

# ACCESS

LAUNCH

Explore 20+ ways your district can utilize  
Launch virtual courses to meet student needs

# LAUNCH YOUR WAY

## **Rethinking Alternative Education**

- HiSET Prep + Revamped Credit Acquisition & Credit
- Recovery courses are helping students graduate

# 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: Serving K-12 Learners Statewide

Recently expanded programming allows Launch to serve all Missouri learners.



### Elementary

Launch's elementary programming is available for K-5 students and includes live, synchronous daily lessons with teachers. Students also have access to PE, Music, Art and Gifted services. Classes are instructed by a full-time Missouri educator, and class sizes are limited to meet DESE recommendations.



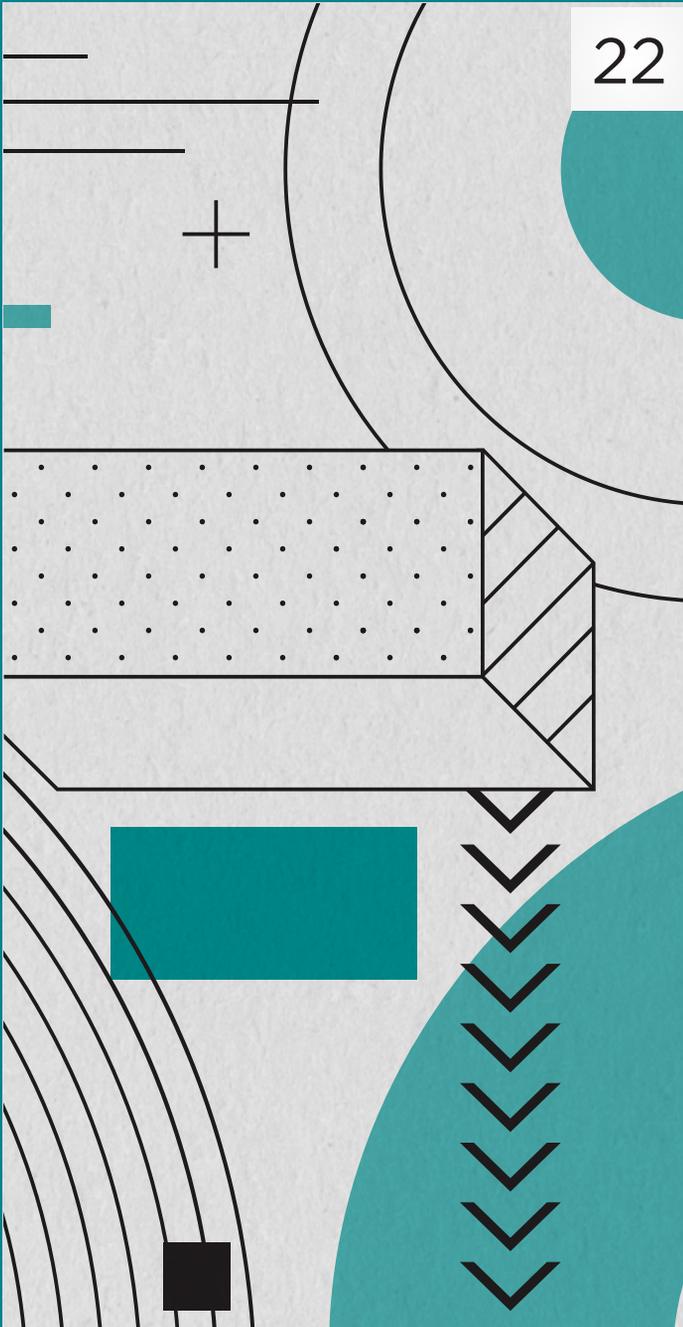
### Middle School

Designed for students in grades 6-8, Launch's middle school catalog includes courses in all core areas as well as multiple world language offerings and exploratories. All class sizes are limited to 33:1 with live teacher tutoring available, and teachers live and work in Missouri school districts.



### High School

Launch offers a complete, comprehensive course catalog for learners in grades 9-12. To better serve all students, AP, Honors, dual credit and credit recovery courses are available. Class sizes are limited to 33:1 with live teacher tutoring available, and teachers live and work in Missouri school districts.



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## LAUNCH YOUR WAY

With 450+ K-12 courses available alongside opportunities for credit recovery and remediation, Launch can benefit virtual learners in a multitude of ways. Explore a list of our 20 most-popular opportunities, and discover new ways to serve the virtual learners in your district.



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## WHY I LAUNCH

When he's not learning online, Parkview High School senior Captain Sibley is playing bass and touring the country with Tony Orlando. Learn how he uses Launch to make it all work.

## DISTRICT PROFILE: FERGUSON-FLOISSANT

The Ferguson-Florissant School District began offering Launch courses in Fall 2021. Learn the systems & processes the district has put in place to best support online learners.

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## DISTRICT PROFILE: ODESSA

A Virtual Services Coordinator and supportive counselors, administrators and leaders all work to offer virtual learning and support to students in the Odessa R-VII School District.

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# ACCESS

LAUNCH

THE VOICE OF VIRTUAL LEARNING IN MISSOURI



## Staff Poll

What's your favorite course/service/opportunity Launch provides?

### The Launch Team

**Dr. Ben Hackenwerth**, *Executive Director, Innovation & Information*

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

My favorite service that Launch provides is always the next thing we will build for our districts. We love listening to partners and creating Missouri's virtual solution!

**Dr. Brady Quirk**, *Assistant Director, Virtual Learning*

I love that we have expanded opportunities for students who learn in non-traditional ways, and I look forward to ongoing expansion and options for exceptional learners!

**Jessica Johnson**, *SIS Coordinator*

Our dual credit courses! Thanks to Launch, my friend was able to graduate high school with the majority of her freshman year of college completed.

**Raegan Cash**, *Attendance Secretary*

**Abby Brownfield**, *Department Secretary*

I love that Launch offers coding courses for students at different grade levels. It's an invaluable skill, and it's great that students can explore their interest in coding with Launch!

**David Schuman**, *Counselor*

It's great to have such a wide variety of course offerings for high school students. Our Launch courses allow us to support students from various paths ranging from getting a jump start on college with Dual Credit classes to getting back on track with Credit Recovery courses.

**Silvia Espinosa**, *Counselor*

I love the level of care we provide for students. It's awesome to receive Canvas messages from students requesting to meet with me in their homeroom breakout rooms because, "I have anger issues." Their courage to reach out for help is so inspiring!

**Andrea Hackenwerth**, *Department Secretary*

**Lauren Fahrner**, *Secretary*

**Janna Elfrink**, *Student Success Coordinator, Kansas City*

I like that Launch is truly able to accommodate ALL students, meeting their individual learning needs. We say YES when others can't!

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

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

### Creative Services

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

I'm obsessed with our elementary summer programming. I wanted to go on a National Park Adventure SO BAD last year!

**Jared Chester**, *Graphic Designer*

Do the snacks in the café count as services or opportunities?!

**Sean Wright**, *Videography & Photography*

### Development

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

I love that Launch is always looking for new opportunities to serve the needs of Missouri's students. We're already working on additional CTE offerings and starting an English Learning Development program for next school year!

**Linda Ayres**, *Quality Assurance Specialist*

I love the flexibility Launch gives to students—even seated students. My son is an athlete, and because he's able to take a couple of Launch classes, he has more flexibility with his schoolwork and training.

**Susan Brown**, *Quality Assurance Specialist*

I love that our counseling department has expanded to serve more students. Access to counselors has such a positive impact on the experiences of our learners. Our counseling team is amazing.

**Nicki Dickson**, *Digital Developer*

I love that Launch is present. There are many students that struggle outside of school, and Launch provides a flexible way for these students to have a bit less stress in their lives.

**Justin Thomas**, *Digital Developer*

**Brad Maples**, *Digital Developer*

**Amy Jackson**, *Digital Developer*

My favorite opportunity that Launch provides is being able to take your classes with flexibility. You can take them in which ever term you need or take a few weeks off if needed. You can also take our classes from anywhere (well as long as your home base is in Missouri).



**Melissa James**, *Digital Developer*

**Amy Shaw**, *Digital Developer*

I love that Launch offers Gifted and Special Education classes to meet the needs of our students. Launch is always looking for ways to expand services reaching more students every semester!

**Payton Halinger**, *Digital Developer*

I love our Gifted elementary courses! They're so full of fun, engaging programming with some super interesting topics. I learned so much about microcosms developing this quarter's course.

**Ryan Lindsey**, *Digital Developer*

### IT and Support

**Mark Myers**, *IT Manager*

I love that we provide technical support 7 days a week! Being able to provide support on the weekends is just another example of Launch always striving to meet the needs of our students.

**Darren Rush**, *Launch Support Specialist*

**Jay Grawe**, *Application Specialist*

**Mark Grant**, *Software Developer*

**Ivy Hamilton**, *Software Developer*

**Curtis Brown**, *Inventory Clerical*

**Adam Shawley**, *Launch Support Specialist*

**Wendy Arendell**, *Launch Support Specialist*

**Eric Tran**, *Launch Support Specialist*

**Ben Cook**, *Launch Support Specialist*

My favorite course that is offered by Launch is our coding course. Providing students a chance to learn coding can help them develop skills to take them down a pathway to be a developer of new and exciting opportunities.

**Michael Hamman**

*Launch Support Specialist*

**Robert Tinney**

*Launch Support Specialist*

### Student Services

**Dr. Kim Spence**, *Assistant Principal*

I am most proud of the collaboration we have with our partner districts to offer 23 dual credit courses to students. I'm also grateful for our partner districts as we, collectively, increase access to advanced college credit for Missouri students.

**Helen Williams**, *Assistant Principal*

I like that we offer Academy courses in the summer! It allows our students to stay connected to Launch and to smaller amounts of content.

**John Mott**, *Assistant Principal*

**Nicole Welch**, *Assistant Principal*

I love that we offer courses for ALL students. :)

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### Contact Us

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✉ email

support@fueledbylaunch.com

🌐 website

🐦 twitter



*"This issue of Access Launch allows us to celebrate the ways you've helped us expand opportunities to students all over the state of Missouri."  
—Dr. Nichole Lemmon*

## Director's Note

Launch Director Dr. Lemmon shares what makes Launch so personalized.

I'm frequently asked if we had a crystal ball or psychic abilities when we started SPS Online a decade ago and expanded to the state as Launch in 2017. The quick answer: No. The longer answer: No; Launch is the result of strategic decisions, creative thinking and intentional statewide collaboration. While it may seem magical—or even lucky—Launch is all about you, our partners.

