

ENROLL TODAY: LAUNCH IS OPEN FOR 2026 SPRING & SUMMER!

Spring 2026

ACCESS

LAUNCH

THE VOICE OF VIRTUAL LEARNING IN MISSOURI

**BIGGEST
SUMMER
EVER!**



Launch is offering students **more** choices, **more** flexibility and **more** learning this summer, all to build **BIG** momentum for the school year ahead!

Updated Launch Learning Academies

Help students strengthen Math & Reading skills in June and July!

Legislation Station

Launch's Government course issues important state-required testing

Introducing: Launch

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

What is Launch?

Launch is Missouri's virtual school that was created as a solution for our state's course access issues. We understand that all Missouri school districts are not able to offer students equal course offerings, so we made it our goal to create top-notch courses online and make them available to districts statewide. Launch's digital development and curriculum departments partner to create online courses that are aligned to Missouri Learning Standards and delivered to online learners by high-quality Missouri educators. Launch is partnered with schools across the state and serves the needs of thousands of Missouri students.

Where can I learn more?

Our website, fueledbylaunch.com, is the best way to quickly learn more about who we are and what we offer. You'll find a full list of current course offerings 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.

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

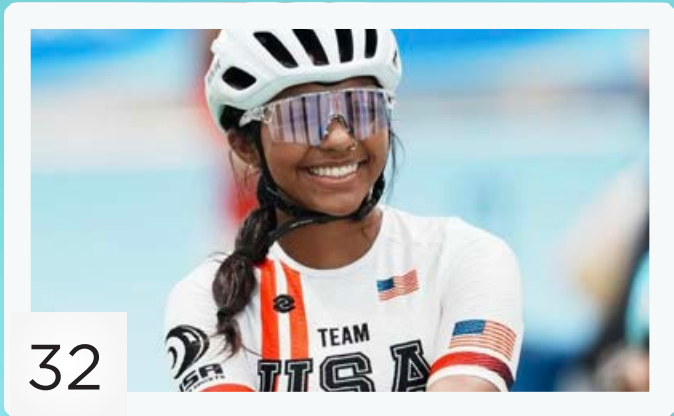
Designed for students in grades 6-8, Launch's middle school catalog includes courses in all core areas as well as multiple world language offerings and exploratories. All class sizes are limited to 33:1 with live classes available, and teachers live and work in Missouri school districts.

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.

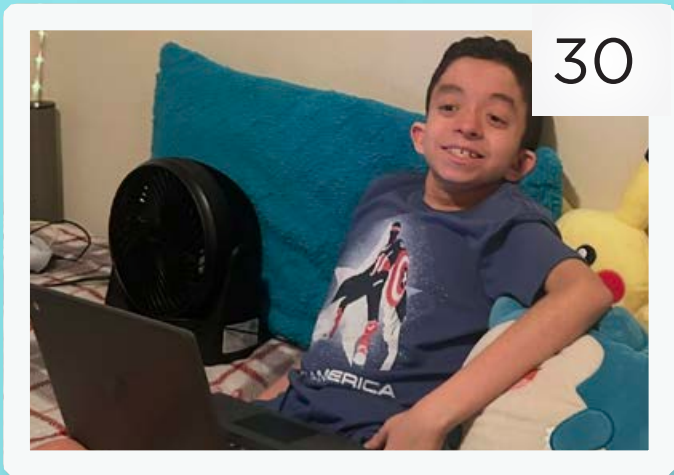


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WHY I LAUNCH

Elite athlete Minley Crawford shares how Launch lets her compete internationally—without putting graduation on hold.

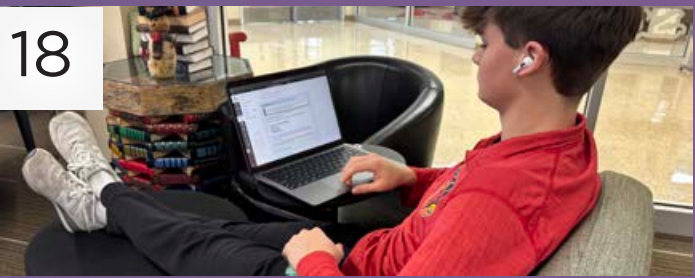


SUCCESS STORY

After years of medical challenges, Alex Ornelas finds stability, growth, and confidence through Launch Virtual Learning.

DISTRICT PROFILE: LAWSON

Learn how the Lawson school district partners with Launch to fill course gaps, increase flexibility, and better serve students.



