

English Language Development Courses Now Available for Grades K-12

# ACCESS

LAUNCH

Fall 2022

LAUNCH MISSOURI'S

# Workforce

Learn how Launch is working with the Missouri Dept. of Higher Education & Workforce Development to offer virtual, career-focused education courses.

THE VOICE OF VIRTUAL LEARNING IN MISSOURI

# 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 classes 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. In addition to traditional courses, AP, Honors, dual credit and credit recovery courses are available. Class sizes are limited to 33:1 with live classes available, and teachers live and work in Missouri school districts.



## WHY I LAUNCH

Launch provides 3rd grader Hunter Penberthy a way to play ice hockey and travel with his team.



## LAUNCH MISSOURI'S WORKFORCE

Thanks to a new partnership with the Missouri Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development, Launch now offers free career-focused education courses to high school students statewide. Learn the details here.

## SUCCESS STORY

Springfield's Hedley Frank family travels the country with four kids in Launch—and a total of 10 individuals in an RV—as they film their new docuseries.

## DISTRICT PROFILE: GOLDEN CITY

When Golden City struggled to find a certified Science teacher last year, they turned to us for help. Learn how we served the district with a certified Launch teacher.



## DISTRICT PROFILE: GRAIN VALLEY

After providing extra reading support to at-risk students in Grain Valley, Launch Into Reading is now offered to students statewide. Learn how it all got started.



# ACCESS

LAUNCH

THE VOICE OF VIRTUAL LEARNING IN MISSOURI

## Staff Poll

If you weren't working for Launch, what would your dream job be?

### The Launch Team

**Dr. Ben Hackenwerth** *Executive Director, Innovation & Information*  
A river guide.

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

I would work as a game show host. Remember to help control the pet population—have your pet spayed or neutered!

### Student Services

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

I have always wanted to be a casting director. I'm an avid, life-long reader, and I like to picture the perfect actor/actress to take on characters in the film version of the books I read.

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

I would work for the Kansas City Royals keeping score and working on stats!

**Helen Williams** *Assistant Principal*

My family owns a retreat center. I love planning weddings, family reunions, retreats and other events that bring people together—I could easily transition to that role!

**John Mott** *Assistant Principal*

I would love to work at the Smithsonian American History Museum in Washington DC. (In the basement, where they keep all the extra inventory!)

**Billy Gosnell** *Assistant Principal*

**Jessica Johnson** *SIS Coordinator*

I would be an ASL interpreter for concerts and events!

**David Schuman** *Counselor*

I would be a travel agent for people seeking adventurous vacations (repelling, skydiving, etc.)!

**Silvia Espinosa** *Counselor*

**Amy Bollinger** *Special Education Liaison*

I'd love to open a bakery on the Katy Trail in Rocheport, Missouri!

**Andrea Hackenwerth** *Department Secretary*

My dream gig would be to open a plant/craft store and spend all day surrounded by plants while crafting all things macramé!

**Abby Brownfield** *Department Secretary*

I would be a published author traveling the US on a book tour.

**Jill Templeton** *Department Secretary*

I would have an organic vegetable/hobby farm with donkeys, pigs, chickens, cows and Basset Hounds.

**Lauren Hendrix** *Department Secretary*

My dream job is to become a successful hair stylist/salon owner!

**Matt Burke** *Graduation Advisor*

**Jared Dummit** *Graduation Advisor*

A woodworker.

**Catie Neuber** *Math Teacher*

I would be a travel photographer. I'd travel, experience other cultures and capture memories for others.

### Engagement & Creative Services

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

A journalism professor in the Ivy League (who is also a published author and freelance chef).

**Jared Chester** *Graphic Designer*

Independently wealthy.

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

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

A professional golfer.

### Development

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

I would be an amazing travel agent! I love to travel, but I especially love to plan travel!

**Linda Ayres** *Quality Assurance Specialist*

If I wasn't working at Launch I would either work in a library or be a professional reader.

**Susan Brown** *Quality Assurance Specialist*

I'd like to play a zombie in a zombie movie.

**Nicki Dickson** *Digital Developer*

I always wanted to be a lawyer.



**Justin Thomas** *Digital Developer*

I love animals and would definitely own a farm! During the Halloween season, I would also own and operate a haunted house.

**Amy Jackson** *Digital Developer*

A crew member of *Survivor*! Living in Fiji, thinking of new challenges then getting to build and test the challenges.

**Melissa James** *Digital Developer*

In high school I wanted to be a chef until I wrote a paper on becoming a chef and realized I'd work all nights, weekends and holidays!

**Amy Shaw** *Digital Developer*

My dream was to own a B&B. I would have my son, the culinary expert, cook a fabulous brunch everyday for my guests!

**Eric Tran** *Digital Developer*

I'd feed my childhood dreams and go back to my original goal in life—studying dinosaurs as a paleontologist!

**Gerri Flint** *Digital Developer*

My dream job would be to open a dog daycare/spa or an art studio.

**Ashley Horton** *Digital Developer*

Lucky for me, working as a Developer for Launch is my dream job! But, if I wasn't here, you could find me in a bookstore, hiding in a corner reading or dishing out recommendations!

**IT and Support****Darren Rush** *Programming Supervisor*

A commercial pilot.

**Jay Grawe** *Application Specialist***Mark Grant** *Software Developer***Ivy Hamilton** *Software Developer*

Ever since I was a little kid, I've wanted to be an astronaut! I still think space is the coolest thing ever!

**Curtis Brown** *Inventory Clerical***Ben Cook** *Project Manager*

I would like to look into a video editing position, but I definitely would need to relearn some things! I helped create our news show in high school.

**Adam Shawley** *Launch Support Specialist*

A Crossing Guard Crossing Guard. I'd make sure it's safe for crossing guards to cross crosswalks.

**Wendy Arendell** *Launch Support Specialist***Kaleigh Scott** *Launch Support Specialist*

My dream job is to be a storm chaser. I would track tornadoes all over the Midwest!

**Michael Hamman**

*Launch Support Specialist*

**Robert Tinney**

*Launch Support Specialist*

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Dr. Lemmon shares the many ways Launch is growing to meet the needs of our district partners.

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Good, better, best—never let it rest! Learn how we're improving our Gifted Education courses.

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We revamped math for grades 6-8 by subtracting assignments and adding streamlined lessons.

**Contact Us**

601 N National Ave. #102

Springfield, MO 65802

(417) 523-0417

✉ email

support@fueledbylaunch.com

🌐 website

🐦 twitter





*"Launch Missouri's Workforce is an investment in our students and paves the way for the future of career education."  
—Dr. Nichole Lemmon*

## Director's Note

Dr. Lemmon shares information on Launch's various new offerings, all created to serve the growing needs of our partners.

**A**t Launch, we are always thinking up new and exciting ways to leverage the power of virtual learning to provide opportunities for students in the state of Missouri. This issue of *Access Launch* is all about our latest efforts.

Since 2019, we've been dreaming about career pathway courses designed to introduce students to opportunities available in our state. Today, that dream is a reality. Launch Missouri's Workforce is an investment in our students and paves the way for the future of career education. One of our core beliefs is that a student's opportunity should not be limited by their zip code. This suite of courses removes barriers and opens doors. I personally could not be more excited.

Also highlighted in this issue is our commitment to assisting partner districts who are struggling to find qualified teachers to serve their students (p. 18). Whether your student population is 200 or 20,000, we know you were likely impacted by the more than 3,500 teaching positions that went unfilled in our state last year. With a

teaching pool of more than 1,000 Missouri educators, we are here to help.

Finally, we heard you and are thrilled to announce K-12 English Language Development services are now available. With live instruction offered for Special Education, Gifted and English Language Development, we have comprehensive exceptional learner services ready to serve your students!

What else are we thinking up? Well, that's up to you, our partners. We can't wait to hear what you need next!

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.



## 📧 Student Fan Mail

...I also wanted to let you know how much I appreciate what you're doing. I absolutely love how organized and involved you are! I've taken a few online classes before where I've felt really stressed or overwhelmed, but with this one was easier for me. We're not always so lucky to get a teacher this involved, organized and willing to help.

**Kylee** (pictured above)  
Launch Student  
Nixa Public Schools

A student sent this note to Launch Driver Education teacher Aaron Griffin just before completing her final semester in high school. We are so proud of Aaron and our hundreds of other Missouri teachers who find ways to build relationships with our students!—Editor

## 👤 Making Partners Happy

I just wanted to reach out to say thank you! Every time I call or email and ask for help from Launch, each and every member of the staff is phenomenal! We started using Launch slowly with high school Credit Recovery only, and it has been great!... I look forward to partnering with you for more of our classes next year!

### Mrs. Jennifer Gilman

Professional School Counselor  
Community R-VI High School

Jennifer sent this email to the Launch Partner Engagement team and Director Dr. Nichole Lemmon at the end of the spring 2022 semester. Our team works hard to meet our partner district needs and ensure that their liaisons are well supported!—Editor

## 👤 Teacher Praise!

Can you please let Mrs. Connie Wine's supervisor know how pleased we are with her as Lily's teacher? Lily (pictured below) loves school because of Mrs. Wine! Mrs. Wine clearly shows enthusiasm and warmth, patience and true caring with the children. She clearly cares about each and every child. I've also noticed and admired her patience with parents, too. She even has adorable puppets she uses to sing Happy Birthday to children, etc.! Mrs. Wine is doing an outstanding job. You are blessed with a wonderful teacher!

### Cheryl Stadler

Launch Parent  
Rockwood School District

Cheryl sent this email to our enrollment team at the end of the fall 2022 semester. It is always great to hear about the ways our teachers are connecting with students, and Mrs. Wine teaches some of our littlest learners! Thanks to Cheryl for sharing this positive feedback!—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.



## Superintendent's Note

SPS Superintendent Dr. Grenita Lathan shares details on our new career-focused virtual education opportunities.

