team and in the children's ministry at her church, and she runs her own photography business. Oh, and did we mention that she teaches cooking and film literature classes at an area recreation center? Yes, and she's only a senior in high school.

"I'm hoping to attend Stanford University after I graduate," says Vanessa, who is currently enrolled in Launch's Fine Arts Appreciation: Music class. "I would like to study digital humanities, which brings technology and people together."

Providing students like Vanessa the opportunity for flexible scheduling is one of multiple reasons the Fort Zumwalt School District decided to partner with Launch. "I take seven classes at school, plus my Launch class online," Vanessa says. "I needed to complete my fine art credit to graduate, but I didn't have room in my schedule. Launch allows me to take this class on my own time, which works perfectly for me."

## THE DECISION TO PARTNER

An administration team from Fort Zumwalt School District first met with Launch's Director of Virtual Learning, Dr. Nichole Lemmon, in spring 2018. "It really came into play for a couple of reasons," says Jennifer Waters, Fort Zumwalt School District's Assistant

Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction. "We knew Senate Bill 603 was coming down the pipe, and we wanted to be ready for that and ready to be able to offer our students opportunities. Additionally, we were really frustrated with the for-profit provider that we were using."

Fort Zumwalt officially partnered with Launch in November 2018. "After meeting with Dr. Lemmon, we were really impressed with Launch's mission," Jennifer says. "We were looking for something that would provide curriculum aligned to Missouri Learning Standards and taught by Missouri teachers. That's exactly what Launch offers, and it's based at a fellow Missouri school district."

"I've been with Fort Zumwalt for 18 years, and I've always taught summer school. This year was different, because we were able to talk with parents and work around vacations and things like that. Their summer plans weren't halted."

—Lynn Hudson



hours a day during his summer break. “I was able to sleep a little later, then work, then come home and work on my Launch class. I loved not having to be anywhere—like, I liked not having to come into the school—and I liked how I could work on my own time.”

The administration team at Fort Zumwalt also appreciated how Launch provided course offerings for all types of students. “Launch offers programming for students who need credit recovery and students who need credit advancement,” Jennifer says. This means it can help those students like Vanessa—who are in need of adding an online class to build flexibility in their schedule—as well as students like Max Courtis, who recovered his English credit with Launch online last summer.

### UTILIZING LAUNCH'S SUMMER OFFERINGS

Max was one of 800 some Fort Zumwalt students who learned with Launch in summer 2019. “I liked it because I could work on my class on my own time,” says Max, who also worked at a car wash six

Lynn Hudson, who is an English Teacher at Fort Zumwalt West High School, was Max’s online credit recovery teacher—in summer 2019, Launch hired and trained several Fort Zumwalt teachers to serve Fort Zumwalt students. “Launch allows a lot more flexibility for teachers and students,” Lynn says. “I’ve been with Fort Zumwalt for 18 years, and I’ve always taught summer school. This year was different, because we were able to talk with parents and work around vacations and things like that. Their summer plans weren’t halted.”

This benefited more than just the family’s schedules. “I think we saw a higher pass rate than in the past because of this flexibility,” Lynn says. “Students didn’t just drop out because it was too structured. They were able to make it work with their schedules.”

In addition to high school credit recovery, Fort Zumwalt also encouraged many middle school students to participate in summer remediation courses to better prepare them for the fall. Additionally, the district offered all high school students the chance to take Personal Finance and Health online. “Those are classes that students can take in the summer to build more room in their schedules for the following school year,” Jennifer says.

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

By offering a variety of courses in both the traditional school year and the summer, Launch is helping the Fort Zumwalt School District create opportunities for all types of students, all year long. Vicki Christopher, a counselor at West High, stresses the importance of this. “We really appreciate that Launch offers Credit Acquisition courses,” Vicki says.

Launch’s credit acquisition courses allow students to start earning first-time credit at any point in the semester. “I just enrolled a student yesterday who hasn’t been attending school,” Vicki says. “Having this rolling enrollment option is great—it is very unlike anything we’ve been able to offer with vendors we have utilized in the past.” ■