This issue of *Access Launch* allows us to celebrate the ways you've helped us expand opportunities to students all over the state of Missouri. We love how you can choose the elements of our program that work best for your district. We love how you ask "What if?" and "Can we?" We love that you call us

with ideas that stretch our thinking and allow us to find new ways to say "yes!"

We are beyond excited to announce the creation of Launch Missouri's Workforce. This catalog expansion will provide partners and students with college and career technical education courses in 11 career pathways complete with industry

recognized credentials and certifications students can use tomorrow. Check out p. 31 for our official list of what's to come, and stay tuned for exciting announcements.

I frequently say to the Launch team that one of the best parts about leading this work is that we created Launch, so we can change it. What ideas do you have that we can build for your students? What do you need? How can we help?

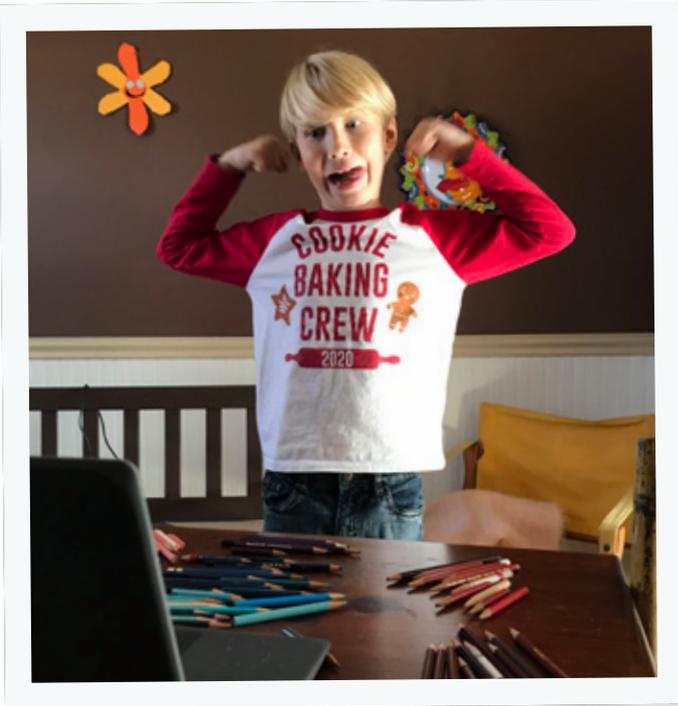
See you online,

Dr. Nichole Lemmon  
Director, Virtual Learning



# Launch Letters

Hey Missouri, thanks for the compliments! Read on to see a few notes we've received from Launch students and parents.



## 📌 Second Grade Success Story

“Camden will be staying virtual for the rest of the school year. He’s thriving in your class, and we’re thrilled to see his growth through your hard work, planning, enthusiasm, and meticulous attention to detail. Thank you for creating such a wonderful 2nd grade experience!”

### Catherine

Launch Parent  
Springfield Public Schools

*A parent sent this letter to 2nd Grade Launch teacher Savannah Acevedo. We appreciate the hard work that Savannah and our dozens of other elementary teachers put in daily to ensure that our students stay engaged and learning.—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.

## Live Courses for the Win!

“Launch Live has been a real blessing this year. [My daughter’s] mental health has greatly improved with the interaction...The Launch office and tutoring has also been amazing. I just can't thank you all enough. I don't know what we would have done without this option.”

### Jennifer

Launch Parent  
Springfield Public Schools

*A Launch parent sent this note to Launch Counselor David Schuman after David shared information regarding the student’s live courses for the Spring 2022 semester. Launch Live courses offer students real-time lessons three times per week and are offered in core content areas for grades 6-12.—Editor*

## Launch Chat in Action

“I was in need of tech support earlier today, and I appreciated Rob T.’s helpfulness and kind interaction during the live chat! I’m glad such good people are at work for the Launch Support Team, and I hope it continues! You have my thanks! Have a good day!”

### Aspen

Launch Student  
Pleasant Hill R-III

*Launch began offering chat support in March 2021. Since that time, our team has had a total of 5,573 conversations and helped nearly 3,000 individual users—that’s an average of 17 users helped each day! The chat feature is available to students in their Canvas course and—good news to Aspen—it’s not going away any time soon!—Editor*



— F u e l e d B y —

# LAUNCH

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## GIFTED EDUCATION

Spring 2022

### Purpose:

Did you know that 60% of Missouri school districts do not offer certified gifted programming? Launch offers gifted education services to virtual students who qualify for gifted education services.

### Audience:

Launch gifted education classes are available for grades 1-8.

### Enrollment Requirements:

Students must have the state minimum IQ score of 125 to enroll in Launch's gifted education courses. If the sending district requires a higher IQ score to receive services seated, that criteria may be followed.

### Additional Details:

All courses are taught by gifted, certified educators and include both synchronous and asynchronous interactions. Live lessons will be held weekly. Courses include 160 minutes per week of instruction, including affective and thinking skills.

### Learn More & Enroll:

To learn more about Launch's gifted education services, contact Savannah Waszczuk by email at [savannah@fueledbylaunch.com](mailto:savannah@fueledbylaunch.com) or call 417-523-0417. Launch Liaisons may enroll students in gifted courses via Launchpad.

### Gifted Courses Available

#### Grades 1-3:

Quarter 1: Paleontology  
 Quarter 2: Mysteries  
 Quarter 3: Oceanography  
 Quarter 4: Fairy Tales

#### Grades 4-5:

Quarter 1: Citizen Scientist  
 Quarter 2: Around the World  
 Quarter 3: Microcosmos  
 Quarter 4: Myths & Legends

#### Grades 6-8:

Semester 1: TedEd Student Talks (In collaboration with the Ted Talk International organization)  
 Semester 2: Mission to Mars



## Launch Gifted Education Course Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Focus Friday
Grades 1-3	2:30-3:30		2:30-3:30		2:30-3:30
Grades 4-5	3:15-4:15		3:15-4:15		3:15-4:15
Grades 6-8	3:15-4:15		3:15-4:15		3:15-4:15

# By the Numbers

From a fall reflection to a summer preview, we've got plenty of fascinating figures to share!

**364** MEMBER DISTRICTS

**470** ACTIVE K-12 COURSES IN FALL 2021

**50,971** FALL 2021 ENROLLMENTS

**517** MO TEACHERS FOR FALL 2021

**7,038**

SUPPORT EMAILS ANSWERED IN FALL 2021 SEMESTER

**7,440**

SUPPORT CALLS ANSWERED IN FALL 2021 SEMESTER

**3,425**

SUPPORT CHATS ANSWERED FOR FALL 2021

**\$2,569,275**

RETIREMENT-ELIGIBLE STIPENDS PAID TO MISSOURI TEACHERS IN 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

**33** LAUNCH COURSES REVISED IN FALL 2021

**11** REVISED COURSES COMING IN SPRING 2022

**29** NEW COURSES COMING IN SPRING 2022

**12** NEW COURSES RELEASED IN FALL 2021

**689,997**

MISSOURI STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO LAUNCH COURSES

# What's Online

At Launch, the new year comes with new ways to monitor students! Read on to learn the ins and outs of Command Center, Launch's new, custom-designed student monitoring system.

BY ABBY BROWNFIELD

## Command Center

Attention, Launch partner districts: We have big news for you! As of January 1, 2022, Command Center has officially replaced Dropout Detective as Launch's student monitoring system. This means that when Launch liaisons in your district check in on student courses and grades this semester, they'll be doing it on an all-new platform and in an all-new way!



### Smith, Jane

ID: CCTestStudent1

Dashboard Contact Log History

Course	Score/Progress	Grade/Status	0-Point Asgmts	Last Course Access
Health (CRC) (70160-DEMO) Type: CRC	16.67	IN PROGRESS	N/A	Oct 20, 2021 10:16 AM
AP Computer Science (Sem 1) (0691-DEMO) Type: Traditional	84.09	B	2 View	Oct 20, 2021 10:19 AM
Web Design (CA) (51060-DEMO) Type: CA	8.04	IN PROGRESS	0 View	Oct 20, 2021 10:25 AM

When we refer to “Launch liaisons,” we’re referring to the individuals in your district who are responsible for enrolling students and monitoring their progress. Command Center was designed with these individuals in mind, and it provides them with a quick snapshot of the student’s current courses and grades. In addition, it provides these liaisons access to view any notes entered by the student’s teachers.

## How to Access:

Launch liaisons access Command Center through Canvas by visiting [launch.instructure.com](https://launch.instructure.com) and logging in with their district’s login credentials. (Partners: you will use the same Canvas login information that you previously used to log in and access Dropout Detective.) Once you log in using your district’s credentials, you will click on “Admin,” then an account or subaccount. Next you will select “Command Center.” If you are new to Launch or are not aware of your district’s login credentials, please contact the Launch support team at 417-523-0417 or [support@fueledbylaunch.com](mailto:support@fueledbylaunch.com).



Access Granted

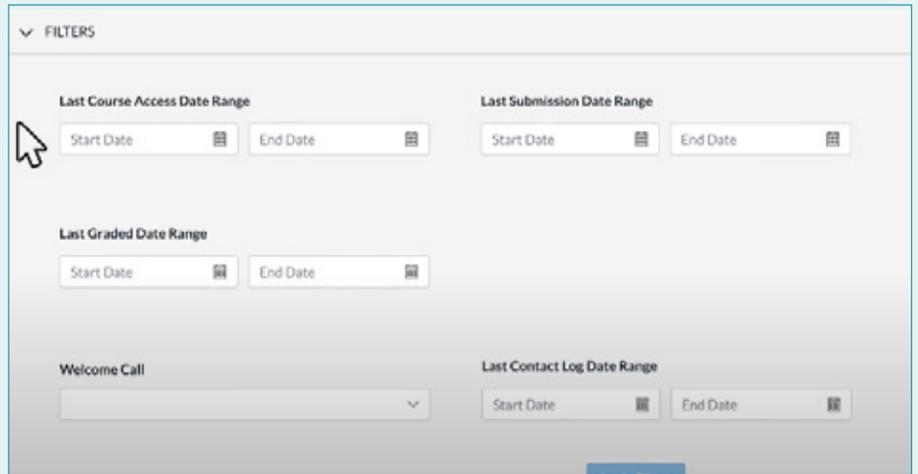
## The Dazzling Dashboard

### Twice-per-day Data Updates

Command Center data is updated on the dashboard twice a day to provide a reflection of the students' current grades. In addition, the "Last Dashboard Update" time displays, so there is no guesswork on how updated the information is!