**A**s educators, our most important work is to ensure all students leave our schools with a love of reading and a passion they can't wait to pursue after graduation. Launch Missouri's Workforce is designed to align career exploration with skills students can use tomorrow. Designed in partnership with the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development, our newest suite of virtual courses helps all students in Missouri see new possibilities.

As Superintendent of Springfield Public Schools, I am thrilled to continue our commitment of providing high-quality virtual course access to you, our partner districts. Teacher shortages have resulted in very real concerns about available programming. Launch Missouri's Workforce is designed to maximize the very best teachers Missouri has to offer, ensuring required credentialing and certifications are in place, while connecting students with industry professionals who work in the careers students are exploring.

We trust this investment in Missouri's future will serve your students well and, as always, look forward to hearing your feedback and ideas. Together, we continue to make Launch Virtual Learning stronger for generations to come.

Dr. Grenita Lathan  
Superintendent, Springfield Public Schools



“Teacher shortages have resulted in very real concerns about available programming.”  
—Dr. Grenita Lathan

# By the Numbers

From last year's enrollments to our up-and-coming new courses, we have plenty of fascinating figures to share!

# 2 IN 3

## MISSOURI PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS USE LAUNCH



### DISTRICT PARTNERS

# 372

# \$5,331,087.50

RETIREMENT-ELIGIBLE STIPENDS PAID TO MISSOURI TEACHERS IN 2021-2022

# 517 MO Teachers

For Spring 2022



# SUPPORT

EMAILS, CALLS, & CHATS FROM JAN. 2022 TO JULY 2022

# 691,220



4 CAREER PATHWAYS COMING IN FALL 2022

LAUNCH MISSOURI'S



### 113,495 2021-2022 Enrollments



- 45,189 Spring 2022 Enrollments
- 21,786 Summer 2022 Enrollments
- 46,520 Fall 2021 Enrollments

# 50 NEW & REVISED COURSES FOR FALL 2022

# 19,204

# What's Online

Launch's newest initiative, Launch Missouri's Workforce, is ready to roll! Learn how to navigate our new webpage, [fueledbylaunch.com/workforce](https://fueledbylaunch.com/workforce).

**H**ave you heard of Launch Missouri's Workforce? It's our newest initiative designed to prepare students for life after high school by offering them career-focused virtual education courses, and enrollment is open now! We've created a webpage with all the info you need to know on the program and how it can help your students.

## **PATHWAY CLUSTERS:**

At [fueledbylaunch.com/workforce](https://fueledbylaunch.com/workforce), you will find a list of the upcoming available workforce career paths. And you don't have to look far—they're actually listed right on the landing page! The page displays eleven unique career clusters:

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



## **A DEEPER DIVE:**

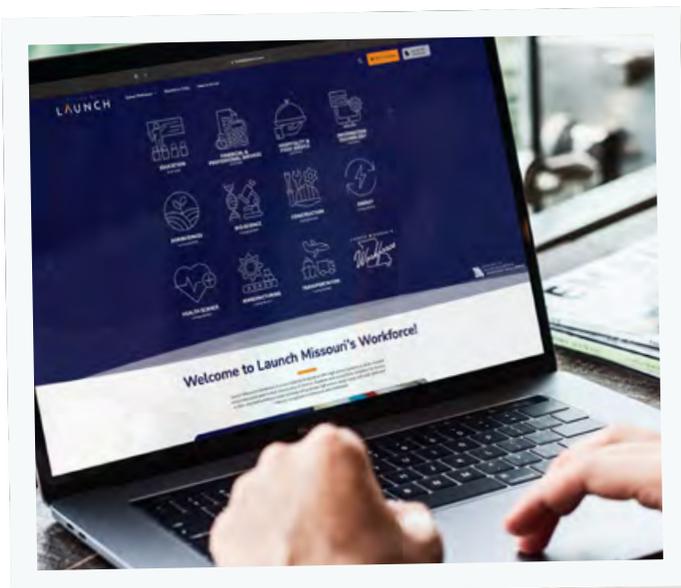
Interested in Launch's Information Technology workforce pathway? You can learn more with one simple click! Each pathway or "career cluster" has its own webpage that provides additional information on the industry or field. Information includes an introduction to the field and many Missouri-based statistics such as average salary, employment numbers and projected growth. Additionally, the page lists career branches available in the field and the Missouri industry-recognized credential options available for the students.

## **WHO'S HIRING IN MISSOURI?**

Who doesn't like imagining themselves at their dream job? Each career pathway page has a "Who's Hiring in Missouri" section that links in hiring companies and takes visitors to their career page. Go ahead, students—let's dream big!

## **HOW TO ENROLL & FAQs:**

We can't just share the pretty parts of our web page—we have to share the nuts and bolts of it, too! [fueledbylaunch.com/workforce](https://fueledbylaunch.com/workforce) has a "How to Enroll" section that shares directions for both families and districts interested in enrolling students in the program. There is also a "Frequently Asked Questions" section that shares information on course availability, how school districts can enroll, cost and more. ■



Fueled By

# LAUNCH

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Fall 2022 - Spring 2023

### Purpose:

Launch's English Language Development (ELD) courses are designed to meet the ever-growing needs of English Language Learners in the state of Missouri.

### About the Courses:

Both Launch's elementary and secondary ELD courses utilize WIDA (WorldClass Instructional Design and Assessment) Can Do Descriptors that focus on the four domains of language instruction: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Students who have qualified as an EL student with the qualifications determined by the state of Missouri are provided many authentic opportunities to interact with language digitally. In addition, the courses focus on acceleration of language learning and deliver intentional instruction that builds each student's academic language.



### Audience:

Launch's English Language Development classes are intended for students who are familiar with the spoken English language and have some proficiency, but need to advance their English language academically.

### Launch ELD FAQs

#### Who is eligible to take Launch's English Language Development courses?

Students who wish to take Launch's ELD courses must meet the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's definition of an English Language Learner.

#### How will these courses balance synchronous and asynchronous time with the teacher?

While Launch's English Language Development courses are written to be delivered asynchronously, there will be opportunities for students to have routine synchronous time and interaction with their teachers. The student's live, synchronous time will prioritize assistance and exploration rather than covering routine content.

#### How long are these courses?

The elementary ELD course should be treated as a special and taken across one academic year. The secondary ELD course should be treated as an elective and taken across one academic year. The secondary course is worth 1.0 credit for grades 9-12.

#### What is the cost of an ELD course?

Launch's English Language Development courses are charged at the annual Launch tuition rate.

### Learn More & Enroll:

To learn more about Launch's English Language Development courses, contact Dr. Brady Quirk by email at [bquirk@spsmail.org](mailto:bquirk@spsmail.org) or call 417-523-0417. Launch Liaisons may enroll students in English Language Development courses via Launchpad.

### Contact Us:

Launch Virtual Learning Center  
601 N. National Ave. #102  
Springfield, MO 65802

(417) 523-0417

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**LAUNCH**  
 COURSE CATALOG  
 Fall 2022– Spring 2023

## HIGH SCHOOL CATALOG

### English Language Arts

- AP English Lit. & Comp.
- 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
- Strategic Reading & Writing (9<sup>th</sup> Grade)

### Electives

- A+ Tutoring
- ACT Prep
- Algebra I Math Lab
- Algebra II Math Lab
- Driver Education
- Geometry Math Lab
- HiSet Prep
- Hunter & Boater Safety
- Volunteerism

### Fine Arts

- AP Studio Art 2-D Design
- Fine Arts Appreciation I: Music
- Fine Arts Appreciation II: Art
- Music Theory I
- Music Theory II

### Health & PE

- Health
- Lifetime Fitness
- Physical Education I
- Physical Fitness

### Mathematics

- Algebra 1A
- Algebra 1B
- Algebra I
- Algebra II

- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Computer Sci. Principles
- AP Computer Science A
- AP Statistics
- College Algebra
- Foundations of Algebra
- Geometry
- Intro. to Computer Science
- Precalculus
- Precalculus with Trigonometry
- Professional Math
- Statistics
- Trigonometry

### Practical Arts

- Childhood Development I
- Computer Applications
- Digital Communications
- Employment Internship
- FACS Internship
- Accounting I
- Introduction to Business
- Marketing I
- Personal Finance
- Teaching as a Profession I
- Web Design

### Science

- AP Physics
- Astronomy
- Chemistry
- Earth Science
- General Biology
- Introductory Biology
- Introductory Chemistry
- Physical Science

### Social Studies

- American Baseball History
- American Civil War
- AP European History
- AP Psychology
- AP US Gov. & Politics I
- AP US Gov. & Politics II
- AP US History I
- AP US History II

- AP World History
- Black History
- Economics
- Government
- Liberty & Law (Gov.)
- Psychology of the Holocaust
- Psychology
- Sociology
- US History
- World Geography
- World History

### World Language

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

### Special Education Services

- English I Strategies
- English II Strategies
- English III Strategies
- English IV Strategies
- Foundations of Algebra Strategies
- Algebra IA Strategies
- Algebra IB Strategies

### English Language Development

- ELD Secondary

#### Catalog Key

- Honors Available
- Credit Acquisition Available
- Credit Recovery Available
- Dual Credit Available
- Launch MO Workforce
- NCAA Approved
- Advanced Placement
- Co-Taught Course
- Launch Live Course
- 0.5 Credit Course
- 1.0 Credit Course

Visit [fueledbylaunch.com](https://fueledbylaunch.com) for full course details.