### FORT ZUMWALT AT A GLANCE

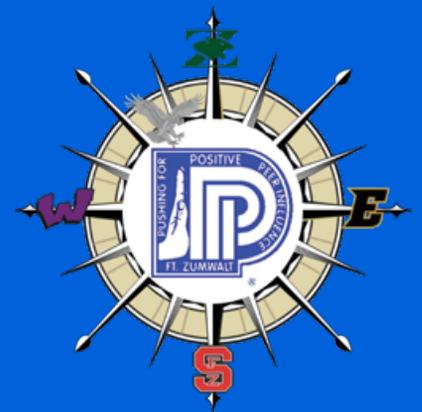
**K-12 Enrollment:** 18,125

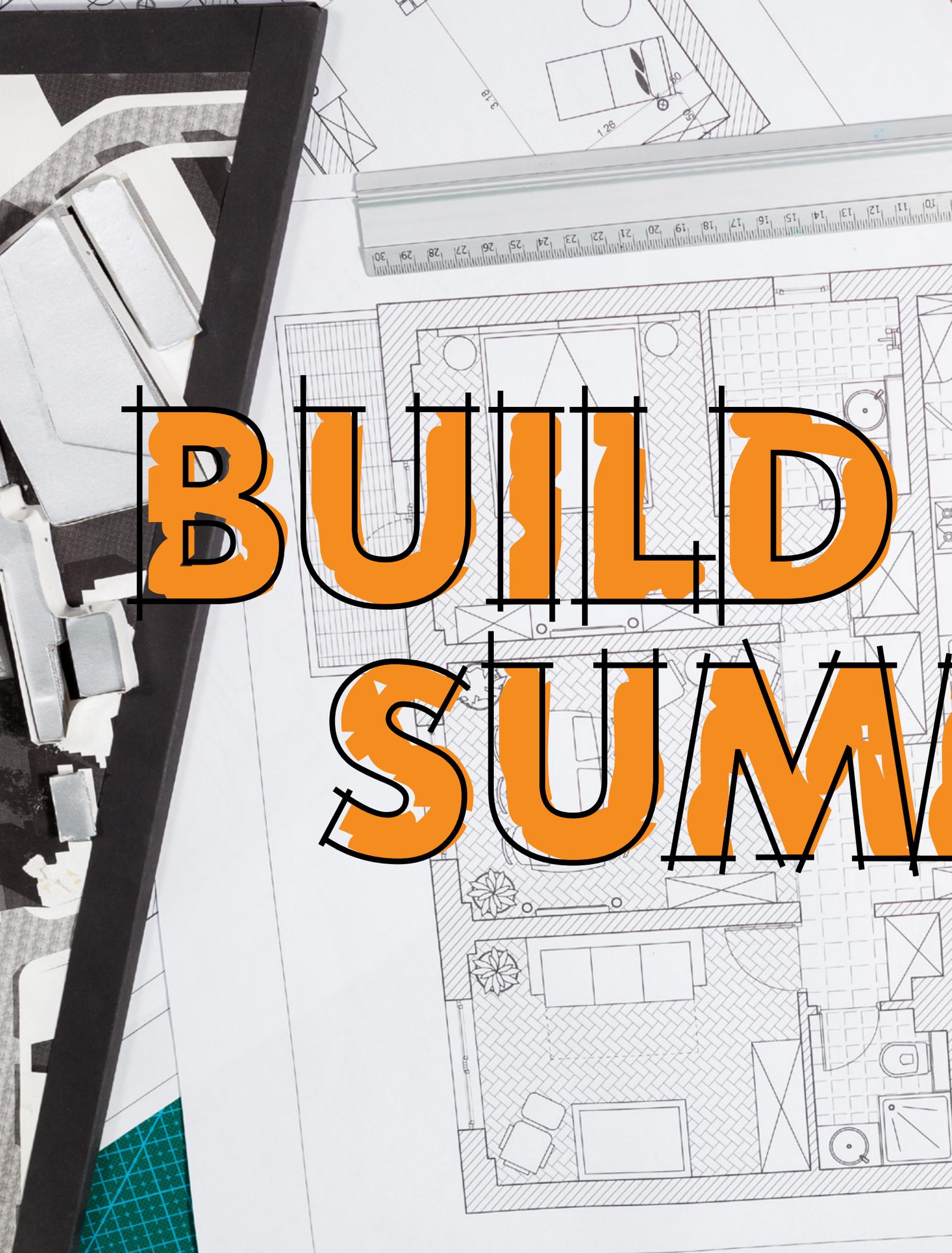
**High School Population:** 6,061

**MASA District:** Greater St. Louis

**High Schools:** East High School, North High School, Hope High School, South High School, West High School

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Fort Zumwalt School District is to assure that its students, regardless of ability or economic level, are provided an education in such a positive and safe learning environment that they may all reach their potential. A strong commitment is made to promote the virtues of democracy, citizenship, self-discipline, work ethic, and the need to respect all members of society.



The background features a detailed architectural floor plan with various rooms, furniture, and fixtures. A ruler is positioned horizontally across the upper portion of the drawing. On the left side, there is a dark vertical strip containing a white, curved object, possibly a piece of furniture or a model component. The overall scene suggests a workspace for architectural design or construction planning.

# BUILD SUMMER



# YOUR SUMMER!

**IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME.** Now, we know what you're thinking—summer school is often the last thing a student wants to do with their few months of freedom. And this may be true. But what if you redesigned your school's summer programming to be available to students when *they* want it? What if your students didn't have to show up to a seated classroom every day? What if students could still sleep in, work a summer job, go to camp and earn credits? Launch makes this all possible. And the best part is, you can still decide what to offer, and when to offer it. Read on to learn how Launch can help you create summer programming that is beneficial for both your school and your students.

# WHY SHOULD YOU BUILD SUMMER PROGRAMMING?

## PREVENT SUMMER LEARNING LOSS

Summer learning loss is no secret—in fact, it's continually validated with study after study, year after year. “In the summer following the third grade year, students experience 20 percent regression in the area of reading and 27% regression in the area of math,” says Dr. Ben Hackenwerth, Executive Director of Learning Support and Innovation at Springfield Public Schools (SPS).