### Contacts & Log History Tabs

As a liaison, you have access to the student's Contacts Information tab and a Log History tabs. The Contacts information tab includes student's guardian contact information for ease of access, and the log history allows you to see documentation surrounding when teachers reach out to families.



### Let's Go Searching!

Are you ready for this one? **Command Center has a search function!** That's right—you can now filter by grade level, building, last course access date range, last contact log date range and even last submission date.

### Taking Notes

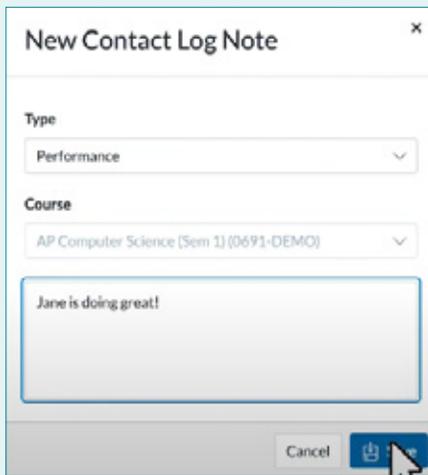
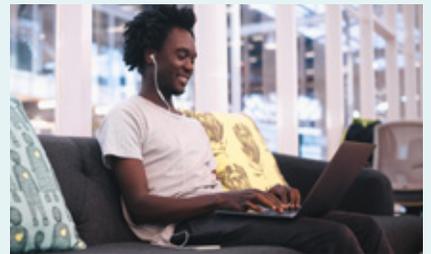
A Notes tab allows liaisons to view comments added by the students' teachers or Launch staff, and now, **notes can be pinned to highlight crucial information!**

### Log History

Are you wondering if Launch teachers have reached out to or communicated with families? **Command Center's Log History provides a place to document and share outreach information.**

### Exports, Get Your Exports!

Users can view the exports tab to see a list of available exports and reports. These reports include the "Liaison Student Enrollment Export" that has the student's information, the course information, current progress in the course, last access information, log notes and more! This export will assist your district in identifying at-risk students. ■



# Get social with Launch!

The best way to keep up with @fueledbylaunch is to connect with us on Twitter, like our page on Facebook and follow us on Instagram! Get connected to see breaking Launch announcements and offerings, learn where we're visiting, request a meeting or learn our latest district partnerships.

#fueledbylaunch | #WhyILaunch





## MIDDLE SCHOOL CATALOG

### ELA

ELA 6<sup>th</sup> Grade\* • LIVE  
 ELA 7<sup>th</sup> Grade\* • LIVE  
 ELA 8<sup>th</sup> Grade\* • LIVE  
 Reading Middle School

### Health & PE

Health 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
 Health 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
 Health 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
 Physical Education 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
 Physical Education 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
 Physical Education 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Mathematics

Accelerated 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math • LIVE  
 Mathematics 6<sup>th</sup> Grade\* • LIVE  
 Mathematics 7<sup>th</sup> Grade\* • LIVE  
 Mathematics 8<sup>th</sup> Grade\* • LIVE  
 Algebra I • LIVE

*\*Remediation available for core courses*

### Science

Science 6<sup>th</sup> Grade\* • LIVE  
 Science 7<sup>th</sup> Grade\* • LIVE  
 Science 8<sup>th</sup> Grade\* • LIVE

### Social Studies

Social Studies 6<sup>th</sup> Grade\* • LIVE  
 Social Studies 7<sup>th</sup> Grade\* • LIVE  
 Social Studies 8<sup>th</sup> Grade\* • LIVE

### World Language

French I  
 German I  
 Spanish I-II

### Exploratories

Discover Computer Coding I  
 Discover Computer Coding II  
 Music Journeys I  
 Music Journeys II  
 Visual Arts I  
 Visual Arts II

### Gifted Education

**Semester 1:** TedEd Student Talks  
 (In collaboration with the Ted Talk  
 International organization)  
**Semester 2:** Mission to Mars

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CATALOG

### Kindergarten - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade\*

#### Homeroom

English Language Arts  
 Mathematics  
 Science  
 Social Studies  
 Health

#### Specials

Physical Education  
 Music  
 Art

*\*Elementary students are required to be enrolled full time.*

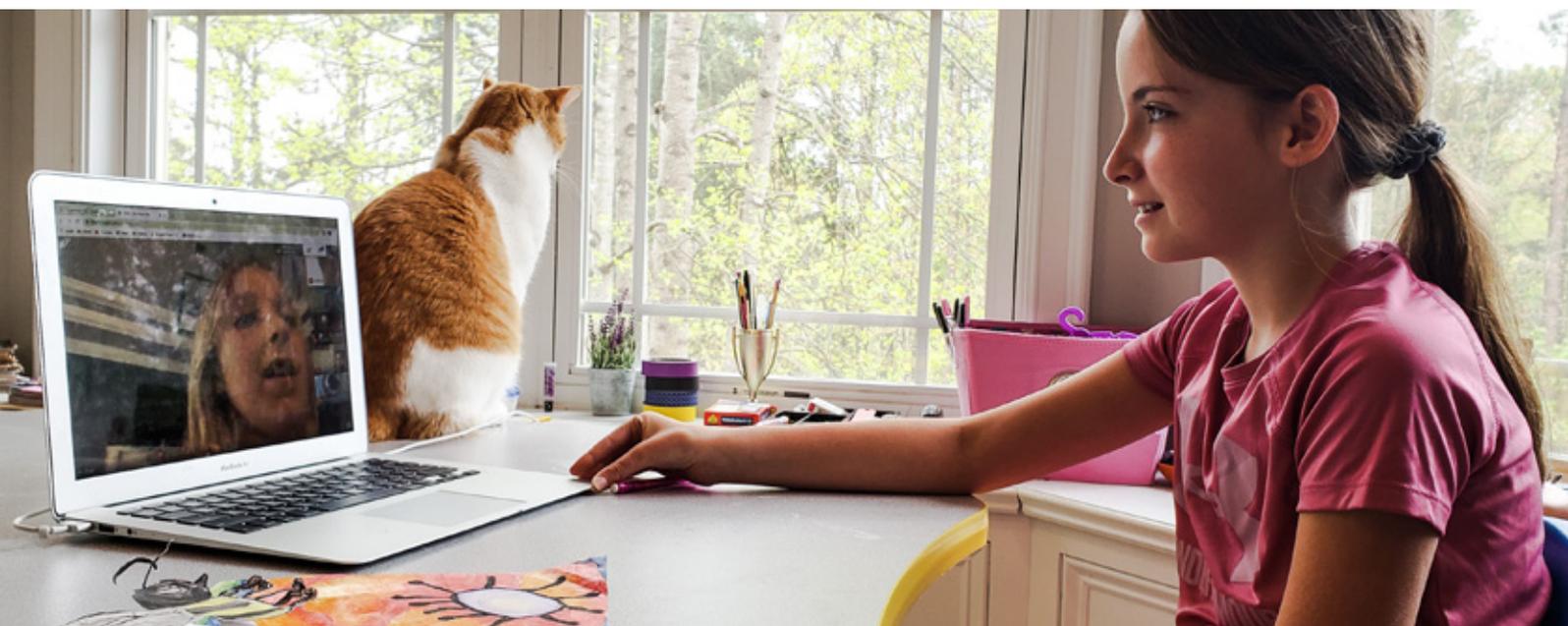
### Gifted Education

#### Grades 1-3:

Quarter 1: Paleontology  
 Quarter 2: Mysteries  
 Quarter 3: Oceanography  
 Quarter 4: Fairy Tales

#### Grades 4-5:

Quarter 1: Citizen Scientist  
 Quarter 2: Around the World  
 Quarter 3: Microcosmos  
 Quarter 4: Myths & Legends



# From School to Stage

Meet Lucy Aguirre, a 7th grade Springfield Public Schools' student who balances a full-time virtual Launch schedule with acting, voice and dance classes at Springfield Little Theatre.

**Access Launch:** What is Springfield Little Theatre (SLT) Academy?

**Lucy Aguirre:** SLT Academy is a program that allows students to take their school classes virtually with Launch so that they can also take acting, dance, voice and film classes at the theater. I take all of my school courses virtually, and then I also take acting, dance and voice classes as a part of the Pre-Professional Track with SLT. There are about 15 of us this semester, and we have students from sixth grade all the way through senior year.

**Access:** How did you originally become involved with the SLT Academy program?

**L.A.:** I was going to go to Reed Academy (Springfield) for 6th grade, but whenever COVID shut everything down, we didn't really know what school would look like. My parents and I decided that I should try online school, then go to SLT for acting and dance classes and social interaction. It was a bit more safe, and I could still learn. It was just a really great fit.