# 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
- Strategic Reading & Writing (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- Strategic Reading & Writing (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- Strategic Reading & Writing (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

## 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)

## Science

- Science (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)\* \* LIVE
- Science (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)\* \* LIVE
- Science (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)\* \* LIVE

## Mathematics

- Mathematics (6<sup>th</sup> Grade) \* LIVE
- Mathematics (7<sup>th</sup> Grade) \* LIVE
- Accelerated Math (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- Mathematics (8<sup>th</sup> Grade) \* LIVE
- Strategic Math (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- Strategic Math (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- Strategic Math (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- Algebra I
- Geometry

## 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
- Spanish I

## English Language Development

- ELD Secondary

## Exploratories

- Discover Computer Coding I
- Discover Computer Coding II
- Outdoor-U
- Music Journeys I
- Music Journeys II
- Visual Arts I
- Visual Arts II
- Visual Arts III

## Gifted Education

- TedEd Student Talks *(In collaboration with the Ted Talk International organization)*
- Mission to Mars

## Special Education

- ELA Strategies (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- ELA Strategies (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- ELA Strategies (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- Math Strategies (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- Math Strategies (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- Math Strategies (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

\*Remediation available

# ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CATALOG

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

### Homeroom

- English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Health

### Specials

- Physical Education
- Music
- Art

## English Language Development

- ELD Elementary

## Learning Academies

- Launch into Math
- Launch into Reading

## Gifted Education

### Grades 1-3:

- Quarter 1: Superheroes
- Quarter 2: By the Dozens
- Quarter 3: TBD
- Quarter 4: TBD

### Grades 4-5:

- Quarter 1: Alternative Energy
- Quarter 2: Mystery-ology
- Quarter 3: TBD
- Quarter 4: TBD

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



# An Author in the Making

Meet Launch student Brianna Chay (pictured), a bright and bubbly 12 year old who recently wrote and published her own book.

**Access Launch:** How long have you been learning online?

**Brianna Chay:** I've been online since the end of fourth grade, so more than two years now! I started online with my old school—sixth grade was my first year with Launch.

**Access:** Why did you decide to attend virtual school?

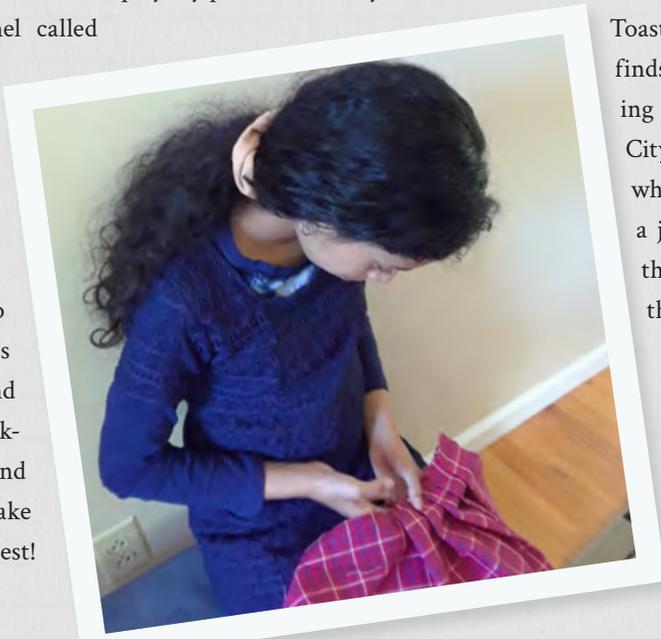
**B.C.:** I originally went online at the start of the coronavirus pandemic. My father had cancer, and we needed to make sure to slow the spread of the virus and lower our own risk, because he's a high-risk person. But I really liked online school, and I love how flexible it is—I am going to go online next year, too!

**Access:** That's great! Where did you attend seated school?

**B.C.:** I went to Affton schools. I live in St. Louis, Missouri—in the county—and just live life to the fullest!

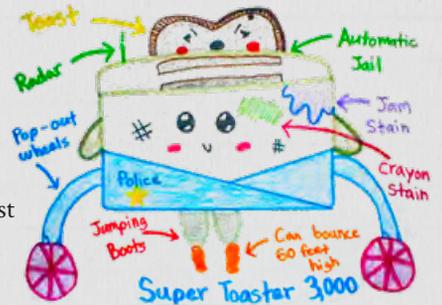
**Access:** What are your hobbies?

**B.C.:** I like to spend time with my family. My favorite thing to do is play with my brother! I like to write devotionals—I actually have a website where I write devotionals. I do Bible Bee—it's almost like a spelling bee, but with Bible verses. I play my piano. I recently started a YouTube channel called Tidbits of Learning—I do biblical reflections there, along with a craft for every story. I love to craft! I like to crochet, I like to knit, I like to cross stitch, I like to sew—I like to sew dresses and things like that! Oh, and I love reading. I'm a bookworm! I like to write, too, and I like baking. I like to make cream puffs and apple pie best!



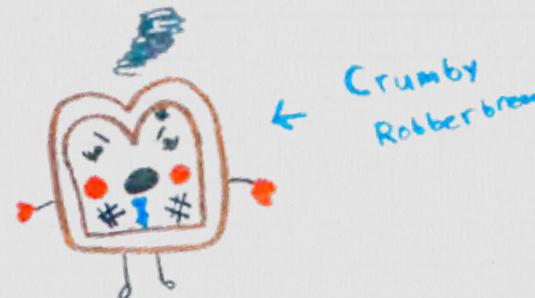
**Access:** We heard you published a book! Tell us about it.

**B.C.:** Yes, "Super Toaster 3,000: The Super Toaster that Saves the Day!" I wrote it when I was 10 in fifth grade. My parents said it was nice and that I should publish it—and a whole bunch of other people who read it said it was great and I should publish it—but I was so busy with school and COVID that I didn't get around to publishing it until my last winter break.



**Access:** What is the story about?

**B.C.:** Here, I'll just read you the back! 'Super Toaster 3,000 is just a toaster from a factory who finds a faithful friend in Juicy Juice. After starting a team, they decide on protecting Breakfast City, and making sure to get rid of trouble! But when it comes to the Naughty Bread Bunch, a jamnapped friend, and a retired warplane, they must put everything at risk—including their own lives—to save their beloved city...'





**Access:** Where did you get the idea for your book?

**B.C.:** In fifth grade, our teacher told us to write a paper and come up with our own superhero. The problem is that all superheroes that children look up to are usually so violent and bent on revenge—you know—and that kind of superhero isn't exactly who you want to follow! I wanted to create a hero who was forgiving of his enemies and doing whatever he could to help others.

**Access:** Can you share more about Super Toaster's character?

**B.C.:** Sure. Super Toaster is the kind of superhero who wants to create a happy place where everyone can live in peace. Then, when problems arise he has to cope with it. He catches the criminals and explains to them that what they're doing is completely wrong. He's a mercy-showing superhero. Most people haven't heard of that story before!

**Access:** How long is your book?

**B.C.:** It's nine chapters and an epilogue, with illustrations. I drew the illustrations myself, too!

**Access:** Have you written any other books?

**B.C.:** Yes. I have seven other books that I haven't published yet! There are several books in the Heroes of Breakfast City Series.

**Access:** What's your dream job?

**B.C.:** Ever since I was little, I've wanted to be a doctor. I want to help people—like, be a brain surgeon. But then for a while I wanted to be an author, and then an astronaut, but I think the best scenario will be a doctor, and then an author in my free time.

**Access:** What's your favorite thing about Launch?

**B.C.:** I really like how I can work anywhere, and at any time. Let's say that I need to work in the car, or maybe I have to work

somewhere else—well, I can! I was able to work outside in the backyard with my chickens when it was warm. And if we decide to go on vacation, it'll be fine.

**Access:** So, you have chickens?

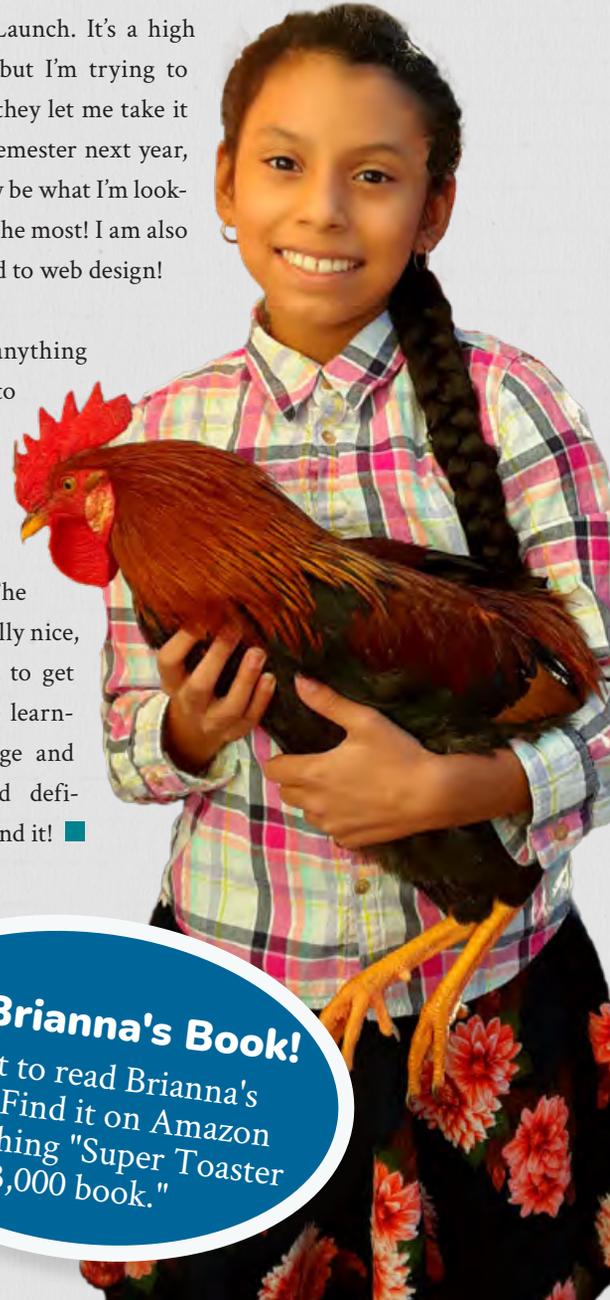
**B.C.:** Yes. I have chickens and ducks—they're really, really cute! We actually just had two ducklings born two days ago—Blackberry and Emerald. There are also some mice that live in the backyard, and we have hermit crabs and Sea-Monkeys—Watermelon and Little Jimmy.