Dr. Hackenwerth is quoting data from “Summer Learning Loss: What We Know and What We're Learning,” an article by Megan Kuhfeld published on the Teach. Learn. Grow. education blog. “This particular study, which has been referenced for years and again recently validated, shows that the trend of summer learning loss compounds itself year after year,” Dr. Hackenwerth says. “The numbers grow to be much larger when students reach middle school. The summer after their seventh grade year, students lose 36% of their reading gains and 50% of their math gains.”

Springfield Public Schools decided to face this growing issue head on six summers ago. “We hosted focus groups for kids of different ages and asked what they liked

or didn't like about summer school,” says Dr. Hackenwerth. “And right away, we learned—don't call it summer school.” After multiple focus groups and additional research, SPS created Explore, a summer program in which it offers students experience-based learning opportunities.

Explore offers elementary and middle school programming designed around field trips and other outdoor activities. It also includes online learning academies for elementary and middle school students in the areas of math, reading and coding. At the high school level, Explore offers students access to Launch's entire virtual catalog. “We learned that the majority of high school students didn't want to come and participate in a seated environment in the summertime,” Dr. Hackenwerth says. “They wanted to be able to work on their own time and at their own pace, around other activities.”

Before creating Explore, SPS averaged approximately 3,500 summer enrollments. After implementing the new program—which also expanded the months courses are offered from June only to June and July—the district has seen summer sessions that serve approximately 11,000 students.



## PROVIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL REMEDIATION

Not long after partnering with Launch, the Fort Zumwalt school district was in search of opportunities for middle school students who were not successful in the traditional school year. “We really wanted students who failed in the regular school year to do some recovery of skills to get them ready for the next grade level,” says Mrs. Jennifer Waters, Fort Zumwalt’s Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction. “We came to Launch in search of this opportunity for our students.”

In summer 2019, Launch began offering middle school remediation courses. “One of our goals for Launch, as a program, was to offer as many opportunities as possible in the summer months,” says Dr. Nichole Lemmon, Director of Digital Learning at SPS. “Developing middle school remediation was something we had discussed before. Hearing this request from Fort Zumwalt helped us validate the need for middle school remediation in districts statewide.”

Launch currently offers remediation in core subject areas—English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies—for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. In Fort Zumwalt’s experience, remediation proved to be successful, but it didn’t come without a bit of work on the district’s part. “We cannot force students to take summer courses, but we strongly recommended it and encouraged it,” Waters says. “It takes a lot of phone calls, a lot of working with parents and a lot of calling home.”



The Fort Zumwalt School District offers middle school remediation, credit recovery and traditional virtual Launch courses in the summer. Counselor Vicki Christopher and teacher Lynn Hudson (pictured top right) say this greatly expands student opportunities.

## ALLOW HIGH SCHOOLERS EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES

In many Launch districts, high school students elect to take courses that are required for graduation during the summertime. This provides more openings in their schedules in their traditional school year, which results in students taking classes they are passionate about. “We have really high enrollments in Health and Personal Finance in the summertime,” Dr. Lemmon says. “In Springfield, we’ve found this to create a lot of opportunity. Students make time for both band and choir, for example. Or they make time to participate in the CAPS program.”

**PRO BUILDER’S TIP:**  
Offer summer school courses in both June and July to reach a larger student population and provide more flexibility.

# WHAT COURSES SHOULD YOU BUILD INTO YOUR SUMMER SCHEDULE?



## THE CHOICE IS YOURS!

Perhaps you want to allow your students the opportunity to take core electives (i.e., Health and Personal Finance) in the summer. Or maybe you would like to allow your students to take any class they wish. Either way, the choice is yours. With Launch, you can choose to offer certain courses, or you can offer our complete catalog. In the case that you are offering certain core courses, we may even hire your teacher to teach your own students! (You need at least 20 students participating for this option to be considered, and you must reach out to Dr. Nichole Lemmon at [nichole@fueledbylaunch.com](mailto:nichole@fueledbylaunch.com).) Considering your options? Flip to p. 9 to see Launch's complete course catalog.

## CREDIT RECOVERY OFFERINGS

If you're an educator, you know that summer is a popular time to allow students to make up credits. Well, what if we told you that you could offer your high school students the chance to make up credits and your district wouldn't even have to open a building? Enter Launch's credit recovery courses.

Launch partner districts have a choice when it comes to credit recovery: You can pay your own teacher to be the teacher of record, or you can utilize a Launch teacher of record. If you elect to utilize your own teachers, Launch provides free training.

### PRO BUILDER'S TIP:

To get the most for your district's dollars, begin offering credit recovery courses (CRCs) with the summer semester. All Launch CRC licenses are valid for three semesters—summer, fall and spring—so starting in summer provides the most usage time.

### Launch Credit Recovery Courses:

- |                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Algebra I                       | Geometry Concepts     |
| Algebra II                      | Health                |
| Chemistry                       | Introductory Biology  |
| Digital Communications          | Intro to Chemistry    |
| Earth Science                   | Liberty & Law (Gov.)  |
| English I                       | Personal Finance      |
| English II                      | Physics First         |
| English III                     | Professional Math     |
| English IV                      | Psychology            |
| Fine Arts Appreciation I: Music | United States History |
| Foundations of Algebra          | World Geography       |
| General Biology                 | World History         |

## ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

How can you help students of all ages build on key skills in the summer months? Enroll them in Launch's Summer Academies! Using a computer and adaptive software, Launch's Summer Academies meet every student at their current learning level to teach key skills through games and other interactive activities. Academies are offered to grades 1–12 in the subject areas of math, reading and computer coding. Each academy course comes with a teacher and provides the necessary summer enrichment needed for students to prepare for the coming school year.