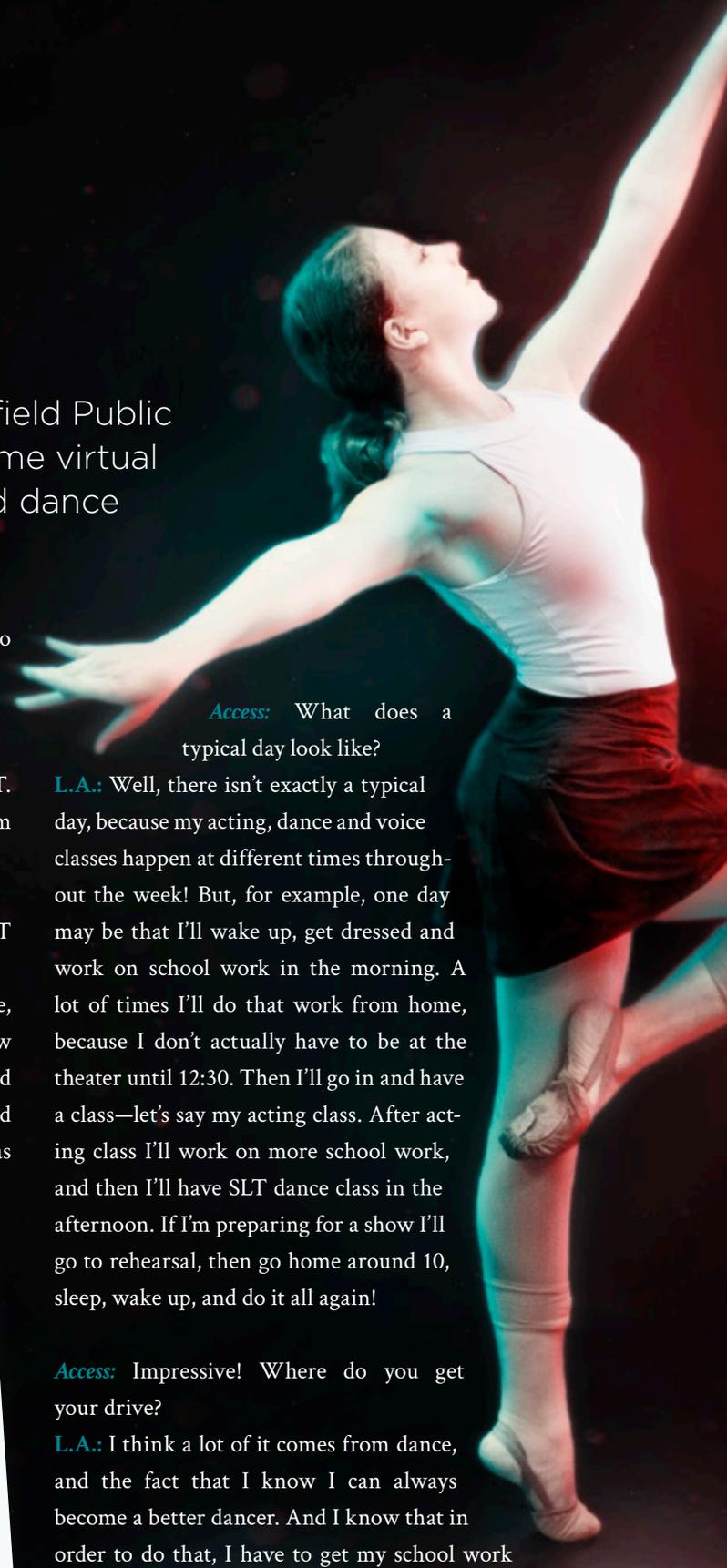


**Access:** What does a typical day look like?

**L.A.:** Well, there isn't exactly a typical day, because my acting, dance and voice classes happen at different times throughout the week! But, for example, one day may be that I'll wake up, get dressed and work on school work in the morning. A lot of times I'll do that work from home, because I don't actually have to be at the theater until 12:30. Then I'll go in and have a class—let's say my acting class. After acting class I'll work on more school work, and then I'll have SLT dance class in the afternoon. If I'm preparing for a show I'll go to rehearsal, then go home around 10, sleep, wake up, and do it all again!

**Access:** Impressive! Where do you get your drive?

**L.A.:** I think a lot of it comes from dance, and the fact that I know I can always become a better dancer. And I know that in order to do that, I have to get my school work done! I also have really great role models through my parents—they help me stay on track.



**Access:** How long have you been performing?

**L.A.:** I started dancing when I was 3, and I started competitive dancing when I was 5. I did that until I was in third grade, and then I started doing theater in fourth grade.

**Access:** Have you been in any shows?

**L.A.:** Yeah, several. I was in "Little House on the Prairie," and I was in "Matilda." "Matilda" was a really rewarding show, actually, because it was postponed because of the pandemic and we performed it a year later. And now I just finished with "Shrek Jr."

**Access:** Nice! Now, let's move on to favorites. What's your favorite thing about the SLT program?

**L.A.:** My favorite thing is definitely the flexibility. I also really enjoy getting to take extra classes on top of my usual school work, and I've made a lot of good friends! Really, the only thing that I don't love is math—math is my biggest challenge right now. But it's really nice otherwise!

**Access:** Ha! We get that. How about your favorite way to spend a Saturday?

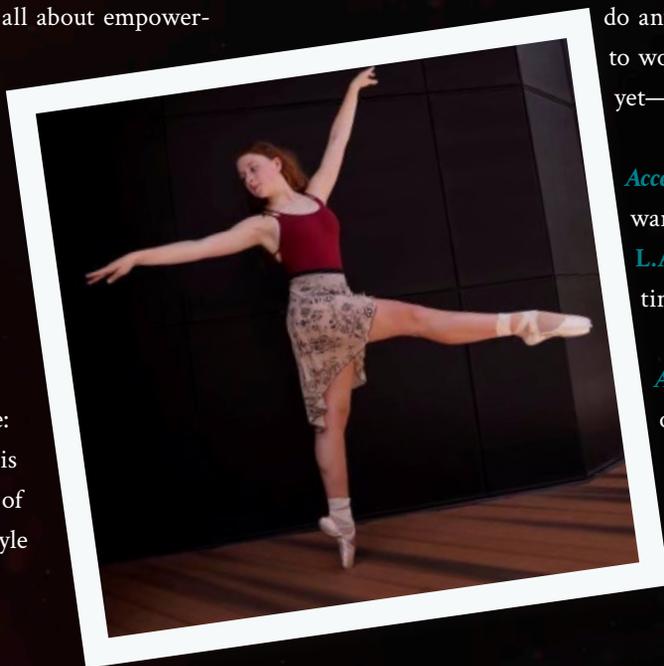
**L.A.:** I really like going to the lake! I love surfing, tubing, hanging out with friends, paddle boarding—doing anything at the lake is my favorite.

**Access:** What about your favorite performance of all time?

**L.A.:** I got to perform a solo choreographed dance to a song called "Rise Up" at one of my mom's events. It was a really big event that was all about empower-

ing women, and I got to perform by myself in front of everyone there. It was a lot of fun—I felt pretty cool.

[Editor's Note: Lucy's mom is the publisher of a local lifestyle magazine.]



**Access:** Do you have a favorite thing you've gotten to do since becoming a performer?

**L.A.:** That's hard, because I've gotten to do a lot of cool things! I just went to New York City in October for a program called BAA, or Broadway Artists Alliance. I went as a dance major—my whole family went, actually. I got to dance for casting agents and for people from Broadway... the whole experience was really just a lot of fun. I made a lot of friends... it was just magical!

**Access:** Nice! Do you have any long-term goals with dance?

**L.A.:** Yeah, I would love to be a Rockette—or really, I'd love to do any kind of professional dancing. But then, I'd also love to work in business one day. So really, I guess I don't know yet—I think I'm still kind of torn!

**Access:** No worries, you have time! Do you know where you want to go to college?

**L.A.:** My mom went to Mizzou, and we've visited a couple times. I loved it, and I could see myself going there!

**Access:** Great! And last question—what would you tell other students who were considering Launch?

**L.A.:** I'd tell them that you have to manage your time well, because it can be easy to put your work off. But, it's also really flexible—I've really loved it! ■

# Delivering SPED Services Online

Launch’s special education teachers deliver daily live lessons and specially designed instruction to meet the needs of high school students statewide.



**LINDSEY SWARTZ**  
Special Education Teacher, English



**KRISTEN UZZELL**  
Special Education Teacher, Math

Share a time you’ve made a difference in a student’s life.

Providing specialized instruction via live virtual classes has been so rewarding! I have had multiple students who were virtual for the better part of the last two years, but they may have been missing some key parts of seated instruction; things such as small group or one-on-one support. By offering live classes, I have been able to bridge that gap between the virtual and seated experience and offer these additional services.

In my 21 years of teaching, I have not only experienced joy watching so many students walk across the stage in May, but I have also enjoyed keeping in touch with many of them. I see fabulous adventures they take and see their developing families. I have gotten to watch these students laugh and cry and succeed and struggle. When students and families allow me to be a part of these experiences, I feel like I matter to them.

What’s the most rewarding thing about your job?

The most rewarding thing to me is when I can help a student find success. It might be helping a student navigate through their Canvas courses, or meeting a student one-on-one for tutoring, or even helping them resolve a tech issue. Regardless, it brings me joy when I have students that start making progress in their courses after I have helped them.

I would say the most rewarding thing about my job is being able to offer much-needed services to students in an alternative format so that they are included and given the option to learn online.

How do you feel you’re making a difference?

Online coursework requires a variety of executive functioning skills that students in special education may struggle with, even in a seated classroom. With live teaching, I can step in and provide an additional level of real-time support and instruction. Oftentimes that live support is needed for these students to be successful online.

In this virtual setting, I would say I’m making a difference by continuing to make connections with students. In the last year, I think students have had fewer and fewer connections due to the pandemic. I think some students are still feeling isolated, but making these connections during my Live classes will hopefully make students feel more involved.

# Behind the Scenes

What's it like to work for Launch? We joined Software Developer Ivy Hamilton for a day to learn more about her role.

BY ABBY BROWNFIELD

**7:29 a.m.:** Ivy arrives at the office, carpooling with her roommate and Launch coworker Curtis Brown who recently began working for Launch's inventory team. She turns on her computer, then heads to the cafe for breakfast. "I like to use the Keurig instead of the coffee pots," Ivy says as she loads a K-cup into the machine. "This way, I can choose my own flavors."

**9:38 a.m.:** Ivy is currently working on enhancing Parent Portal, a new website designed for parents to view their student's grades and progress. "Right now I'm adding a feature to allow me to edit the webinar schedule," Ivy says, referencing webinars that our counselors offer Launch families.

**11:42 a.m.:** After meeting with the Launch Assistant Principals, Ivy huddles up with fellow Launch programmer Mark Grant. Ivy is working to create staff profiles in Mission Control, a new website that shows an overview of Launch courses, instructors and seat counts. "Thank you for taking notes," Ivy says to Mark. "It's hard to remember everything while presenting!" They two discuss ways they can implement the ideas presented in the meeting. Launch is always looking to improve processes, and the IT team makes a lot of that happen!



**12:31 p.m.:** Lunch time! Ivy prepares to eat her meal—delivered fresh from UberEats—in front of large windows in the Launch Virtual Learning Center's cafe. "I like to eat lunch at this time," Ivy says. "The sun comes through the windows and helps me warm up!"

**1:17 p.m.:** On the way back from the cafe, Ivy stops and visits with a few friends on the support team. "I worked as a help desk specialist before I transitioned to the programming team," she says. When call volumes are high, you might catch Ivy jumping in to help her old team. "Fueled by Launch, this is Ivy. How can I help you today?" It's like she never left!

**3:46 p.m.:** Ivy pulls up her email to respond to a question from Launch teacher Heather Freeman. Heather asked how parents can edit their preferred language in Kinvo, a new communications tool implemented this year. Ivy helps her with this task, then packs up her computer for today. "Bye guys!," she says, joining Curtis for her ride home. "See you tomorrow!" ■

# Credit Acquisition Redesign

Launch is currently in the process of rebuilding our Credit Acquisition courses to better serve Missouri students.



**H**ow is Launch continuously able to meet the ever-changing needs of Missouri's virtual learners? A culture of continuous improvement. This culture has brought our partners many much-needed services within the last year alone (virtual SPED services, anyone?), and we have plenty more coming your way in 2022. First up? Redesigned Credit Acquisition (CA) courses.