BIGGEST SUMMER EVER

BIG Learning. **BIG** Flexibility. **BIG** Momentum.

Explore how Launch's summer programming helps students stay engaged, earn credits, and enter the upcoming school year strong.

DISTRICT PROFILE: NORTH KANSAS CITY

North Kansas City Schools uses Launch to offer rigorous virtual options—all while keeping students connected to their home schools and community.



ACCESS

LAUNCH

THE VOICE OF VIRTUAL LEARNING IN MISSOURI

Staff Poll

Pretend you morphed back to high school. What summer Launch class would you take?

The Launch Team

Dr. Nichole Lemmon

Executive Director of Virtual Learning & Strategic Planning

Sign me up for Driver's Education! I'm all about that car insurance discount (oh, and learning to be a safe driver)!

Student Services

Hannah Parsley

Assistant Director of Virtual Learning, Academics

I would take all of my PE courses during the summer, because I never enjoyed having to dress out at school.

Dr. Kara Boehmer

K-12 Principal

Claire Ferlita

System Supervisor

Global Distribution & Logistics. It's an exciting and prominent field right now, and I think it would be cool to learn about since it impacts every person's daily life!

David Schuman

Coordinator of Virtual Counseling Services

Rita Johnson

Counselor

I would have loved to take Teaching as a Profession (go figure!), Principles of Bio Med (science nerd) or Creative Writing!

Kelsey Valis

Counselor

Tory Zettl

Counselor

I probably would have taken a body systems class, because I would have been keenly interested in that topic. I also might have taken Art Foundations because as a geeky orchestra kid, I never had time for art in my schedule after elementary school.

Caitlyn Mercado

Data-Driven Instructional Specialist

Teaching as a Profession. I mean, hello, I have only wanted to be a teacher since I was in first grade! Getting to have an introduction into the profession while in high school is a plus.

Jan McClellan

English Language Development Specialist

Creative Writing for sure!

Courtney Creed

Special Education Liaison

Hillary Suttles

Department Secretary

I would take PE, because who wants to sweat in front of people?

Andrea Hackenwerth

SIS Coordinator

Kaleigh Scott

SIS Coordinator

Marie Bakker

Executive Assistant

Hannah Brown

Department Secretary

I would have loved to take Spanish. It wasn't required for me to graduate, but it was for a lot of people I know. I've always been interested in learning a foreign language.

Nikki Duke

Department Secretary

I would definitely love to do virtual PE! I was not an A-grade PE student during the school year.

Engagement & Creative Services

Savannah Waszczuk

Manager, Marketing and Engagement

I probably would have taken ACT Prep—I was always looking for extra tips and tricks to improve my ACT score!

Jared Chester

Graphic Designer

Outdoor Living & Safety seems like the perfect excuse get outside and enjoy some summer sun!

Development

Dr. Meghan Roe

Assistant Director, Operations

Definitely Physical Education I. I would have loved to exercise individually and not have had to dress out or play sports with competitive classmates. (I'm not exactly an athletic specimen).

Linda Ayres

Quality Assurance Specialist

I would take Physical Fitness, that way I could do my own workouts and not have to take a class with a bunch of sweaty classmates!

Nicki Dickson

Digital Developer

It will always be summer PE for me! I was already doing summer workouts for sports, so why not get credit for something I already have to do?

Amy Jackson

Digital Developer

Employment Internship—If I have a summer job, why not also get some school credit for it?

Melissa James

Digital Developer

Amy Shaw

Digital Developer

If I were magically teleported back to elementary school, I would definitely pick Launch Liftoff. Their classes were always the most fun and exciting—they managed to make every topic feel like an adventure.