In addition, Launch's high school catalog offers many electives. One summer-only Launch offering is Hunter & Boater Safety, which teaches students the skills needed to become a responsible hunter and boater. Students must be 16 at the beginning of the course and will learn basic hunter techniques, outdoor safety tips and shooting skills. They will also obtain hunting and boating certifications.

### PRO BUILDER'S TIP:

Keep elementary, middle and high school students engaged and learning all year long with Launch's summer academies! Academies are offered for math, reading and computer coding.



# HOW DO YOU BUILD ENGAGEMENT WITH PARENTS AND STUDENTS?

## DEVELOP A COMMUNICATION PLAN

You may know that you want your district to offer summer programming, but how do you make it happen? “The first step is to come up with a plan of your offerings at the district level,” says Janna Elfrink (pictured right), Launch’s Digital Learning Coordinator who previously acted as a Launch liaison in the Reeds Spring School District. “When I was at Reeds Spring, we created a schedule of what we would offer based on what students were interested in and what we didn’t offer seated.” The next step is to communicate this with all team members who will be involved. “If your counselors and principals aren’t already aware of what you’re offering, have a meeting to share your plan with your team,” Elfrink says.

Next you should figure out how you will share your summer school offerings with your staff and students. Launch is happy to create communications materials for districts, free of charge (see opposite page for details). You should also consider including your summer course offering announcement in the other forms of communication your district utilizes.



**PRO BUILDER'S TIP:**  
Request free customized communication materials from Launch to advertise summer classes to students and parents!

### SHARE CUSTOMIZED COMMUNICATION MATERIALS

Launch is happy to design customized materials for all partner districts, free of charge. Depending on the number of courses your district is offering, we will create postcard-size or flyer-size materials and ship them to your district. It typically takes 2 to 3 weeks for our creative team to design, print and ship the materials, so please plan in advance and order as early as possible!



### How to Request Free Communication Materials:

1. Visit [fueledbylaunch.com/communication-request](https://fueledbylaunch.com/communication-request)
2. Provide the required district information including the courses you will offer, how students should enroll and a copy of your district's logo
3. Submit your request, then watch your inbox for a proof of your communication materials
4. Review your materials, and request any changes
5. Submit "Finished" after you are happy with your proof, and wait for your copies to arrive!

### DESIGNATE YOUR SUMMER OFFERINGS WITH DESE

Read on to ensure your district properly reports your summer program's Average Daily Attendance (ADA) for state reimbursement.

**STEP ONE:** All Launch partner districts should choose Launch as a service provider for summer courses. Make sure you have appropriately completed your Core Data Screen 24A-DESE Summer School Application.

**STEP TWO:** When completing the program information section, use your high school, estimated enrollment, grade span, Launch open and close dates and your district hours per day for Core Data Screen 24A-DESE Summer School Application.

**STEP THREE:** Choose "yes" for service provider, and add the comment "Virtual curriculum provided by Launch" in the district comments section. Provide a copy to the Launch office for review. Submit via your district's core data by May 1 (DESE Deadline)

**STEP FOUR:** Create a schedule for your students to ensure a virtual placeholder is in place for Launch courses. Submit course information to DESE in June Course Assignment MOSIS file by June 15 (DESE Deadline)

**STEP FIVE:** Submit student attendance in August Enrollment & Attendance MOSIS file by August 15 (DESE Deadline)

### OPEN ENROLLMENT WITH SPS

If your district does not plan to offer summer school courses, students may enroll with SPS via open enrollment. Contact Savannah Waszczuk at [savannah@fueledbylaunch.com](mailto:savannah@fueledbylaunch.com) for more information.

# Finding

**A**lexis Jeffrey flashes a smile and adjusts her long, sandy blonde hair so it falls symmetrically on either side of her face. She's dressed in black skinny jeans and a form-fitting tee that reads "USA," posing for photographs as she stands in the halls of Warrensburg High School. A 16-year-old in her junior year, Alexis appears comfortable and confident—definitely no stranger to the spotlight—as she continues sharing her story with the Launch team between snapshots.

"This is one of the biggest ones I have," Alexis says of the trophy that's standing waist-high at her side. She goes on to share that she was awarded this trophy after placing fourth overall at the USAG (USA Gymnastics) Junior Olympics a couple years back. "Those are just a few of my medals, though," Alexis says, pointing to the ribbon-adorned discs draping the toddler-height trophy. "I have a lot more medals at home. Over 300."

These trophies and medals are tokens of accomplishment for Alexis, who has been a competitive gymnast since the third grade. Alexis has spent hundreds—if not thousands—of hours training and competing, and today she holds two USAG Junior Olympics titles and regularly competes as a U.S. Elite Gymnast. All while continuing to be an all-star student. "I wouldn't be able to do what I'm doing without Launch," Alexis says.