## What are Credit Acquisition courses?

Launch's CA courses are awarded pass/fail grades and are designed for students who were not previously enrolled during a semester. Students are able to start earning the course credit at any point in the year, and they must earn at least a 60% in the course to receive a "Pass."

## Responses Required

Launch will now deem certain CA course assignments "Required." "Requiring certain assignments will allow us to better align to learning standards and set students up for success," says Digital Developer Nicki Dickson.

## Optional Opportunities

Although not all assignments are required to be completed, they are still available to students. "These additional assignments are perfect for those students who want to go above and beyond, or those who may want extra practice in a subject area," says developer Amy Jackson. "They'll also come into play if a district wants to require a student to earn more than a 60% to receive a pass."

## Grades for Days

Students will notice that they now have three grades listed in their CA courses: Required grade; optional grade and total grade. To pass the course, the student must complete the required assignments at least 80 percent mastery. The average of their total grade must amount to at least 60 percent.

## Check of Approval

On the modules page, students will receive a green checkmark by required

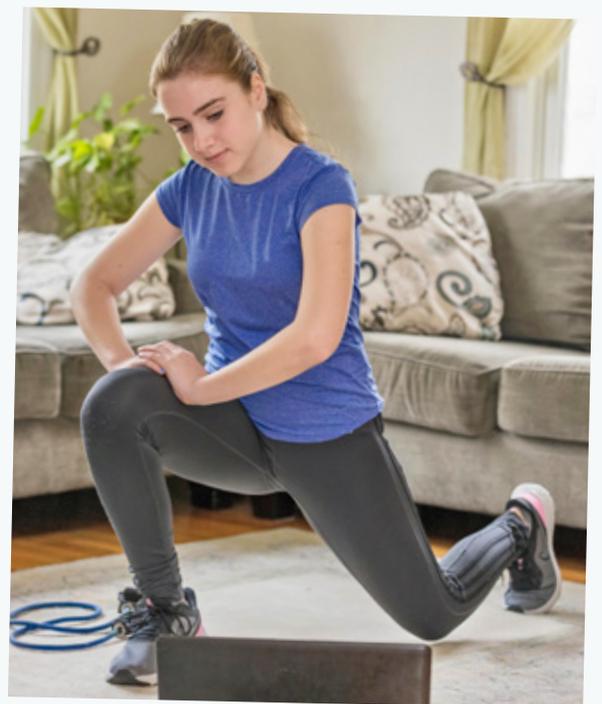
assignments after they complete it to proficiency. The modules page will also tell students the grade they must earn to reach proficiency.

## Personalized Pacing Plan & No More Notifications

Every student will receive a pacing guide that is determined based on their enrollment date and include their own personal pacing plan. In addition, students will no longer receive notifications when assignments are missing (including those that do not have to be completed).

## Redesign Release Dates:

Launch is introducing Phase I of the CA Redesign—which includes a redesign of our Health and Physical Fitness courses—with the Spring 2022 semester. The current production schedule has all CA classes redesigned and open for enrollment in Fall 2022. ■



# OH, WHAT FUN!

Launch's themed summer programming provides engaging enrichment opportunities for students in grades 1-5.

## Tickets! Get your

**tickets here!** Come one, come all, and claim your tickets for the adventure of a lifetime in Launch's Meet Me at the Fair course! Education and amusement go hand in hand as students in grades 1-5 visit the historic World's Fair events in St. Louis, Chicago and New York and engage in targeted, grade-level science, social studies, math and reading activities. And that's not it, folks! There are also daily social emotional learning lessons, plus fine arts and physical education assignments that provide off-screen engagement! Intrigued? Then step right up, folks, and try your luck—everyone's a winner in this summer's hottest new course!



## On your marks, get set, go! It's

off to the races in this month-long course, which takes students in grades 1-5 on a tour of the world's most-popular sporting competition! Learners investigate various aspects of athleticism as they examine Olympic history, learn about a wide world of cultures and study both individual and team Olympic sports. Entertaining, engaging content allows students to work their way through targeted, grade-level science, social studies, math and reading instruction, and fine arts and physical education activities provide off-screen engagement. Interested in getting in on the fun? Invite your students to enroll for a full month of touring, exploring and learning from home!



**INTERESTED?**  
Launch summer  
enrollment opens  
February 1!

### OFF-SCREEN ENGAGEMENT

Daily PE and Art activities provide hands-on learning

### LIVE LESSONS

Synchronous teaching keeps students engaged

### READ ALL ABOUT IT

Learn more with themed books in the digital library

### UNLIMITED SOFTWARE ACCESS

Students have access to adaptive reading and math software

# Online in Odessa

Thanks to a Virtual Services Coordinator and supportive counselors, administrators and leadership, students in the Odessa R-VII School District are given opportunities to learn online with Launch.



**D**r. Jon Oetinger led the Carrollton R-VII School District to partner with Launch in 2018. “I knew virtual education was coming,” says Dr. Oetinger, who was the superintendent in the district at the time. “It was just a matter of who got on board. I saw an opportunity for our students in Carrollton—Launch offered classes that we couldn’t necessarily offer.”

Fast forward a year, and Dr. Oetinger found himself in a new role—he had recently become the superintendent of the Odessa R-VII School District. “Odessa was a little behind in virtual learning at the time,” Dr. Oetinger says. Again, he led the district to partner with Launch. “Knowing the success we had in Carrollton, I knew there would be a quick implementation of getting our staff

onboarded and being able to offer our students additional opportunities,” Dr. Oetinger says. “I felt comfortable with Launch, because I knew it was developed and homegrown here in the state. I knew it would address the standards our students needed.”

### **Establishing Systems and Processes**

Now in year three of utilizing Launch courses, Odessa has an established process of providing virtual students support. “We hired a part-time Virtual Services Coordinator who monitors all of our virtual students,” says Dave MacLean, Odessa’s Director of Teaching and Learning. “She works in collaboration with all building administrators and counselors to provide weekly updates on Launch students.”

Odessa sophomore Jadyne Brewé (below left; opposite) takes Japanese online with Launch. She is grateful for the virtual option, as the district does not offer a seated Japanese course.

The district decided to hire Carrie Cunningham to take on this role for the 2021-2022 school year for multiple reasons. “We have several types of students enrolled in Launch,” MacLean says. “Some students are utilizing the expanded course opportunities and taking classes that we don’t offer here in Odessa, But we also have students who are at risk, or who have social concerns. We needed someone to organize those variables so we don’t have students falling through the cracks.”

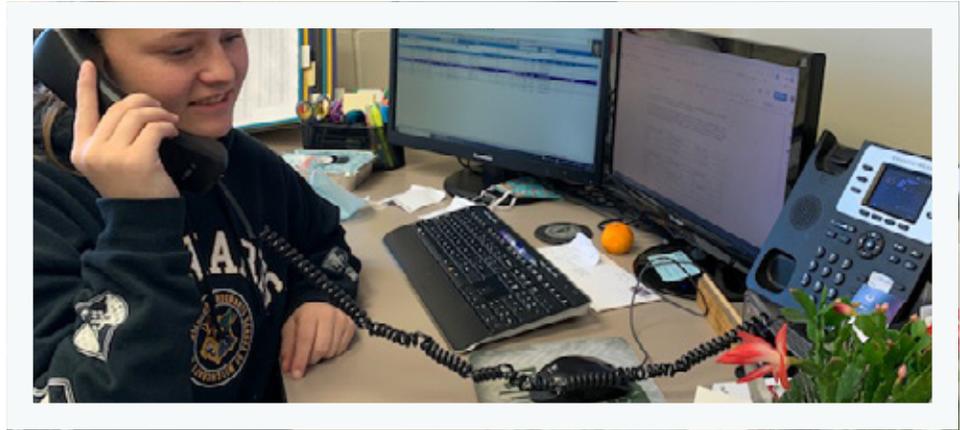
Carrie not only calls home when students aren’t logging on, she also logs notes of her outreach. “It creates accountability on our part and shows parents that we’ve done the best we can to help,” MacLean says. “We don’t take the mindset that these students are ‘Launch students.’ They are still our students, and we want to give them all the opportunities and support that we can to help them be successful.”

*“We don’t take the mindset that these students are ‘Launch students.’ They are still our students, and we want to give them all the opportunities and support that we can to help them be successful.”*  
—Dave MacLean, Director of Teaching and Learning

**Various Ways to Launch**

When the second-to-last bell of the day rings at Odessa High School and most students head to a classroom, sophomore Jadyn Brewe makes her way to the library. “I take Japanese with Launch,” Jadyn says. “I go to the library to log on and work each day.” Jadyn is one of Odessa’s students who uses Launch for the expanded course opportunities. “I took German last year, but it was with a different online program,” Jadyn says. “I really like Launch, because it’s so easy to navigate and maneuver and find my assignments.”

When it comes to taking a world language course with Launch, Jadyn is in good company. “The majority of our



single-section students are taking French, German or Japanese,” says High School Counselor Amanda Twombly. And many other students choose to earn required credits with Launch so that they can still participate in one of the district’s sending school programs. “Our juniors and seniors have the opportunity to attend Summit Technology Academy or Lex La-Ray Technical Center,” Twombly says. “But when they elect to do this, they lose an hour of their day due to travel time. They have to take six classes rather than the usual seven.” This used to mean that students attending sending school programs had to earn credits in the summer to graduate on time, but now they can take a class with Launch to stay on track.

Twombly is quick to continue with the benefits of Launch. “I’ve worked with a lot of online vendors,” she says. “The experience with Launch feels like an actual online classroom. Students are closer with their teachers, and the experience is more rigorous. With the AP classes and all of the dual credit courses, especially—Launch opens up a lot of opportunities for our kids.” ■



Photos courtesy Odessa School District

**Odessa at a Glance**  
**K-12 Enrollment:** 2,036  
**High School Population:** 609  
**MASA District:** West Central  
**School Colors:** Black & Red  
**Mascot:** Bulldogs  
**Fun Fact:** Odessa’s I-70 Motorsports Park, which was formerly known as I-70 Speedway, first opened in 1969 and was open yearly until closure in 2008. After more than a decade, the park reopened in April 2021 with a resurfaced dirt track and a new ¼ mile dragstrip.



# Set for Success

Learn about systems and processes the Ferguson-Florissant School District developed to help ensure the success of their full-time virtual learners.