**Access:** What are you looking forward to for next year?

**B.C.:** Well, I want to take Creative Writing with Launch. It's a high school course, but I'm trying to take it now! If they let me take it in the second semester next year, it will obviously be what I'm looking forward to the most! I am also looking forward to web design!

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

**B.C.:** Launch is a really good program. The teachers are really nice, and you're able to get the appropriate learning for your age and grade. I would definitely recommend it! ■



**Buy Brianna's Book!**  
Want to read Brianna's work? Find it on Amazon by searching "Super Toaster 3,000 book."



# Career Education Goes Virtual

Mary Edgerton, our new Assistant Principal of Launch Missouri's Workforce, shares her experience in the virtual classroom and passion for providing career-focused education online.

I began teaching for Springfield Public Schools in 2001. I started teaching computer skills to middle school students, and we eventually transitioned from that curriculum into Project Lead the Way. In 2014 I had the opportunity to move to Parkview High School, and I taught a variety of classes in the business department there. That's also when I started teaching business classes for Launch as an adjunct teacher. I really love teaching Personal Finance, because students will make personal finance decisions every day of their lives.

Last year was my first year as a full-time Launch teacher. I love the flexibility that it gives students, and I love the challenge of creating engaging and relevant

“I love the flexibility that it gives students, and I love the challenge of creating engaging and relevant learning experiences for distance learners.”

—Mary Edgerton

learning experiences for distance learners. I remember as a kid, sitting in class and thinking, ‘Where am I going to use this?’ I really yearned to connect what I was learning to my own life, so that's the way I try to teach. My favorite teachers were those who made their lessons relevant.

I think about how I can make learning personal and connected for my students. I start with the “Why” in lessons and videos—I tell them why we are learning this, why it matters, and how it can connect to their lives and their future careers.

I also build in Career Spotlights. So, if I'm teaching how to calculate gross pay in Personal Finance, I'll build in a career spotlight and tell students that if they like this work, they could be a Payroll Specialist or work in Accounting one day. Connecting the information I'm teaching to their future careers is really a passion of mine.

I'm very excited to be taking on the position of Assistant Principal of Launch Missouri's Workforce next year. The program is going to be extremely valuable for a lot of high school kids, because it's going to give them a vision of what their future could be, and it will be an important part of preparing them for college or



a career. Being able to prepare students with skills and certifications and allowing them to gain experience in career fields before they graduate is going to be a game changer for many young people.

**Note:** You can learn more about Launch Missouri's Workforce starting on p.22. ■



**Mary Edgerton**

High School Business Teacher

**Home District:** Springfield R-XII

**Years in Education:** 22

**Degree:** Bachelors Degree, Business Administration & Finance; Masters, Business Administration; Specialist, Educational Leadership (in progress)

**Fun Fact:** Mary once worked out alongside Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg at a hotel in New Orleans.

# Behind the Scenes

What's it like to work for Launch? We joined Project Coordinator Ben Cook for a day of meetings, shipments and all-things Monday.com.

**7:15 a.m.:** Although the work day officially starts at 7:30 a.m., Ben is already at his desk and in the zone by 7:15. "I like getting here early," he says. "I feel that I focus really well in the mornings."

**9:32 a.m.:** Ben spends a few minutes prepping for an upcoming IT team meeting. "I'm the Scrum Facilitator for Launch IT," says Ben, who is also Launch's Project Coordinator. "Basically, a 'Scrum Facilitator' helps keep the team on track and helps move projects forward by using the Scrum framework, which is part of the Agile project management methodology. By facilitating meetings and helping with communication for our programmers, they have more time to actually program."

**11:48 a.m.:** "Okay, thank you, have a great day as well," Ben says as he hangs up the phone. He just spoke with an individual from Ladue School District about a shipment of Garmin heart rate monitors. "One of my first tasks as project coordinator was improving how we approach class supplies, including the process we use to track and ship Garmins," Ben says. "This summer is our first summer of utilizing some of our new processes. It's going well!"

**12:27 p.m.:** Lunch time! But Ben isn't eating. "When it's nice out, I try to take a walk to break up the day," he says. "I've found that it's a good way to reset and come back with a fresh mind."

**1:23 p.m.:** Next Ben prepares for a meeting with Launch's Marketing & Engagement manager, Savannah Waszczuk. "Savannah and I meet weekly to review her team's Monday.com boards," Ben says. "Launch utilizes Monday.com as our project management software. Essentially, it helps us organize our projects, relative project information and due dates. Our meeting helps keep Savannah's team organized, and it also allows me to update our Launch initiatives boards with the Marketing & Engagement team's project updates."

**2:42 p.m.:** Break time! Ben steps away from his desk and chats with Adam Shawley, Launch's Support Desk supervisor. "I started out as a member of the Launch support staff," Ben says. "I have to take a break and chat with my old team every once in a while!"

**3:47 p.m.:** Next up, Ben starts his final task for the day—he's reviewing notes from the earlier IT meeting. "By having me there to take notes, we let the experts be experts and focus on their subject matter," Ben says. "They can stay more engaged in conversation." ■



# Growing our Gifted Program

Take a deeper look at Launch's gifted elementary programming, and learn what's new for year two!



Launch Virtual Learning's gifted programming was an instant hit with elementary learners statewide last year. "Some of the students who join us are from small districts that don't have gifted programming offered in the seated classroom," says Elicia Ligon, a Launch curriculum writer & gifted education teacher. "These types of students especially enjoyed having others to talk with about things like Rubik's Cubes and Harry Potter."

But, that was so last year! As we move into year 2 of offering gifted elementary programming, we're preparing new themes for our gifted online learners to explore. "These kids are big thinkers, and they're excited," Elicia says. "It's fun for us to find ways to keep them engaged."

## FROM SEATED TO VIRTUAL

Elicia teams up with Dee Kerr, who is also a Launch curriculum writer and gifted education teacher, to write elementary gifted content. "We write gifted units for Phelps Center for Gifted Education at Springfield Public Schools," Dee says. "As we go through this process, we also find ways for our curriculum to be formatted to work for our Launch courses."

The team began writing virtual gifted content soon after March 2020 as a result of COVID-19 causing students to finish out their years in the virtual environment.

"At first it was a bit of a challenge, because a lot of the gifted classes we write for Phelps are very hands on," Dee says. "But we've learned a lot since that time, and it's been really neat to see our ideas come to life in a different way."

## A GLIMPSE INTO CURRICULUM

"While our curriculum is focused on core subjects, a lot of the gifted content revolves around taking the student's interests and exploring topics further," Dee says. "We find ways to keep peer interaction high." The team at Phelps Center works to build affective thinking skills—such as communication, problem solving, networking and curiosity—into its lessons, all while using the University of Kansas's College and Career Competency Wheel as a guide.

## What's New in 2022?

**Flexible live times!** Per partner request, we have added more flexible live times to our gifted course offerings.

**Gifted 1-3:** Superheroes (Quarter 1); By the Dozens (Quarter 2)

**Gifted 4-5:** Alternative Energy (Quarter 1); Mystery-ology (Quarter 2) ■

## Gifted Middle School Offerings!

Did you know Launch also offers gifted courses for middle school students? See the gifted courses available for grades 6-8 at [fueledbylaunch.com](https://fueledbylaunch.com)!



# MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH MAKEOVER

Launch's redesigned middle school math courses offer interactive, hands-on content designed to keep students interested and engaged.

At Launch, we believe in a culture of continuous improvement. That's why when a few of our middle school math teachers said our courses were too assignment heavy for the allotted class time, we immediately got to work. "While we worked to decrease the overall number of assignments, I would say we actually increased the rigor and focus on priority standards," says Launch Math teacher Christie McElhinney. "We will have re-written 6th-8th grade math as well as Accelerated 7th grade math by the time the Fall 2022 semester starts."

## Let it Flow

It was important to both Launch's math teachers and digital course developers that the re-written courses had a flow. "Every unit has a pattern now," says Launch math teacher Maxcy Dimmick. "Almost every day, students will start with an interactive engagement activity, and they'll have a chance to practice their work before they actually complete an assignment. It's a bit more like a day in the seated classroom in that way."

## Pretty is as Pretty Does

"I'm really excited about the new look of the courses," says Digital Developer Amy Jackson. The new courses utilize more colors, incorporate more photos, and include more visual instruction for students. "They're very visually interesting now. They're pretty."

## Engagement for All

Launch utilizes Discovery Education for math courses, and the software provides multiple interactive activities that are built into the courses. "One that always stands out to me is the Sasquatch Snack Stand," Maxcy says. In the activity, students will order snacks at different stations for different prices, trying to buy a certain amount of product for the best value. "Discovery Education truly does provide some great resources," Maxcy says. ■

## So Many Activities

In addition to Discovery Ed activities, there are optional interactive activities built into the curriculum. "One of my favorite units is on probability, where we built in some activities with cup flipping, tossing coins and playing Rock, Paper, Scissors," Christie says. "I can't tell you how many times I flipped a cup while working on that unit. I had so much fun!"

## More About Math!

Want to learn more about our middle school math courses? You can see additional course information and view course syllabi in our course catalog at [fueledbylaunch.com](https://fueledbylaunch.com)

$$\pi = \int \frac{dx}{1+x^2} \quad a+b$$

# Meeting Needs in Golden City

After having difficulties finding a teacher, the Golden City School District utilized Launch to serve high school science students.

Launch is able to help with teacher shortage issues by providing certified educators statewide. Last year, students in Golden City logged on to work with Launch various hours throughout the day.