## A LIFELONG PASSION

Alexis has been involved in gymnastics since she was 3 years old. Her parents started her young, providing her with a chance to work out a bit of energy by tumbling and toe-touching along with a sea of other toddlers. But as Alexis grew, so did her passion for the sport. "When I was younger I was involved in several activities," Alexis says. "But

I really liked gymnastics the most. When I was in third grade, I told my mom that I wanted to train to be in the Olympics."

Her mother got busy researching. She found a top-notch gymnastics training gym in Blue Springs called GAGE (Great American Gymnastics Express) Center. While GAGE was close to an hour's drive from the family's home, her mother enrolled her, eager to help her daughter pursue her dream. "When I started training in third grade, I would go to the gym six days a week," Alexis says. "My mom or dad would have to drive me to the gym every day, and



Warrensburg High School junior Alexis Jeffrey is a two-time USAG Junior Olympics Champion and an Elite-level gymnast. Read on to learn how the UCLA-bound athlete balances a life of competitions and coursework with the help of Launch's online classes.

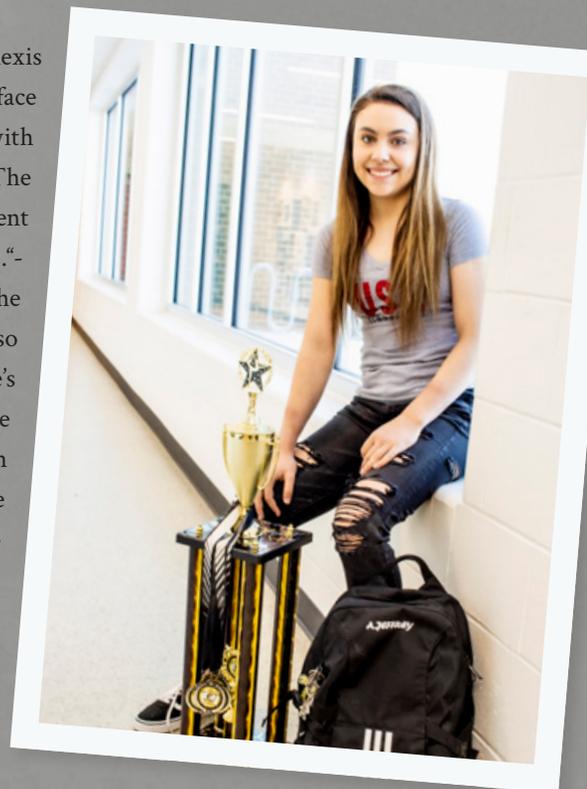
# Balance

then drive me home. I was training around four hours a day at that time.”

This new training schedule required Alexis to leave school early, and she became responsible for making up the work she missed. But it proved to be worth the extra effort. “I started training, and at first I wasn't very good,” Alexis says. “But my coaches realized that I had the capability to make it to the Elite level.” It wasn't long before Alexis found herself competing in the Junior Olympics. “In the eighth grade I placed 10th overall at Nationals,” Alexis says. “I was happy, but I knew that I had to place in the top 3 to go Elite.” Two years and hundreds of sweaty, determined hours later, she placed first at Nationals and reached her goal of becoming an Elite-level gymnast.

Competing at the Elite level has given Alexis an even deeper love for gymnastics. When asked about the most memorable moments in her career so far, she's quick to reference an Elite-level meet. “I'll never forget the moment when I stuck my landing

at Nationals,” Alexis says. Her face brightens with excitement. “The whole crowd went crazy,” she says. “Competing at the Elite level is just so different. There's so much noise and so much energy. I love it.” Other Elite-level highlights include being in the company of Olympic athletes. “My favorite gymnast growing up was Shawn Johnson,” Alexis says. “When I first saw her compete I thought, ‘Wow, I want to do that.’ Well, a couple years ago I got to meet her at an Elite meet.”