After COVID-19 unexpectedly shut down schools in Spring 2020, the Ferguson-Florissant School District (FFSD) provided virtual learning with its own staff for the remainder of the school year. But before welcoming students back to the virtual classroom the following fall, the district developed a plan for online learning: they purchased the Canvas LMS (Learning Management System) and moved Instructional Support Leader Karen Caguin to the role of District Canvas Coordinator. Not long after, the district's staff and students began teaching and learning virtually. "A big part of my job was to work with teachers and help them get their curriculum online," Karen says.

Sixth grade student Dariyon Evans-Patton (above) became a full-time virtual learner as a result of the pandemic, in part to help keep his baby sister (below) healthy.

Fast forward to the 2021-2022 school year—when the district was looking to bring students back in person—and it was time for more changes. "It became apparent that we had a lot of parents who weren't ready to send their students back for in-person learning," Karen says. "We didn't think it was fair to ask our teachers to teach full-time seated students and full-time online students. We knew we needed a better solution."

## Providing a Virtual Option

As FFSD administrators looked for a virtual learning solution, they wanted a platform that offered students and families live virtual instruction as well as expanded, high-quality support. They soon made the decision to partner with Launch, and Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Services Dr. Jana Parker was put in charge. "Dr. Parker is my boss—she's the one who brought me on," says Karen. "My position was created to help get students enrolled in Launch courses and to act as the district's Launch contact. I support our district's online learners and ensure they have everything that they need to be successful."

After working a few weeks in her new role, Karen knew the district needed better-established systems and processes



to best support its virtual kiddos. “After I learned about the data we can obtain through Launch’s attendance reports, I realized it would be best to contact the parents of students who aren’t logging in or submitting work,” Karen says.

But with a district of more than 10,000 students K-12 and approximately 125 full-time virtual learners, the number of parents to call each week was far too many for one person. “I developed a spreadsheet system that uses Launch data to determine what students are at risk, and I worked with our head of counseling to help get all of our counselors on board,” Karen says. “We developed a process where I share the spreadsheet with our building counselors, and our building counselors reach out to families. So, instead of me having to call everyone, each counselor just has to call one or two families a week.”

### Launch in Action

Although Karen has help with phone calls, she still provides the majority of support for the district’s online learners. “I pull our Launch data every Tuesday, and I separate it by school,” Karen says. Once the school counselors call home, Karen handles a lot of the return calls, and she spends the majority of her days meeting with students online and in person providing one-on-one support. “Sometimes I’m helping them get logged on and teaching them how to navigate Canvas,” Karen says. “Other times I’m providing help with content. I’ll meet in person or on Zoom—whatever it takes. I do a variety of things.”



There’s no doubt that Karen’s role provides a great benefit to students. A perfect example is Dariyon Evans-Patton, a full-time virtual sixth grader who met with Karen three times during the fall 2021 semester. “I decided it would

be best for him to go full-time online because I have asthma, his 14-year-old brother has asthma and I have a six-month-old baby at home,” says Dariyon’s mother Erika Patton. “In the beginning, it was a lot. It was a little confusing because he’s in so many classes as a full-time student. But since we came in and got help from Ms. Karen, we’ve been doing better. She helped us learn how to maneuver through the system, and she helps us calendar out all of his assignments.”

As Erika discusses tips for getting started, she offers advice that would be helpful to both parents and school districts who are starting Launch courses for the first time. “It may feel overwhelming in the beginning,” she says. “But just take your time, and don’t feel like you have to get everything at once. Just take things one assignment or one subject at a time.” She also advises that parents and guardians make themselves involved in their child’s learning. “You can’t just expect your kid to go in their bedroom and do it all themselves,” Erika says. “Especially in the beginning, you’ll need to help them develop a routine and get them started.” But if you stick it out, it’s worth it. “I really appreciate that my son has the chance to take his online classes with Launch,” she says. “I think it’s a really good program.” ■



### Ferguson-Florissant at a Glance

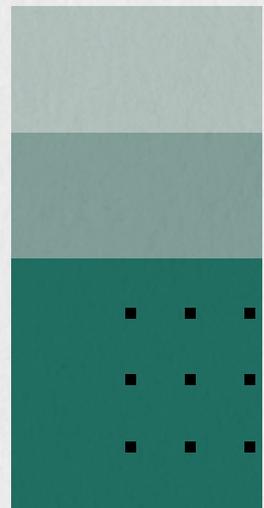
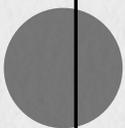
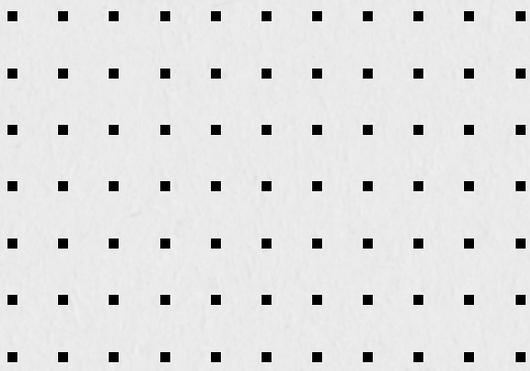
**K-12 Enrollment:** 10,581

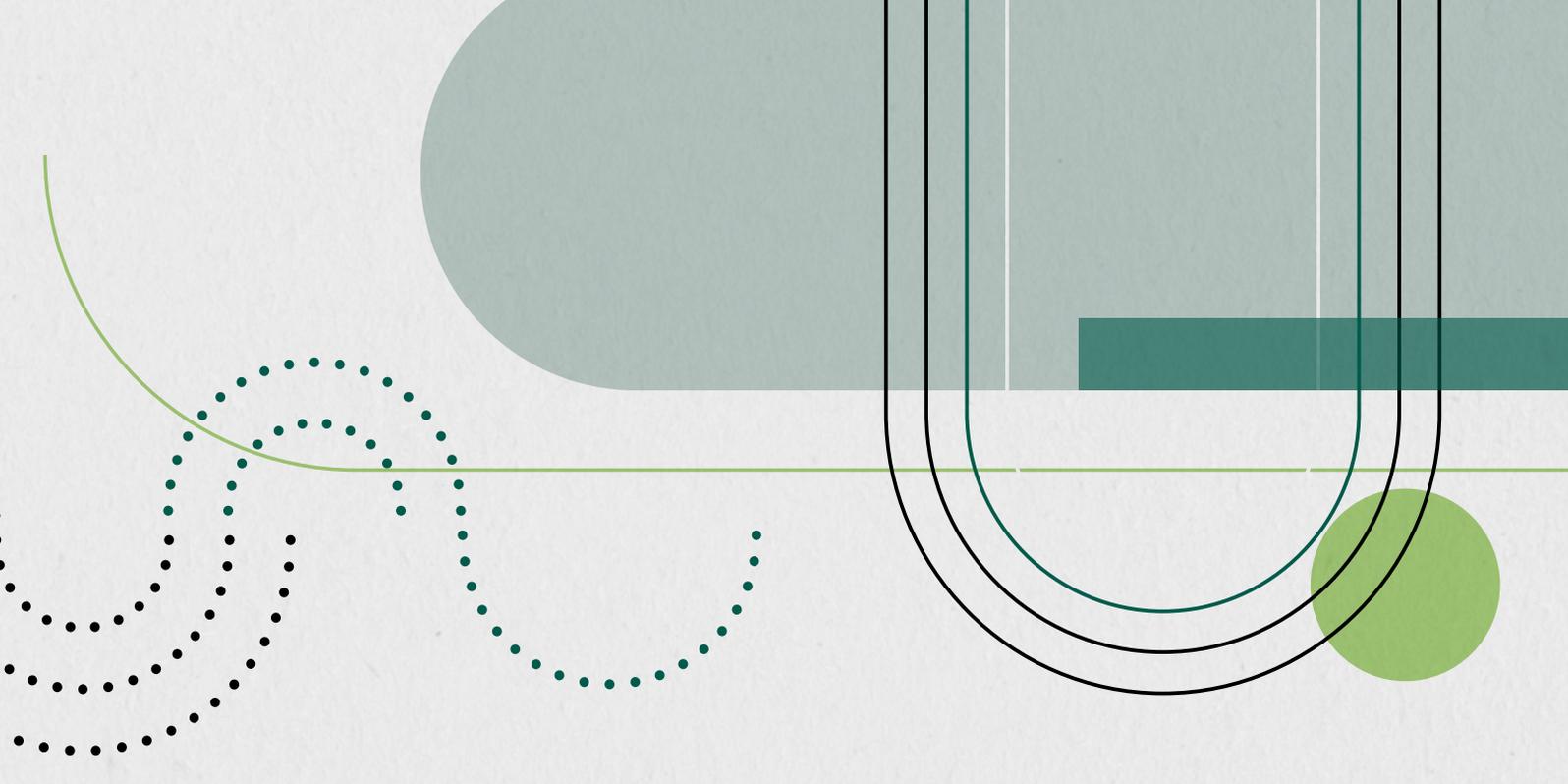
**MASA District:** Greater St. Louis

**Schools:** 17 elementary schools; three middle schools; three high schools and an alternative school

**Extra, Extra!** In addition to its 24 schools, the district includes a nationally recognized early education program, an award-winning Challenger Learning Center space education facility and the Little Creek Nature Area, which is a 97-acre nature preserve that offers experiential learning opportunities for students in science, biology, ecology and more







# LAUNCH YOUR WAY

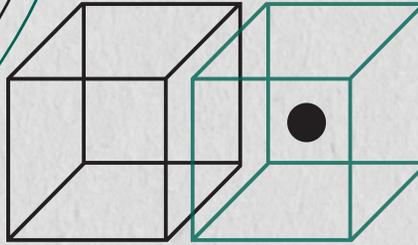
As we enter our sixth year of offering virtual courses statewide, it's fun to sit back and reflect on the many ways Launch has expanded, adapted and grown. We are now 364 school districts strong, which means we're helping meet the needs of thousands of Missouri learners in literally hundreds of ways! We've compiled a list of our 20 most-popular opportunities—some new, others tried-and-true—and arranged them for you on the following pages. Explore, enjoy, and enroll soon!

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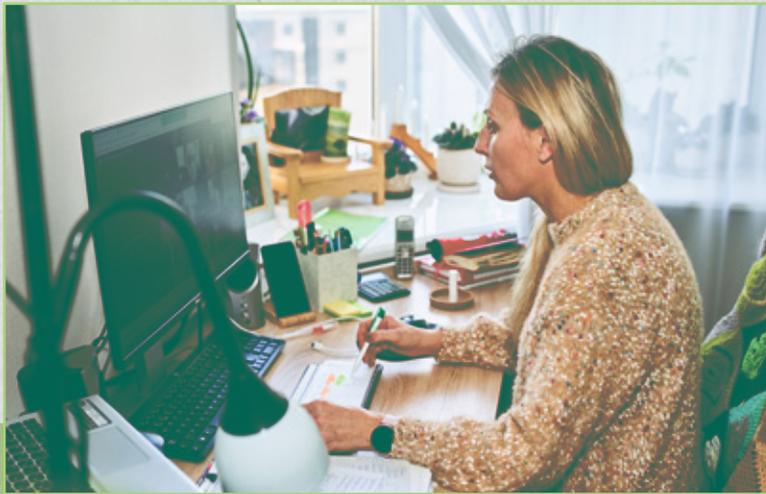
## Expand your seated course catalog.