When Chris Long accepted the K-12 Principal position at Golden City R-II, he and his fellow administrators faced a challenge that is becoming all too familiar at schools statewide: they had recently lost a Science teacher, and they were having trouble finding a new one. “When I started, I was told that Launch was one of the options the district was looking at,” says Long.

As the Fall 2021 semester crept closer, the district was relieved to find Angela Mooney, a teacher-in-training who was excited to take on the job. But Mooney was hesitant to jump in 100 percent, as she was still working on earning her degree. “That’s where our partnership with Launch came in,” Long says. Golden

City enrolled all students taking Science courses into Launch courses so those students would be served by a Launch teacher, and those students also sat in the classroom with Mrs. Mooney for extra assistance.

## Getting Started Online

Golden City students had no prior experience with online courses before they started with Launch, so it took a bit of work to get everyone on track and up to date—students, families and teachers included. “Once we got part of the way through the first quarter, we all started settling in,” Long says. “That’s also when I started realizing how good of a teacher Mrs. Mooney was. We had some students who were struggling, including

some special education students, but Mrs. Mooney worked with Launch to get plans in place. That’s when we started to see our special education students flourish.”

As she reflects on the start of the fall semester, Mrs. Mooney agrees with Principal Long. “Online learning was a new experience for these students, and several of them needed some encouragement,” Mrs. Mooney says. “But for the most part, they were good once they figured out how to navigate it all.” She continues to speak on the quality of Launch. “There was a lot of good material built into the curriculum,” Mrs. Mooney says. “Launch did a good job of challenging our students, and I can see it greatly benefiting some of our students moving forward.”

## A Student’s Perspective

If 16-year-old Kona Daniel (pictured opposite, above) were asked to offer a new Launch student one piece of advice,

*“Our experience using Launch’s certified teacher was a very positive one, and we are looking forward to using the program in different ways moving forward.”*

—Chris Long,  
Principal

she knows exactly what she would say. “Always watch your announcement videos!,” Kona says. Kona earned her Intro to Biology credit with Launch last year as one of approximately 45 Golden City Science students. “A lot of the kids in my class wanted to just start working on their assignments, but then they’d be confused later on,” Kona says. “The teacher always shared important information in those videos.”

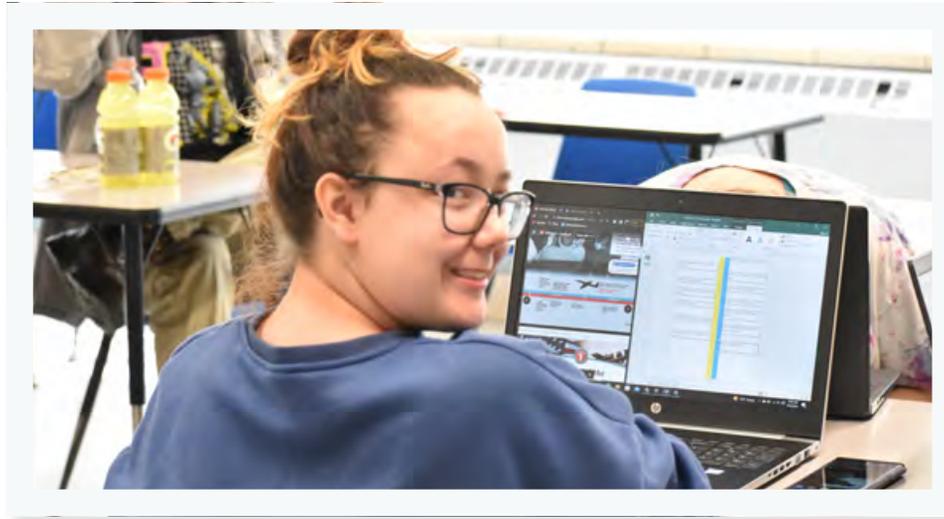
Kona often worked with her friend, Angel Lee, as they sat side by side in the classroom. “I’d pull up Gizmos on my computer, and she would pull up our assignment on hers,” Kona says. Gizmos is the name for the interactive virtual labs that Launch builds into its Science

curriculum. “Gizmos assignments were my favorite part of the online Biology class,” Kona says. “It was fun to get a new assignment and go through and play with the lab itself, pushing buttons and figuring it all out. It was easy to use, too. But that’s the other thing—if I ever had questions, the teacher was quick to help. I would tell new students to never be afraid to ask for help.”

expanded electives and credit recovery classes,” he says. “Our experience using Launch’s certified teacher was a very positive one, and we are looking forward to using the program in different ways moving forward. My takeaway is, if a first year principal, a first year counselor and AP and an uncertified teacher can make it work, it’s a well-built program.” ■

### The Future of Launch in Golden City

While Mrs. Mooney will teach Science classes solo next year, Principal Long says the district still has plans to utilize Launch. “Moving forward, we plan to use Launch to offer our students



Photos courtesy Cathy Daniel

### Golden City at a Glance

- K-12 Enrollment:** 184
- High School Population:** 97
- MASA District:** Southwest
- School Colors:** Gold & White
- Mascot:** Eagles

**Fun Fact:** Golden City is home to Cooky’s Cafe, a small-town restaurant that’s known statewide for serving up an incredible amount of homemade pies!



# Growing in Grain Valley

Learn how the Grain Valley School District utilized Launch to serve at-risk elementary readers.



The Grain Valley School District has been a Launch partner for nearly four years. “We were looking to provide our students with more opportunities,” says Dr. Beth Mulvey, the district’s Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services. “Primarily, we liked the philosophy, mission and vision of Launch, and that was important to us as we looked to serve our students who would be taking online classes. The bottom line was, we wanted a good product for our kids.” Launch Director Dr. Nichole Lemmon visited the district to present to a team of administrators, and the school officially partnered with Launch in 2018.

Last year, Grain Valley students were offered extra support with Launch Into Reading, a small, personalized course that will be offered to students statewide this fall.

## Meeting Student Needs

From the beginning, Grain Valley has allowed students to utilize Launch courses in a variety of ways. They can enroll in an online class as a solution for a scheduling conflict, or they can take classes that aren’t available at Grain Valley High School. The district also allows students to take a full Launch schedule, such as former graduate Tyler Hagan who went online with Launch so he could compete in BMX races nationwide.

“We appreciate the various ways that Launch has been able to help us serve our students,” Dr. Mulvey says. And she also appreciates the relationship that she and her associates have with the Launch team. “It’s nice to have a partnership where I can just pick up the phone, make a call and know the person I’m talking to,” Dr. Mulvey says. And this is exactly what she did in late 2021 when the district was looking for a way to serve struggling readers.

“We were working to find additional ways to serve students with Dyslexia,” Dr. Mulvey says. “We wanted to provide support that reached beyond the traditional school day, but it was really tough organizing a high-quality program during after-school hours that could accommodate students districtwide in one location.” Dr. Mulvey called Dr. Lemmon, and the two constructed a plan to offer Grain Valley students a chance to enroll into the Launch Into Reading academy—a virtual learning academy that is taught by highly qualified teachers who offer focused instruction



and personalized support. The academy was previously only offered in the summer months, though, so both Launch and Grain Valley worked to make it an option for the Spring 2021 semester.

**Launch Into Reading**

Dr. Mulvey and her crew immediately began reaching out to parents of students with dyslexia and parents of students in Tier 2 and Tier 3 reading intervention groups, and the Launch team got to work hiring certified teachers and building an after-hours schedule that could meet the needs of Grain Valley families. Two teachers were hired to serve the at-risk students, and they offered a total of three hours of after-school engagement on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

“I had a group of first and second graders,” says Kym Nelms, Launch Elementary teacher who has her Special Reading K-8 Certification with the state of Missouri and taught Grain Valley’s Launch Into Reading course. “I started out with assessments on the first two nights we met, then grouped the students accordingly based on their level of needs.” Nelms further divided her class into groups of four and five, and spent 20 or so minutes with each small group every session. “Teaching these kids was something I always looked forward to, even after a rough day,” Nelms says.

**Student Success Story**

Participating families had an equal appreciation of the class. “The entire experience was very positive, and very flexible,” says Julie White, mother of 8-year-old Cannon (pictured below). Cannon was a second-grade student in Mrs. Nelms’s Launch Into Reading class. “Sometimes we’d be driving to practice, and he’d be on his Zoom call for reading,” Julie says. By the end of the year, Cannon progressed in both his reading skills and level of confidence. “He made huge gains,” Julie says. “When he finished, he was reading with 100% accuracy.”

Cannon’s experience is one of Kym’s favorite success stories. “He was such a hesitant reader when we started, and he didn’t have confidence in himself,” Kym says. “But the more we worked together—and we were able to have a lot of one-on-one time—his confidence grew. He made amazing progress.” Mom agrees. “Before he took this class, he would pretend to read chapter books with his brothers each night,” Julie says. “My older two are strong readers, and they read every night, and Cannon always wanted to read with them but couldn’t. But now, he is able to. His confidence is there.” ■



*“We liked the philosophy, mission and vision of Launch, and that was important to us as we looked to serve our students who would be taking online classes.”*  
 —Dr. Beth Mulvey, Assistant Superintendent



**Grain Valley at a Glance**

- K-12 Enrollment:** 4,414
- High School Population:** 1,300
- MASA District:** Greater Kansas City
- School Colors:** Blue and White
- Mascot:** Eagles
- Fun Fact:** Grain Valley was founded in the 1870s and is named for the general character of the grain-producing that happened in the region as well as the geography of the land.





HEALTH SCIENCE



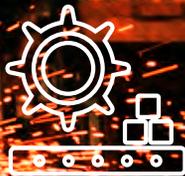
CONSTRUCTION

LAUNCH MISSOURI'S

# Workforce

**LEARN MORE ONLINE!**

Take a deeper dive into all of our Launch Missouri's Workforce Career Pathways at [fueledbylaunch.com/workforce](https://fueledbylaunch.com/workforce).