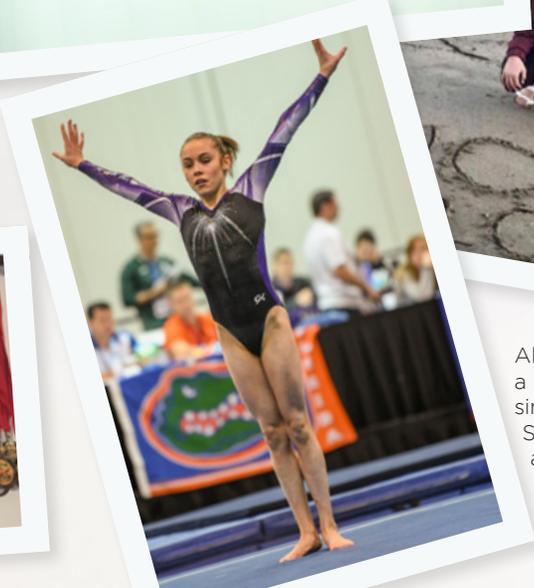
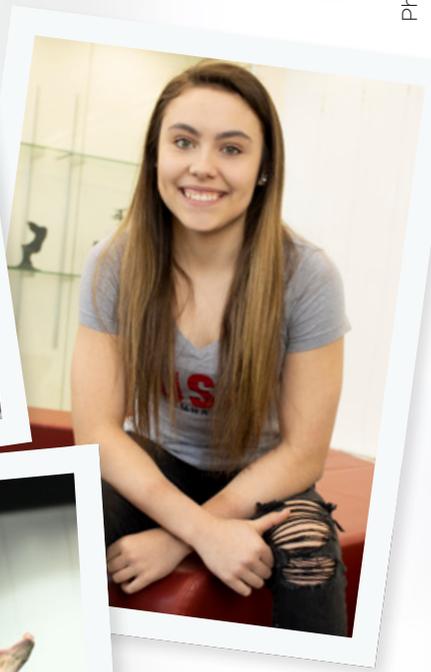
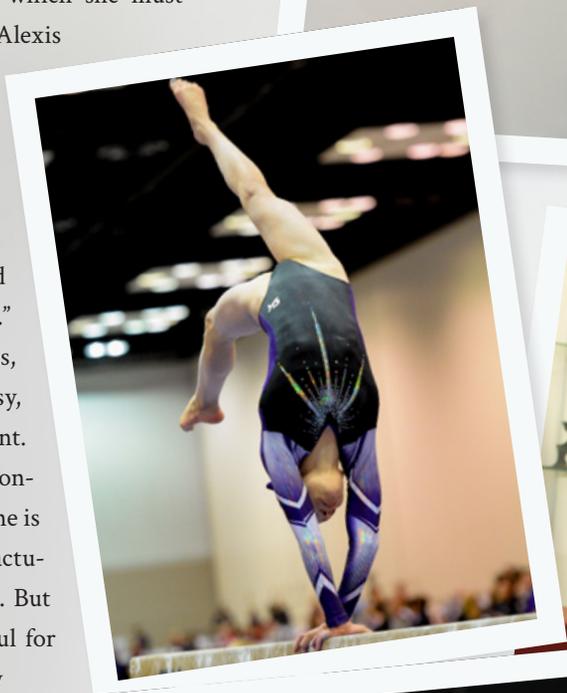


**A DAY IN THE LIFE**

Today Alexis continues training at GAGE, but now she’s able to drive herself to her workout sessions. “I leave school every day at 11,” Alexis says. After the near-hour drive to Blue Springs, Alexis starts her workout, hitting the mats and bars by 1 p.m. and working out until 7 at night. “After I get home, I work on my online classes,” Alexis says. This is also the time in which she must complete any homework for her other courses—Alexis still attends four seated classes at Warrensburg High School.

A blended schedule is the only way Alexis could make everything work. “I needed to take some of my classes online because of the amount of time I’m training,” Alexis says. “I really needed Launch classes to stay on track to graduate.” While she admits that balancing her seated classes, Launch classes and training keep her very busy, Alexis cannot imagine doing anything different. “I know this is the path that I have to take to continue,” Alexis says. “And yeah, taking classes online is definitely different. I have to be responsible and actually sit down and do my work when I get home. But I know it’s what I have to do.” And she’s grateful for the opportunity. “Without Launch, I don’t know how I would be able to make everything work,” Alexis says. “Everything about Launch has been very helpful for me. My teachers are very engaged, and they are very understanding of my schedule.”

Alexis continues to be driven by goals, and she has many things to look forward to. For starters, she’s preparing herself academically for an education at the University of California—Los Angeles. “I have a full-ride scholarship to UCLA,” she says. “I committed at the end of my freshman year.” She will compete on the gymnastics team for the university. But college isn’t the only thing on her mind as she trains. “I am also trying to make it to the Olympic trials,” Alexis says. “That’s the next goal on my list.” ■



Alexis Jeffrey has been a competitive gymnast since elementary school. She is committed to attend UCLA after she graduates in May 2021.

Photos courtesy Sarah Jeffrey

# Partnering for Performance

The Springfield Little Theatre Academy partners with Launch to offer pre-professional track performing arts students academic courses.

As the Education Director at Springfield Little Theatre (SLT), Lorianne Dunn had a dream. “I wanted a flexible academic option that would support our full-time, pre-professional track students,” she says. These are students who attend the theatre for a multitude of arts training including ballet, jazz, voice and acting classes. “They were already getting conservatory style arts training through Springfield Little Theatre,” Lorianne says.

In early 2019, Lorianne met with Dr. Nichole Lemmon, Launch’s Director of Digital Learning, to discuss the idea of using Launch for academic coursework. Lorianne left the meeting impressed with Launch’s offerings, and SLT decided to offer Launch courses to pre-professional track students. These students were given the opportunity to partake in SLT Academy, which is a program