Maybe you don't have an AP Physics teacher in your district, or maybe you have a few classes that "didn't make" seated. Regardless, Launch can help! With more than 450 virtual courses available, you can expand your own district's course catalog by more than 450. And the best part? Students can take our secondary asynchronous courses anytime, anywhere!



## Utilize Launch's virtual content with your district's teacher.

If it's virtual content you're after, you're in luck—in addition to our per-course offerings delivered by Missouri teachers, Launch also offers a complete content catalog for grades K-12. K-5 content can be purchased for full-time students, and we also offer content courses in all core content areas for grades 6-12. Districts that utilize Launch content must provide a district teacher of record.



## Full-time, live virtual solution for elementary students.

At Launch, we know that our littlest learners need a bit of TLC when it comes to learning online. That's why we designed our elementary (K-5) programming to include synchronous screen time and daily interactive lessons. Launch elementary students engage in whole group, small-group and one-on-one time with their teachers and classmates, and they build plenty of friendships along the way.



## ...And a live virtual solution for secondary students.

Have you heard the news? Launch Live courses are available in core content areas for grades 6-12 and include real-time lessons three times a week! These synchronous courses are perfect for secondary students who are seeking a virtual solution but would still prefer regular, live interactions with their teachers.

## 5

## Encourage students to follow their passion!

It's 11 a.m. on a Wednesday. While most students are getting ready to head to lunch, 17-year-old **Claudia Rose (pictured right)** is sitting at her computer and opening up her first assignment for the day. Thanks to a completely virtual schedule, Claudia spends her mornings learning to weld at a local career center, then spends the middle portion of her day working on her online classes.

"I've been completely online since midway through my sophomore year," says Claudia, who is a senior in the St. Charles School District. She much prefers her virtual schedule, as it also affords her time to pursue her true passion: music.

"I've loved music since I was a little kid," Claudia says. "My parents had K95 playing when they were taking me home from the hospital." She has had an interest ever since, and regularly plays the guitar and sings. "Once I finish up with school for the day, I go straight in to mess around with the guitar," she says. "I'll play for 3 to 4 hours every night."

Claudia also regularly plays shows the St. Louis area. "I average one to two shows a week," she says. "Come Together" is her favorite way to start a show, and no evening is complete without her rendition of "Somebody to Love" by Queen. And then, after approximately three hours of performing, it's time to head home, rest up, and start it all over again the next day. "I'd have to say my favorite thing about Launch is the flexibility it gives me," Claudia says. "I'm just really thankful for it, because it is what has made this all possible."



## Launch Hall of Fame

What do these former students have in common? They all enrolled in Launch so they could build flexibility in their schedules (and they used their new-found time to follow their dreams!).



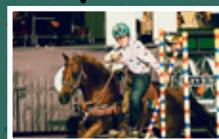
**SPIKE KOHLBECKER**  
International Race Car Driver  
Kirkwood School District



**TYLER HAGAN**  
National BMX Competitor  
Grain Valley School District



**EMMA CARY**  
CrossFit's 2019 "Fittest Teen on Earth"  
Marshfield School District



**ALAINA GATZ**  
Regional Rodeo Star  
Raymore-Peculiar School District



**DOMINIC CEFALU**  
Ballet Performer  
Rockwood School District

6

## Provide virtual special education services.

When Launch announced our largest expansion to date in spring 2021, we shared some exciting news: we were in the midst of designing a way to provide special education services online. These services began in the form of both co-taught and direct service special education courses in fall 2021. Today Launch's special education courses are instructed by certified special education teachers and include specially designed instruction that allows us to meet a student's IEP goals.

7

## Offer students gifted education courses online.

Did you know that nearly 60 percent of Missouri school districts don't offer gifted education services for students? After learning this startling statistic, we knew we had to help. Enter Launch's gifted education courses, which we began offering to students in grades 1-8 in fall 2021. With engaging topics such as Paleontology, Microcosmos, Citizen Scientists and more, Launch's gifted education courses include coursework that is above the student's traditional grade level and outside of what they may learn in the classroom.

## Offer more AP courses.

Students can take AP for no additional fee? Yes, please! Launch has a dozen Advanced Placement courses available to high school students, offering virtual learners statewide a chance to take AP English Lit & Comp, AP Calculus, AP Psychology and much more from the comfort of their own home (or their own school building).

AP courses are available to Missouri school districts at Launch's standard tuition rate (\$255 per half credit for Launch partner districts).

8

## Prepare students for college with more dual credit offerings.

When it comes to offering dual credit courses, Launch definitely delivers: our dual credit catalog includes more than 20 courses from Missouri State University, University of Missouri-Kansas City and University of Missouri-St. Louis. All Launch dual credit courses are taught by highly qualified instructors who meet the expectations set by the Higher Learning Commission and the Missouri Department of Higher Education.

9

## Enhance your district's World Language offerings.

Some districts have a French teacher, a Spanish teacher and a German teacher. Most don't. That's why Launch's middle and high school world language offerings are such a great asset for our partner school districts! Do you have a student who would like to enroll in French III? Or Spanish IV? How about Japanese? If so, we're open for business!

# 10

## ELL SUPPORTS COMING SOON!

You asked, and we're working on delivering: Launch is currently working with the Carthage School District to develop virtual courses for English Language Learners! At press time, ELL courses were scheduled to start becoming available to partner districts in Fall 2022.

## Raise ACT scores!

Looking for a great way to help your learners prepare for the ACT? Consider Launch's ACT Prep course! It focuses on learning and practicing strategies as well as reviewing content to improve test scores. And speaking of improvement, our students see a lot of it—just ask Aubrey T., a recent Gainesville High School graduate who improved her ACT score by 4 points. Her classmate, Jaxon B., also raised his score by 4, helping him increase his chances at being accepted to the University of Arkansas!

# 11

## 12 Help students earn credit for working or volunteering.

Did you know kids can work and get paid—or volunteer—plus earn credit? Yep! With our Employment Internship and Volunteerism courses, students earn credit for hours completed at a part-time job or volunteer organization.

# 13

## Rethink alternative education support.

At Launch, we know that there’s more than one path to graduation. In fact, we help prove that fact—day in and day out—by regularly finding various ways to help students cross the finish line. Oftentimes their journeys include credit recovery courses, and oftentimes these students are not only trying to graduate high school. They’re also trying to hold down a full time job, or take care of a baby, or do something else that prevents them from spending seven hours a day in a school building. That’s why flexibility is key, and it’s also why having support in online courses is crucial.

Meet **Darrin Ankrom** (pictured below), a Springfield Public Schools teacher who not only teaches full-time at Central High School but also teaches credit recovery students online. “This is year 20 of teaching for me,” says Darrin, who does everything from help students enroll and succeed in the Missouri Options program to help students in school and online complete Credit Recovery courses. “I’ve always had a passion for helping at-risk students,” he says. “It’s fun to help kids remove barriers and watch them have that ‘Aha’ moment.”

When asked how to ensure he provides students with the best, Mr. Ankrom says being available is key. “I’m not confined to my office hours,” he says. “If a student reaches out for help, it means they’re motivated to work at that time. My goal is to be available as much as possible, and to show a lot of grace.”



# 14

## Get students across the finish line with Missouri Options.

If you work in public ed in the state of Missouri, you know that the Missouri Options program is a literal life changer. So much so, in fact, that Launch hired two graduation advisors, Jared Dummit and Matt Burke, who spend their days helping students complete the program. These two make phone calls, visit homes, and even drive students to testing sites.

“Our first step is always making sure they have credits for their three required Missouri Options classes—Health, Government and Personal Finance,” Jared says. Next, it’s time to prepare students for the HiSET exam with Launch’s HiSET Prep course. Students study and take practice tests, then may even take the real tests multiple times (three tests are allowed per subject area). “It takes students a bit of time sometimes, but it’s always worth it,” Jared says. “I’ve had a lot of students tell me thank you, and that they wouldn’t have ever graduated if it wasn’t for me pushing them.”



### Need HiSET Help?

Launch students statewide can prepare for the HiSET exam using Launch’s Credit Recovery HiSET Prep course.

## Offer your high school students the biggest summer catalog ever.

Imagine this: Your high school students who are looking to build some room into their schedules for next year can earn a required credit (or two, in fact!) online. And they can even work at a time convenient for them (so they can still sleep in every day)! This is the beauty of your district offering Launch summer courses. Without opening a physical building, you can provide students two months of programming in June and July. Launch offers our full catalog (minus dual credit courses) in the summer, providing endless options and opportunities!

15

## Build skills, and keep kids engaged with learning academies.

Whether you have students who need to improve their math and reading skills or you're simply looking to keep kiddos engaged during the summer months, Launch's learning academies are just the ticket. Launch's summer academies use adaptive software to meet students at their current learning level and are available to elementary, middle and high schoolers. Two academies equals one full-time enrollment.

16

## Ensure middle schoolers are ready for next year.

In addition to enrichment courses, middle school students have access to both Launch's Extended Learning Programs (ELPs) and remediation courses during the summer months. ELPs are designed for students who need extensive recovery in select content areas while remediation courses offer focused support in grade-level skills.

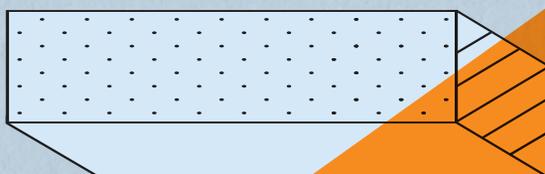
17

## Take elementary students on the adventure of a lifetime!

Step right up, folks: Launch is taking kiddos on one wild ride this summer! Students in grades 1-5 are invited to join our themed "Meet Me at the Fair" and "Olympic Tour" enrichment courses, both which combine our quality curriculum with engaging activities and adventures. While targeted grade-level science, social studies, math and reading instruction keep students engaged, our fine arts and PE activities provide off-screen opportunities. We'll see ya at the fair!