MANUFACTURING



TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS



AGRIBUSINESS



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Coming Fall 2022

Learn more about our Education pathway on p. 27



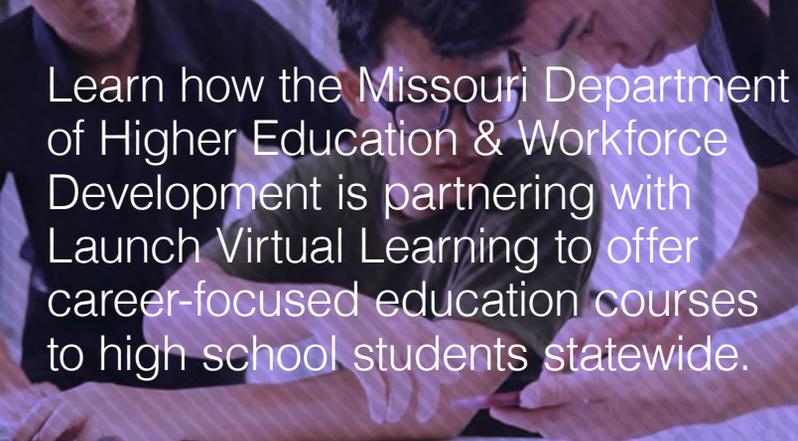
ENERGY



EDUCATION

Coming Fall 2022

Learn more about our Financial & Professional Services pathway on p. 27



Learn how the Missouri Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development is partnering with Launch Virtual Learning to offer career-focused education courses to high school students statewide.



FINANCIAL & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Coming Fall 2022

Learn more about our Hospitality & Food Service pathway on p. 28



BIO-SCIENCES



HOSPITALITY & FOOD SERVICE

Coming Spring 2023

# Program Goals



Dr. Nichole Lemmon, Launch's Director of Virtual Learning, identifies the goals of the Launch Missouri's Workforce initiative.

## 1. Expand Student Opportunity.

Since the beginning, one of Launch's core objectives has been to provide all Missouri students access to quality virtual courses, regardless of zip code. Our Launch Missouri's Workforce initiative will expand on this opportunity. "There are school districts of all sizes across Missouri, and they aren't all able to deliver career-focused education courses," Dr. Lemmon says. "By offering these classes in a virtual format, we're able to help districts provide student opportunities that otherwise may not exist."

## 2. Provide Career Exposure.

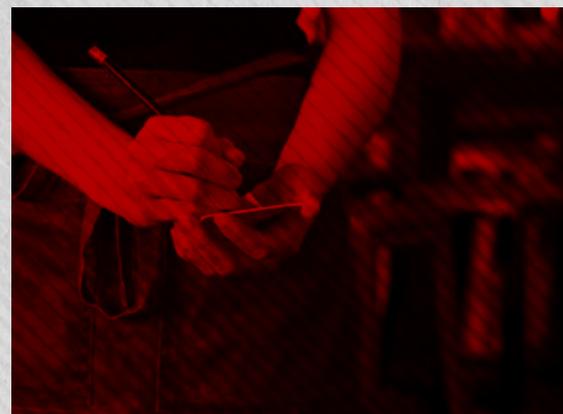
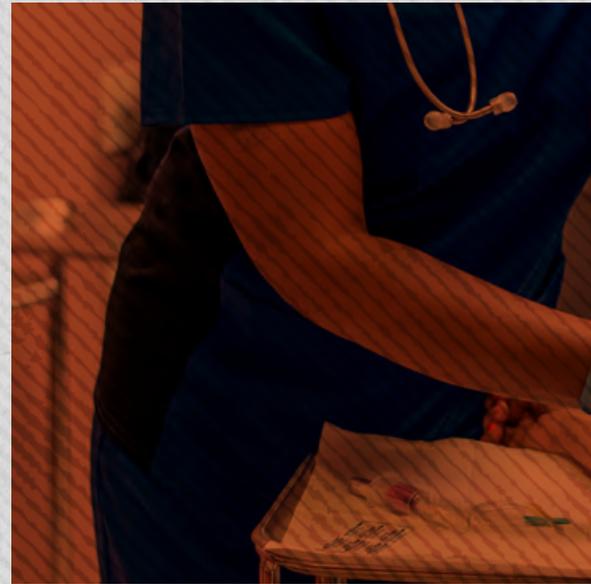
Launch Missouri's Workforce will provide students with exposure to careers that are vital to the Missouri economy. "These pathways have been vetted and identified as essential career pathways for our state," Dr. Lemmon says. "By ensuring that high school students know about the jobs that exist in Missouri and in their local communities, we're not only allowing them to start planning for life after graduation—we're also helping develop more skilled workers for our Missouri economy."

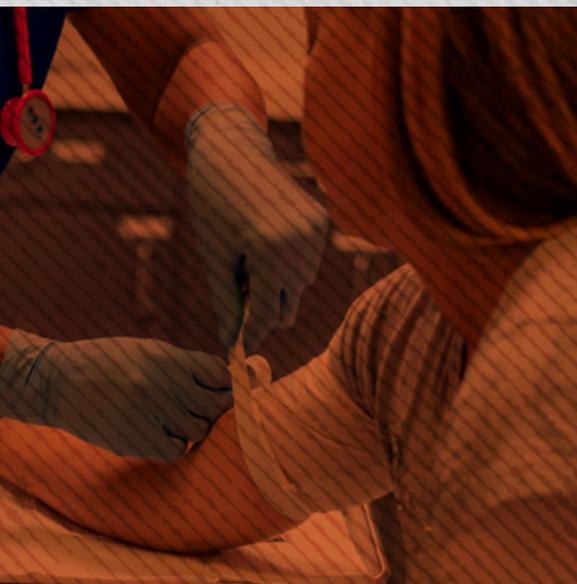
## 3. Connect Students with Industry Experts.

What's one of the best ways to gauge career interest? Ask an expert! "Our goal is to have both live and asynchronous opportunities for students to talk with industry experts to ensure that they have a real-life understanding of what the career is, what it involves and the skills it will take to get there," Dr. Lemmon says. "We're continually working on making connections all over the state to ensure our students can have that mentorship and conversation."

## 4. Contribute to Future Success.

Whether students decide to receive additional training and education or immediately jump into their careers, they'll be prepared. "These students are earning skills and credentials that allow them to go immediately into the workforce, if that's their preference," Dr. Lemmon says. "They'll have options."





# Partners for Performance

Dr. Mardy Leathers shares how the Missouri Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development is working with Launch to benefit students statewide.



“Our job is to help Missourians go to work and stay in work,” says Dr. Mardy Leathers, Missouri’s Director of Workforce Development. In addition to working with education partners at both the secondary and post-secondary levels, Leathers’s department leads the state’s apprenticeship programs, designs on-the-job training opportunities and continually works with employers to develop lifelong learning practices that skill up the existing workforce. “One of our big priorities right now is connecting more

youth to the workforce,” Dr. Leathers says. And that is where the state’s recently announced partnership with Launch—and the development of Launch Missouri’s Workforce—comes into play.

While Launch Virtual Learning will be responsible for the design, development and delivery of the virtual courses that make up the state-identified career pathways (see pathway industries on p. 22-23), state funding will aid a number of students in participating. “We hope to serve about 1,500 students a year as this

is being built out, and then as many as 2,000 students a year in perpetuity,” Dr. Leathers says. “The goal is that these students can receive an industry-recognized credential in addition to completing their coursework. So regardless if they’re going on to college or straight to work or to an apprenticeship program, we’re helping them become more marketable.”

The state’s decision to join forces with Launch on this project was based on a multitude of factors. “We’re thrilled to partner with the Launch program because number one, you have a proven framework,” Dr. Leathers says. “Also, the fact that you’re a Missouri-based and developed program ensures alignment to our state’s learning standards.” Launch currently holds partnerships with 372 school districts statewide, which also helped. “There are so many districts all over the state that use Launch already,” Dr. Leathers says. “We feel that you can help us reach a market and a population that we haven’t been able to reach in the past. The innovation, work and expertise of Launch and Springfield Public Schools is a great fit. We’re really excited to get this going and make it available for students all across the state.”

# Career-focused Courses Online

Get a glimpse of how we write and deliver career-focused education classes from Dr. Katie Kensinger, Coordinator of College & Career Readiness at Springfield Public Schools, and Melissa James, Digital Learning Developer at Launch Virtual Learning.

**Access Launch:** What is the process for writing career-focused education courses?

**Katie Kensinger:** We start by utilizing the DESE standards to determine the appropriate scope and sequence for the course, and then we plug in with the exciting work of developing lessons and figuring out how to make things as engaging and as relevant as possible.



**Access:** Does this process differ when you write career-focused courses that will be delivered in a virtual setting?

**Melissa James:** The process is similar, but we often change up assignments so they work better in an online format.



With our new career-focused education classes specifically, we've worked really hard to build in more interactive elements and include synchronous time with teachers and industry experts.

**Access:** And to build on to that question—does writing a career-focused course differ from writing a traditional course?

**K.K.:** When you're writing career-focused courses you have to be sure and stay relevant, because you always have to be up to industry standards. At SPS, we form a lot of partnerships with businesses and work with them for inspiration and fresh ideas. The key to a good career-focused education course—or really, to a quality career-focused education program—is that it is constantly changing and evolving. As industries and standards change, our curriculum is constantly updated.

**Access:** Can you share any examples of interactive course features?

**M.J.:** Students will meet with and observe a virtual teacher in our Teaching as a Profession course—and we've included a lot of information about teaching virtually—which has been a cool spin. In our marketing course we're building in a lot of presentations and business role plays, which are designed to help students build confidence and become better presenters.



**Access:** How long does it take to build a career-focused education course?

**K.K.:** That definitely varies, but I would say a half-credit class is at least 75 hours of development before you're making sure everything is perfect.