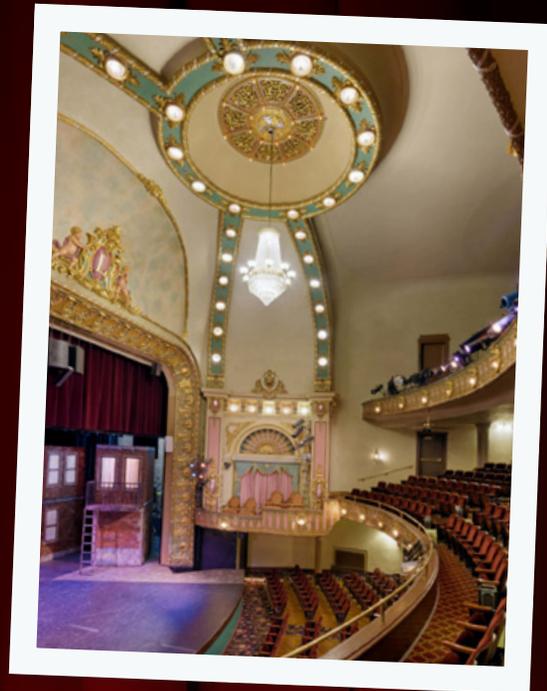
that combines the theatre’s classes and Launch’s academic options. “We went into it as an experiment,” Lorianne says. “It’s very small right now, but it is proving to work well for our motivated students. We have nine students enrolled right now.”

One of these students is Johanna Thornsberry, a 13-year-old 8th grader who previously attended school in Ozark. “I always wanted to try online school,” Johanna says. After learning about Launch and the partnership with SLT, her parents allowed her to give it a try. “She reached the age where I thought she was responsible enough,” says Holli Thornsberry, Johanna’s mother.

Johanna is now in her second semester of a full-time academic schedule with Launch. “I really like it so far, and I feel like I’m actually learning more,” Johanna says. “If I don’t understand something, I can go back and review the material until I learn it.”

Holli has also been impressed with the program. “I like that Launch keeps parents up to date,” Holli says. “Teachers always call at the beginning of the semester to introduce themselves and answer questions. Also, parents have accounts and are able to get in and see all that is going on, which I like.”

Johanna is the perfect example of a student who benefits from the flexibility



that Launch provides. On top of a full-time academic schedule and the academy’s performing arts classes she attends five days a week, she is also often auditioning or rehearsing for shows. “I recently played the teenage Laura Ingalls Wilder in the theatre’s Little House On The Prairie musical,” Johanna says. “Right now I’m rehearsing for Matilda. I’d say rehearsals and auditions usually take up 20 to 24 hours a week.” And while she’s busy, Johanna is quick to say she wouldn’t change a thing. “I hope to be on Broadway one day and live in New York,” she says. “I love New York so, so much!” ■

Johanna Thornsberry (pictured left; middle below) takes Launch classes through SLT Academy.

Photos courtesy Holli Thornsberry





Photos courtesy Alicia Gatz

## Wrangling School & Rodeo

A full-time Launch schedule allows Raymore-Peculiar middle school student Alaina Gatz time to train and participate in rodeos nationwide.

**A**laina Gatz has a different morning routine than most eighth graders. “After I wake up, I go out and check on the horses,” says Alaina. After making the rounds, it’s back inside to log on and start learning—Alaina has a full-time virtual schedule with Launch. “I work on my assignments earlier in the day, usually,” Alaina says. “Then, once my mom gets home, I’ll go out and start training.”

Alaina is a Raymore-Peculiar middle school student, but a completely online schedule was needed to allow her to follow her true passion—competing in rodeos. “I was pretty much born on a saddle,” says Alaina, who has been riding horses since age 2. “Now I compete in the National Little Britches Rodeo Association.” Alaina is a contender in Poles, Trails and Barrels.