18

**SAVE THE DATE  
FOR LAUNCH  
SUMMER SESSIONS!  
JUNE 6-30  
JULY 5-29**





## Provide social & emotional supports online.

Fact: Launch has two nationally certified counselors in place to support partner district students. These two individuals—who go by the names Silvia Espinosa and David Schuman—spend their days supporting online learners through Launch Cares, a comprehensive counseling program designed to meet the diverse social and emotional needs of our online learners. Launch Cares offers mental health services and curriculum services to students as well as support services to Launch families and school district counselors.

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## Our Teachers, Your Students

In addition to enrolling students in courses on an individual basis, multiple school districts in Missouri have started enrolling full classes of seated students in Launch courses when a seated teacher is not available. In this scenario, Launch works to ensure all students are in the same class(es) and have the same teacher(s). “We are happy to be able to provide a viable solution for these districts at their time of need,” says Launch Director Dr. Nichole Lemmon. “Often times the district will find a full-time educator the next year, or even the next semester, and that’s great. Our goal is to be there as needed.”



## Fill your Teacher Shortage Needs

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As we’re all aware, there’s a definite teacher shortage in Missouri. So much so, in fact, that the “Teacher Shortage Report for Missouri” report released in December 2020 by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) shared that more than five percent—or 3,558 of 71,142—of all FTE teaching positions within the state were either left vacant or filled by unqualified individuals during the 2019-2020 academic year. In addition, the report shared a list of 17 shortage areas, showing a need for both cross-categorical and content-specific teachers in many areas for grades K-12.

As the state is working on recruitment and attempting to combat this growing issue, Launch is here to help. All Launch courses come with highly certified teachers, and we have both full-time and adjunct teachers on staff. Every one of these individuals lives in Missouri and works for a Missouri school district.

# COMING SOON

TO A LAUNCH PARTNER SCHOOL NEAR YOU

## LAUNCH MISSOURI'S

# Workforce

Currently under construction, Launch Missouri's Workforce is our newest initiative that will offer high school students statewide a career-focused virtual education path in a chosen area of interest. Students who successfully complete the courses in their selected workforce career pathway will graduate high school career ready with both skills and industry-recognized certifications and credentials.

### Pathway Options:

- Manufacturing
- Education
- Financial & Professional Services
- Hospitality & Food Service
- Agribusiness
- Bio-Sciences
- Energy
- Information Technology
- Construction
- Health Science
- Transportation



New  
courses  
launching  
Fall 2022!

# Launch Into Performing

High school senior Captain Sibley has a full-time Launch schedule so that he can accompany award-winning musical powerhouse Tony Orlando on tour across the country.

**BY ABBY BROWNFIELD**

Senior year is filled with lots of memory-making moments. Prom, senior trips and the final days of sitting in a high school class are remembered forever. Captain Sibley, a senior at Springfield's Parkview High School, is making a lot of memories too—but his are filled with music, tour dates and performances.

Captain transitioned to Launch full-time in August 2021 when he was invited to play electric bass for Tony Orlando. "When I'm at home I can get work done, but it's a little bit harder on the road," Captain says. "It's nice to know that with Launch I can still get it all done when I have time."

Although Captain only recently made the transition to being online full-time, he is no stranger to the program. "I've really been doing some form of Launch since before my freshman year," Captain says. "I did online PE, Driver's Ed and Personal Finance." Obtaining these required credits through Launch enabled Captain to move forward with his plans to graduate in December, which is perfect for his current schedule—he will join Tony on tour in Canada in January 2022.

"I like how flexible it is," Captain says. "I like the idea of not having two very important parts of my life that are set in stone causing dissonance with each other. It's important that one works

around the other, and in this case, school works around this opportunity that I have." ■



Photos courtesy Captain Sibley

Fueled By

# LAUNCH

## 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 • Arcadia Valley R-II • Archie R-V • Ash Grove R-IV • Aurora R-VIII • Ava R-I • Awaken360 Academy • Bakersfield R-IV • Belton 124 • Bevier C-4 • Blair Oaks • Bloomfield R-XIV • Blue Eye R-V • Bolivar R-I • Bowling Green R-I • Branson R-IV • Braymer C-4 • Brentwood • Bronaugh R-VII • Brunswick R-II • Bunker R-III • Butler R-V • Cabool R-IV • Calhoun R-VIII • Camdenon R-III • Cameron R-I • Campbell R-II • Cape Girardeau 63 • Carl Junction R-I • Carrollton R-VII • Carthage R-IX • Caruthersville 18 • Cassville R-IV • Center 58 • Centerville R-I • Central R-III • Centralia R-IV • Chadwick R-I • Chilhowee R-IV • Chillicothe R-II • Clarkton C-4 • Clayton • Clever R-V • Climax Springs R-IV • Clinton Co. R-III • Clinton School District • Cole Camp R-I • Cole Co. R-I • Cole Co. R-V • Community R-VI • Concordia R-II • Confluence Academies • Couch R-I • Craig R-III • Crane R-III • Crawford Co. R-II • Crocker R-II • Dadeville R-II • Delta C-7 • Delta R-V • Desoto 73 • Dexter R-XI • Diamond R-IV • Doniphan R-I • Drexel R-IV • Dunklin R-V • East Carter Co. R-II • East Newton Co. R-VI • El Dorado Springs R-II • Elsberry R-II • Everton R-III • Excelsior Springs 40 • Exeter R-VI • EYC Academy • Fair Grove R-X • Fair Play R-II • Fairfax R-III • Fairview R-XI • Fayette R-III • Ferguson-Florissant R-II • 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 • Gasconade C-4 • Gasconade Co. R-II • Gideon 37 • Gilman City • Glasgow • Glenwood R-VIII • Golden City R-III • Grain Valley R-V • Grandview C-4 • Green City R-I • Green Forest R-II • Green Ridge R-VIII • Greenfield R-IV • Greenville R-II • Greenwood Laboratory School • Grundy Co. R-V • Guadalupe Centers Schools • Halfway R-III • Hallsville R-IV • Hamilton R-II • Hardeman R-X • Hardin-Central C-2 • Harrisonville R-IX • Hartville R-II • Hawthorn Leadership School for Girls • Hayti R-II • Hazelwood • Hickory Co. R-I • Higbee R-VIII • High Point R-III • Hillsboro R-III • Holliday C-2 • Hollister R-V • Houston R-I • Howell Valley R-I • Humansville R-IV • Hume R-VIII • Hurley R-I • Iberia R-V • Iron County C4 • Jackson R-II • Jefferson C-123 • Jefferson City • Johnson Co. R-VII • Junction Hill C-12 • Kansas City 33 • Kearney R-I • King City R-I • Kingsville R-I • Kipp St. Louis Public Schools • 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 • Leeton R-X • Leopold R-III • Lexington R-V • Liberal R-II • Liberty 53 • Licking R-VIII • Lift for Life Academy • Lincoln R-II • Lindbergh Schools • Logan-Rogersville R-VIII • Lone Jack C-6 • Lonedell R-XIV • Louisiana R-II • Macks Creek R-V • Macon Co. R-I • Macon Co. R-IV • Madison C-3 • Malta Bend R-V • Mansfield R-IV • Maplewood Richmond Heights • Maries Co. R-I • Marion C. Early R-V • Marion Co. R-II • Mark Twain R-VIII • Marquand-Zion R-VI • Marshall • Marshfield R-I • Maryville R-II • Maysville R-I • McDonald Co. R-I • Meadow Heights R-II • Mehlville R-IX • Meramec Valley R-III • Miami R-I • Mid-Buchanan Co. R-V • Midway R-I • Milan C-2 • Miller R-II • Moberly • Monett R-I • Moniteau Co. R-I • Montgomery Co. R-II • Montrose R-XIV • Morgan Co. R-I • Morgan Co. R-II • Mound City R-II • Mountain Grove R-III • Mountain View-Birch Tree R-III • Mt. Vernon R-V • Naylor R-II • Neelyville R-IV • Neosho School District • New Bloomfield R-III • New Franklin R-I • New Haven School District • New Madrid Co. R-I • Newburg R-II • Newtown-Harris R-III • Niangua R-V • Nixa • Nodaway-Holt R-VII • Norborne R-VIII • Normandy Schools Collaborative • North Andrew Co. R-VI • North Harrison R-III • North Kansas City 74 • North Mercer Co. R-III • North Nodaway Co. R-VI • North Pemiscot Co. R-I • North Platte Co. R-I • North Shelby • North St. Francois Co. R-I • Northeast Nodaway Co. R-V • Northeast Randolph Co. R-IV • Northeast Vernon Co. R-I • 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 • Orrick R-XI • Osage Co. R-II • Osborn R-0 • Osceola • Otterville R-VI • Palmyra R-I • Park Hill • Parkway C-2 • Pattonville R-III • Perspectives Preparatory Academy • Pettis Co. R-V • Pierce City R-VI • Pike Co. R-III • Pilot Grove C-4 • Plato R-V • Platte Co. R-III • Pleasant Hill R-III • Pleasant Hope R-VI • Poplar Bluff R-I • Portageville • Potosi R-III • Princeton R-V • Purdy R-II • Puxico R-VIII • Ralls Co. R-II • Raymondville R-VII • Raymore-Peculiar • Raytown C-2 • Reeds Spring R-IV • Renick R-V • Republic R-III • Rich Hill R-IV • Richards R-V • Richland R-I • Richland R-IV • Richmond R-XVI • Ridgeway R-V • Risco R-II • Ritenour • Riverview Gardens • Rock Port R-II • Rockwood R-VI • Rolla 31 • Salisbury R-IV • Savannah R-III • Saxony Lutheran High School • School of the Osage • Sedalia 200 • Seneca R-VII • Seymour R-II • Shawnee R-III • Shelby Co. R-IV • Shell Knob 78 • Sherwood Cass R-VIII • Silex R-I • Smithton R-VI • Smithville R-II • South Callaway Co. R-II • South Holt Co. R-I • South Iron Co. R-I • South Nodaway Co. R-IV • Southern Boone Co. R-I • Southern Reynolds R-II • Southland C-9 • Southwest Livingston Co. R-I • Southwest R-V • Sparta R-III • Spokane R-VII • Springfield Catholic Schools • Springfield Private 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 • Sullivan • Summersville R-II • Sunrise R-IX • Tarkio R-I • Thayer R-II • The Arch Community School • The Biome • 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 • Walnut Grove R-V • 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 • West St. Francois Co. R-IV • Westview C-6 • Wheatland R-II • Wheaton R-III • Willard R-II • Willow Springs R-IV • Windsor C-1 • Winfield R-IV • 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 (January 7, 2022).*



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