**Access:** How will Launch's new career-focused education courses benefit students?

**M.J.:** I think a key benefit is that we will be able to provide more access. By delivering career-focused education classes virtually, we are able to offer these classes to students anywhere in the state.

# Pathway Previews

Four of Launch Missouri Workforce's career-education Pathways will have classes available in the 2022-2023 school year! Learn a few of the pathway industry's facts & figures here.

## EDUCATION

### Requirements:

#### Launch Course Sequence:

Teaching as a Profession I

Teaching as a Profession II (coming soon)

#### Missouri-Industry Recognized Credential:

MO Paraprofessional Certification

### Why have a career in Education?

Those of us who work in education know that teacher shortage is no joke, which provides all the more reason for students to aim for careers as educators. Missouri's Education industry has more than 4,000 employers in both the public and private sector and provides jobs to more than 207,000 workers. There are also opportunities for high wages and projected growth.\*

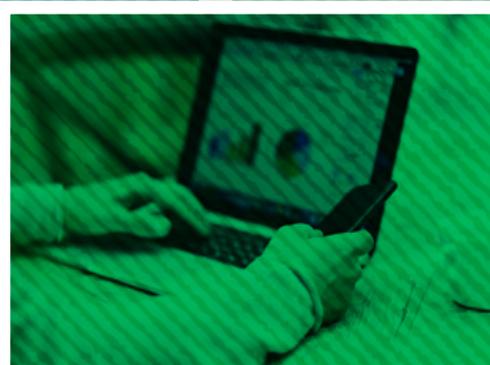
### Know the Basics

Since most employees in the Education sector interact with students and others on a daily basis, having good communication skills is key! The ability to work with co-workers as a team is also important. For those who plan to become instructors, knowledge of subject matter and the ability to adapt teaching methods and materials to meet student needs are also key.

### Who's Hiring in Missouri?

Washington University  
University of Missouri  
Saint Louis University  
Missouri State University  
Local school districts

\*Please note: All Missouri data presented in these Pathways descriptions was sourced from data published on the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center website.



## FINANCIAL & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

### Requirements:

#### Business Management & Administration:

#### Launch Course Sequence:

Introduction to Business

Accounting I

#### Missouri-Industry Recognized Credential:

ASK Institute Fundamentals of Business Concepts

#### Marketing:

#### Launch Course Sequence:

Marketing I

Marketing II (coming soon)

#### Missouri-Industry Recognized Credential:

ASK Institute Concepts of Marketing

### Why have a career in financial and professional services?

Businesses large and small have a need for financial professionals, which makes the industry a great choice of study. Missouri's Financial & Professional Services industry has a similar employment concentration to the rest of the nation, and wages in the industry averaged \$90,512 in 2020.\*

### Know the Basics

Careers in this industry frequently involve interactions with the public, so customer service skills (and being able to talk about the benefits of a service or accept criticism) is a must! Soft skills including interpersonal skills, professionalism and dependability are also important, and individuals need a knowledge of business operations, financial reporting and technology applications to be successful.

### Who's Hiring in Missouri?

Wells Fargo | Edward Jones | Humana |  
MasterCard | U.S. Bancorp

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**Launch Course Sequence:**

- AP Computer Science Principles
- AP Computer Science A

**Missouri-Industry**

**Recognized Credential:**

- Certiport IT Specialist

**Why have a career in Information Technology?**

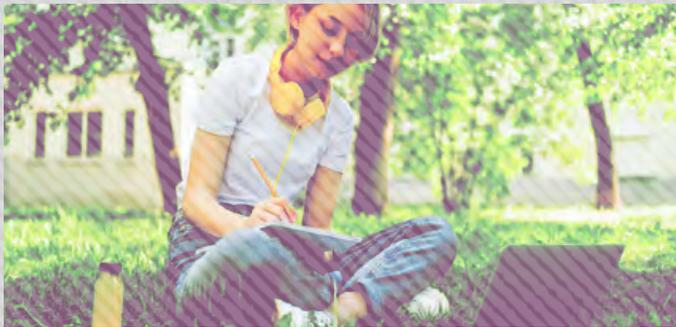
IT professionals are known for being drivers of innovation and interact with every level of an organization’s structure. In addition, businesses large and small have a need for technology experts, and that demand will continue to grow—the IT industry currently has over 11,000 employers that provide jobs to more than 89,000 workers, and wages in the industry average \$98,096.\*

**Know the Basics**

It’s important to have good communication skills if you work in IT, because your career will likely involve interactions with clients and team members. With technology constantly evolving and new innovations being discovered, a willingness to learn and apply new knowledge and skills is also crucial for success.

**Who’s Hiring in Missouri?**

- Cerner Corporation
- Fiserv.
- Jack Henry & Associates
- Envision
- SS&C Technologies Holdings



**HOSPITALITY & FOOD SERVICE**

**Launch Course Sequence:**

- Hospitality & Tourism Management Program I
- Hospitality & Tourism Management Program II

**Missouri-Industry Recognized Credential:**

- Not yet determined at press time; check our website [fueledbylaunch.com/workforce](http://fueledbylaunch.com/workforce) for updates.

**Why have a career in Hospitality & Food Service?**

As far as employability goes, individuals who study in the Hospitality & Food Service industry are in luck—the Hospitality industry represents 11.1 percent of total private sector employment in Missouri, employing more than 250,000 workers in more than 15,000 businesses in 2020. (Please note that this industry was also the most-severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which is reflected in 2020 employment data). Individuals who work in the industry have many opportunities for growth.\*

**Know the Basics**

Hi, how can we help you? The Hospitality industry depends on the ability to deliver products and services to customers in a timely and courteous manner, so dependability, adaptability and flexibility are absolutely necessary!

**Who’s Hiring in Missouri?**

- Marriott International Inc. | McDonald’s | Starbucks | Pizza Hut

\*Please note: All Missouri data presented in these Pathways descriptions was sourced from data published on the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center website.

# A Goalie with Goals

Thanks to the flexibility of Launch courses, Hunter Penberthy is able to follow his passion: playing ice hockey and traveling with his team.

**BY ABBY BROWNFIELD**

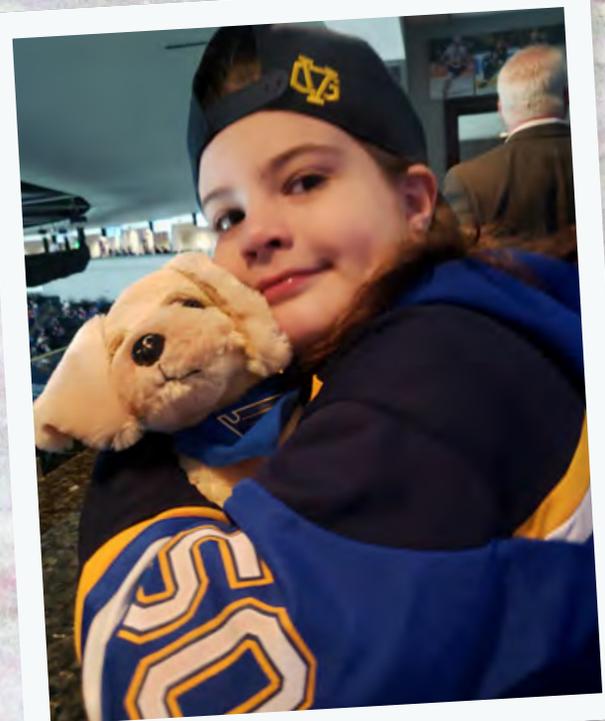
While most students can be found in the classroom on a Friday morning, you may find Hillsboro third grader Hunter Penberthy logging into his Zoom course while he's in the car on the way to a tournament. "I can travel with the class and my team as long as we have internet," Hunter says. Equipped with his Chromebook and his mom's hotspot, they're good to go!

Hunter has been taking Launch courses online full-time since the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. When he's working from home, his grandma often comes over to help him during the day—then he goes to practice in the afternoon. "You can have anyone help you, as long as they have time," Hunter says.

He's enjoyed working with Grandma, though—especially in his favorite classes.

"My favorite subject is math," Hunter says. "I also like the art we did in class."

Hunter has traveled as far as Wisconsin for a tournament, and he's also gotten to play at Notre Dame. "The year before I started with Launch, my team got first place!" Hunter says. And he likely has many celebrations ahead, as he dreams to play as a goalie in the NHL one day. ■



# Learning as they go!

Springfield's Hedley Frank family travels the country with four kids in Launch—and a total of 10 individuals in an RV—as they film their new docuseries.

As soon as the Hedley Frank kids arrive home from summer school, they make a beeline to the dining room where their two dads—Ethan and Rob—are sitting at the table. “Guess what we did today!” says Rozlee, age 9. Rozlee is smiling from ear to ear, giddy with excitement to share his day's big adventure with his two dads. “What did you do?” replies Rob, or “R-Dad,” as the kiddos call him.

Next Rozlee tells his dads about a water game he played during his summer school field trip. Meanwhile, 7-year-old Maytrim looks up and smiles at Ethan—a.k.a. “E-Dad,”—from behind the dining room table. “I got a spider painted on my face!” Maytrim says as he points at his cheek. Little sister Rose, age 6, chimes in, too. “And I got a kitty!” she says. As Maytrim walks out of the kitchen, he leaves his dad's with a quick last request. “Oh, and I need to be signed up for my field trip!”

Rozlee, Maytrim and Rose are three of Rob and Ethan's seven children, and their current summer school experience marks the first time they've attended a school building since 2020. “They

really do enjoy going to school,” Rob says. But a variety of health concerns and the COVID-19 pandemic have kept them away from the seated classroom for the last few years. The good news, though, is that they have been able to continue learning—and to travel around the country—with the help of Launch.