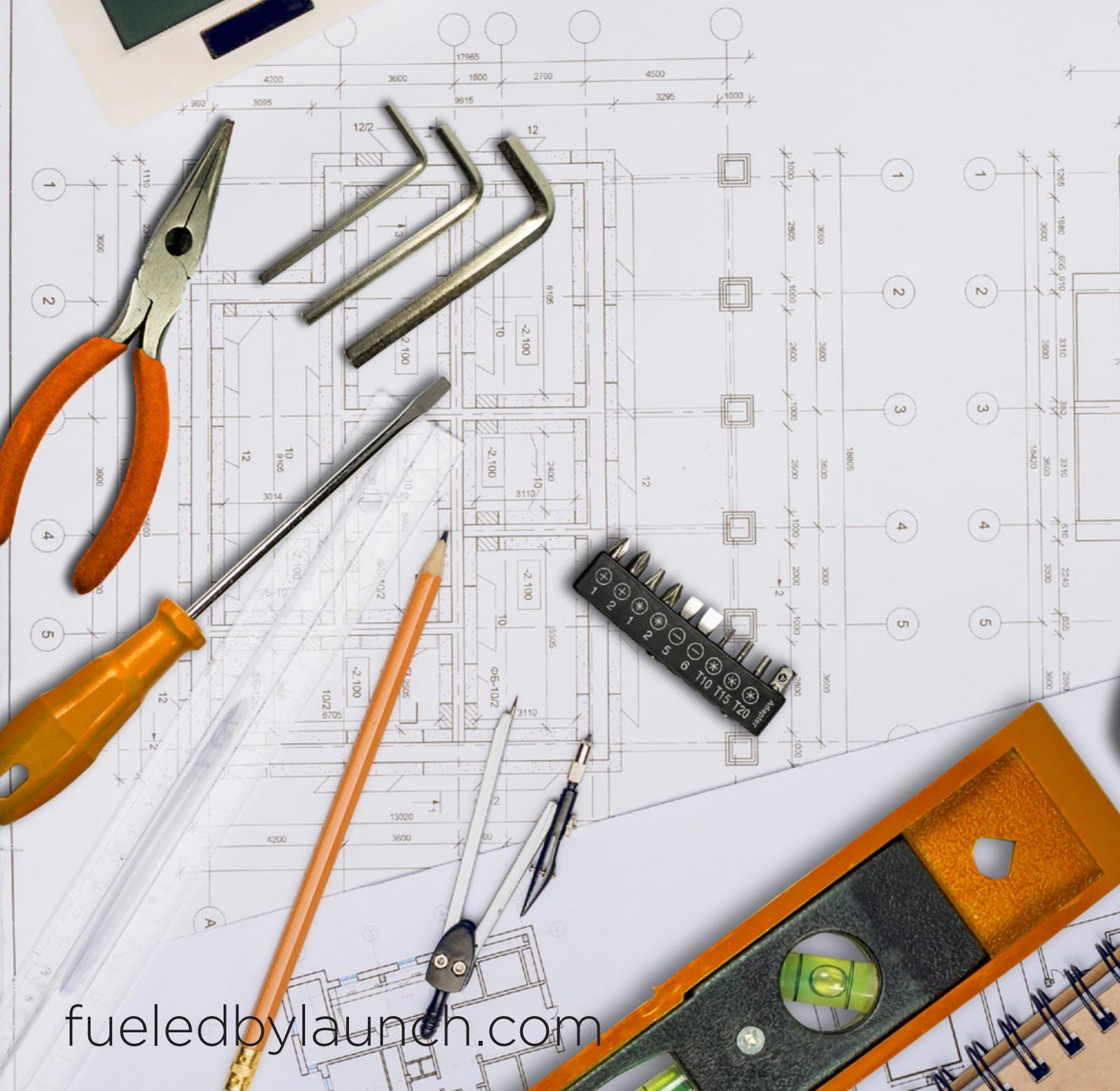
Competitions take place on the weekends, which means Alaina and her mom are often traveling Friday morning to Monday morning. “We travel all around,” Alaina says. “We go to a lot of rodeos in Kansas. But we’re also traveling to Oklahoma and Arkansas, and a couple rodeos in Texas.” When she does find herself at home, Alaina appreciates being able to work on her courses on her timeline. “My favorite thing about Launch is the flexibility,” she says. ■



# 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  
Awaken360 Academy  
Bakersfield R-IV  
Belton 124  
Blair Oaks  
Bloomfield R-XIV  
Blue Eye R-V  
Bolivar R-I  
Bowling Green R-I  
Branson R-IV  
Brentwood  
Bronaugh R-VII  
Brunswick R-II  
Butler R-V  
Cabool R-IV  
Calhoun R-VIII  
Camdenton R-III  
Cameron R-I  
Campbell R-II  
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  
Dexter R-XI  
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  
Glasgow  
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  
Hayti 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 Co. C-5  
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  
Macon Co. R-IV  
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  
Moniteau Co. R-I  
Montgomery Co. R-II  
Montrose R-XIV  
Morgan Co. R-I  
Mound City R-II  
Mountain Grove R-III  
Mountain View-  
Birch Tree R-III  
Naylor R-II  
Neosho School District  
New Haven School District  
New Madrid Co. R-I  
Newburg R-II  
Niangua R-V  
Nixa  
Nodaway-Holt R-VII  
Norborne R-VIII  
North Andrew Co. R-VI  
North Harrison R-III  
North Kansas City 74  
North Nodaway Co. R-VI  
North Pemiscot Co. R-I  
North Platte Co. R-I  
North Shelby  
Northeast Nodaway Co. R-V  
Northeast Randolph Co. R-IV  
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  
Osceola  
Ozark R-VI  
Palmyra R-I  
Park Hill  
Parkway C-2  
Pattonville R-III  
Perspectives Preparatory  
Academy  
Pike Co. R-III  
Plato R-V  
Platte Co. R-III  
Pleasant Hill R-III  
Poplar Bluff R-I  
Portageville  
Ralls Co. R-II  
Raymore-Peculiar  
Raytown C-2  
Reeds Spring R-IV  
Renick R-V  
Republic R-III  
Rich Hill R-IV  
Richards R-V  
Richland R-IV  
Ridgeway R-V  
Risco R-II  
Ritenour  
Riverview Gardens  
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. John Vianney High School  
St. Joseph  
Stanberry R-II  
Ste. Genevieve Co. R-II  
Steelville R-III  
Stewartsville C-2  
Stockton R-I  
Strafford R-VI  
Strasburg C-3  
Sturgeon R-V  
Success R-VI  
Sunrise R-IX  
Tarkio R-I  
Thayer R-II  
The Goodwill Excel Centers  
Tipton R-VI  
Troy R-III  
Union R-XI  
University City  
Valley Park  
Van Buren R-I  
Van-Far R-I  
Verona R-VII  
Victory Academy  
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  
West Platte Co. R-II  
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.



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