## THE JOURNEY TO NOW

Rob and Ethan have been together for 13 years, and they've been parents for the last eight of those years. “We started out with fostering elevated behavior boys,” Rob says. Next the couple took on children who had severe drug addictions, and eventually they took in drug-addicted babies. “We have had various issues due to the children's different experiences,” Rob says. “We ended up doing some home bound before we started with Launch.”

The Hedley Franks officially started with Launch in the Fall 2020 semester. “It took us a bit to get on board with IEPs and things at first,” Rob says. But after spending some time working with Amy Bollinger, Launch's Special Education Liaison, things improved. “Once we had everything set up, it was much better,” Rob says. “In fact, we actually enjoyed the opportunity, and we were grateful that we were able to make it work with our travel.”

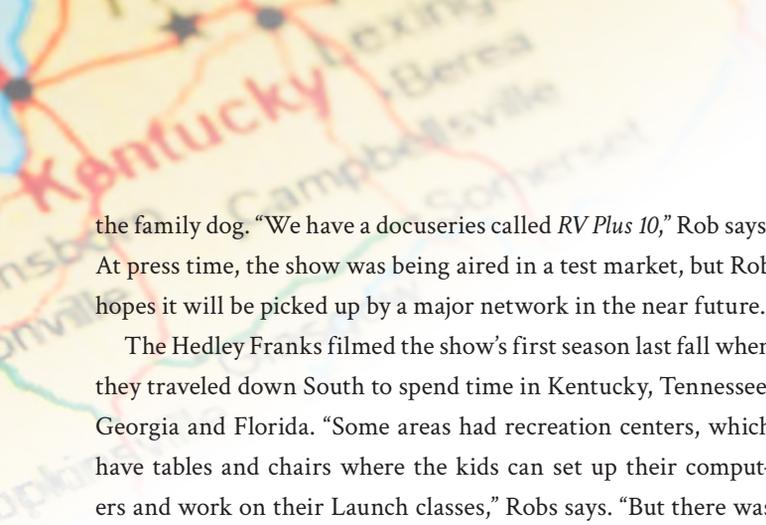
## LIFE ON THE ROAD

When Rob mentions travel, he's referring to the cross-country travel that he, Ethan and the kids—all 7 of them—do in their RV. And of course, we can't forget



Ethan, a.k.a. “E-Dad,” with the Hedley Frank children.





the family dog. “We have a docuseries called *RV Plus 10*,” Rob says. At press time, the show was being aired in a test market, but Rob hopes it will be picked up by a major network in the near future.

The Hedley Franks filmed the show’s first season last fall when they traveled down South to spend time in Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and Florida. “Some areas had recreation centers, which have tables and chairs where the kids can set up their computers and work on their Launch classes,” Robs says. “But there was one area we stayed in—a really remote area in Florida—where we

drove 30 minutes both ways so the kids could work at the library.”



Regardless of the circumstances, the family did what they had to in order to make Launch work, and

they plan to do the same in

Spring 2023 as they film season 2.

Rob’s goal for the show is to encourage other foster families to follow their dreams. “It says ‘Okay, we don’t have all the answers, and we don’t do everything right—we fail,’” Rob says. “But, I think for foster parents, seeing that can be encouraging. They’ll see it and think, ‘Well, okay, if those two clowns can do that and travel all over the country with these kids, we can do it, too!’ I hope we give other families ideas and encouragement.”

### ROZLEE’S SUCCESS ONLINE

Rozlee (pictured right, and above right) had trouble in the classroom before starting with Launch. “He hated school,” Rob says. “We ended up taking him out of kindergarten because I was going to the school about every day.” Rozlee has ODD (Oppositional Defiant Disorder), a behavior disorder that applies to children who are uncooperative, defiant and hostile toward peers, parents, teachers and other authority figures. “He started with Launch in second grade, and we had a bit of an up and down then,” Rob says. “But his teacher last year made all the difference.”

Rozlee was in Mrs. Nelms third grade class. “She took it upon herself to always make sure that she interacted with him personally,” Rob says. “She cared enough to take an extra-personal approach with him, and I think it made all the difference.

There was one day when the kids weren’t going to be able to log



on—we were having a beach day—and Rozlee was the only one who was upset. He said ‘No! I want to see Mrs. Nelms!’”

Rozlee’s behavior has also been much-improved since returning to seated summer school, and Rob credits much of this to the progress he made with Mrs. Nelms.

### KYLE MAKES A TURN-AROUND

Rob and Ethan’s second-oldest son, 15-year-old Kyle (pictured above left), also significantly improved his study skills after starting with Launch. “Before Kyle had found ways to work the system,” Rob says. In the years that he attended seated school, Kyle often did all he could to not work, including finding ways to get kicked out. But with Launch, things are different. “I learned that if I do things right the first time, I won’t have to go back and redo it all,” Kyle says.

And the family’s travel has actually helped with this. “Kyle is always making friends everywhere we go,” Rob says. “He’ll make friends at a campground, and he’ll want to go hang out with them. Well, he knows I’m going to get in Canvas and check his work, so he knows to do it right the first time around.” Rob also credits Kyle’s new found success—including lettering in academics—to the Launch team and their help with his IEP. “He has short-term memory loss, so he would often struggle to work on different subjects every day,” Rob says. “Well, Launch got him set up to work on one subject each day, plus his IEP classes, and he has become much more successful.” ■



Fueled By

# LAUNCH

## MEMBER DISTRICT DIRECTORY

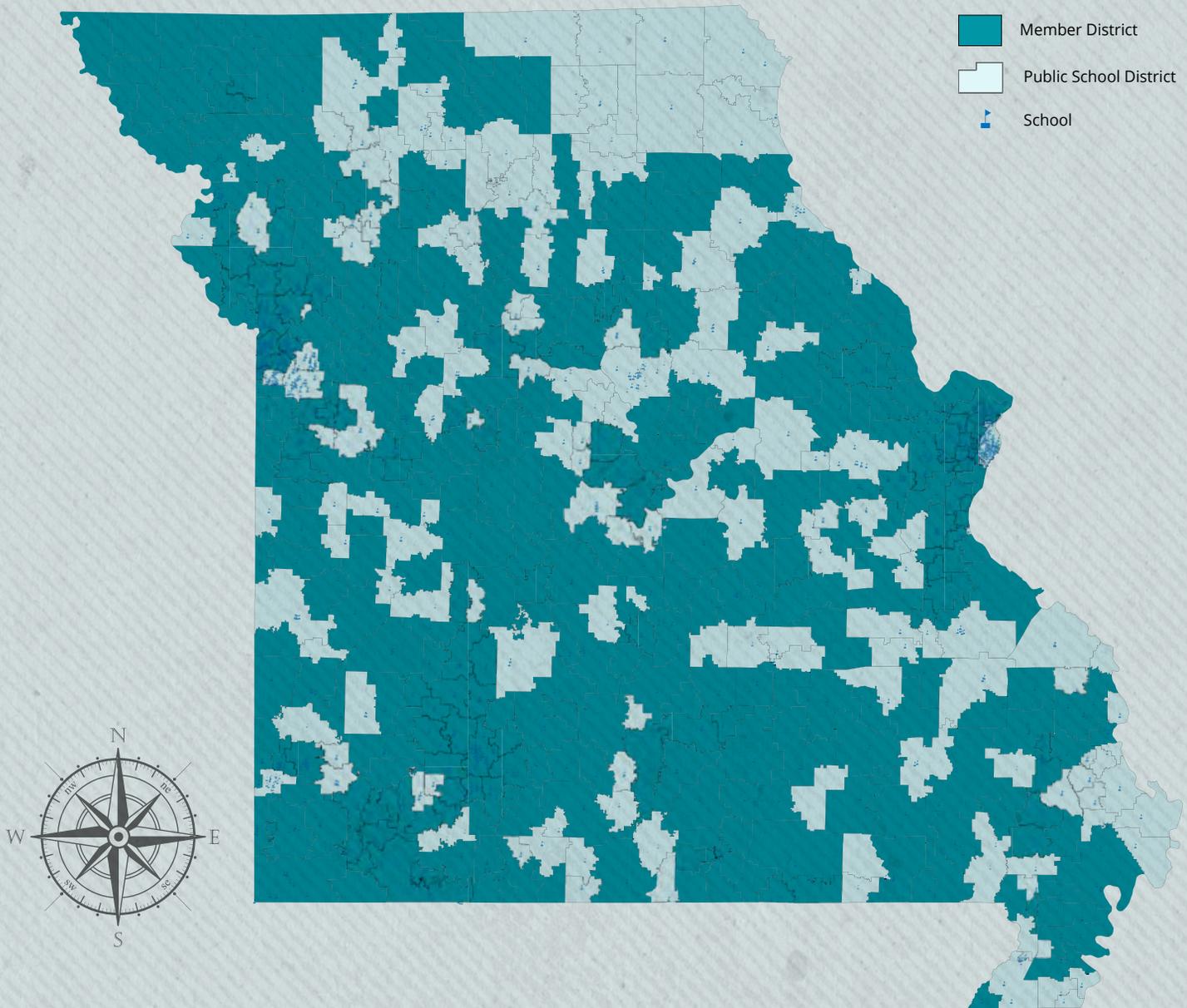
Below are the Missouri school districts who are partnered with Launch to help give all Missouri students equal course access.

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 • Camdenton 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 • Cooper Co. R-IV • 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 • Dixon R-I School District • 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 • Eminence R-I • 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 • Henry Co. R-I • 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 • Independence School District • 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-I • Ladue • Lakeland Behavioral Health System • 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 • 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 • Premier Charter School • 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 • Stafford 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 • Wellsville-Middletown R-I • 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. • Wynona Public Schools

Disclaimer: Listed member districts are accurate as of press time (July 22, 2022).

# MEMBER DISTRICT MAP

Is your district a Launch partner? Check out our 372 (and growing) member districts statewide!



## Get social with Launch!

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

[#fueledbylaunch](#) | [#WhyLaunch](#)