Eric Tran

Digital Developer

Gerri Flint

Digital Developer

Ashley Horton

Digital Developer

Adam Robertson

Digital Developer

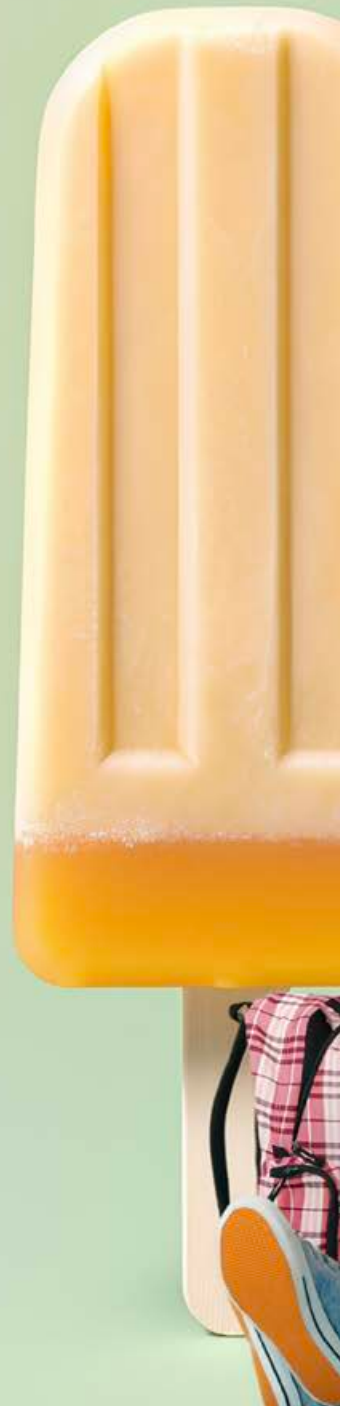
Shannon Mawhiney

Digital Developer

Any World Language course. I love learning new languages!

Tyler Hill

Digital Developer



Nicole Herrell
Digital Developer

IT and Support

Darren Rush
Launch Support Specialist

Jay Grawe
Application Specialist

Mark Grant
Software Developer

Astronomy rocks, even though most of it is just gas.

Ivy Hamilton
Software Developer

Curtis Brown
Inventory Clerical

Ben Cook
Project Coordinator

I'd love to learn to speak Japanese so that one day I can visit Japan while being able to talk with people and read the language!

Wendy Arendell
Launch Support Specialist

Physical Fitness, just to avoid changing into the beautiful, school-issued PE shorts and shirt!

Michael Hamman
Launch Support Specialist

Robert Tinney
Launch Support Specialist

Tosha Stegall
Launch Support Specialist

I would take Fine Arts Appreciation for Music or Art. They seem like fun classes to take during the summer, and earn credit for!

Student Services

Jason Bradley
Assistant Principal

William Bruner
Assistant Principal

Ashley Cornish
Assistant Principal

John Mott
Assistant Principal

American Baseball History. It's baseball!

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Help students boost their math and reading skills with our updated summer academies!

Contact Us

1410 S. Kansas Expy.
Springfield, MO 65807
(417) 523-0417



"When students stay engaged academically over the summer months, they return to school more confident, more prepared, and better positioned to grow."
—Dr. Nichole Lemmon

Director's Note

Launch helps students build skills and confidence through summer learning.

As we begin a new year, I am grateful for the opportunity to share what is ahead for Launch Virtual Learning and the students we serve. This January 2026 issue of *Access Launch* is focused on an area that matters deeply to families and educators alike, summer learning.

Summer is more than a break. It is a powerful opportunity. When students stay engaged academically over the summer months, they return to school more confident, more prepared, and better positioned to grow. Summer learning can accelerate progress, strengthen foundational skills, and provide targeted support in the areas students need most.

That is why we are excited to offer revamped and improved Summer Academies designed to meet students where they are and help them move forward. For our elementary and middle school students, we have strengthened and refreshed our Launch Into Reading, Launch Into Math and Launch Into Coding Academies with engaging instruction and skill building experiences that keep learning active and meaningful. These programs are designed to be supportive, student friendly, and focused on measurable growth while still leaving space for students to enjoy the best parts of summer.

For our high school students, Launch Virtual Learning will again provide flexible pathways through first time credit and

credit recovery options. Whether a student is working to stay on track, catch up, or create a clearer path to graduation, these courses are built to provide structure, support, and high expectations.

Across every grade level, our goal is the same. We want to expand access, strengthen outcomes, and ensure students have options that support their success. Thank you for your continued partnership in making Launch Virtual Learning a trusted resource for students and families across our community and beyond.

Wishing you a strong start to 2026 and a summer of opportunity ahead.

See you online,

Dr. Nichole Lemmon
Executive Director of Virtual
Learning & Strategic Planning



LAUNCH LETTERS

Lots of families love us and our teachers, and we're excited to share their kind words!



◀ TEACHER PRAISE

I just wanted to reach out and say thank you! **Wyatt** (pictured left) adores you. You have helped him so much. You give him the encouragement he needs when he is down. The comments encouraging him make him smile. After he gets done with you helping him, he always comes and tells me how much you helped. He's going through a really rough time with his POTS diagnosis and having migraines, and we are still in the process of different medicines and doctors with him. Thank you for being

so understanding and helpful. Thank you again, so much.

Chelsea
Launch Parent
St. Joseph

This letter was sent from a parent to Launch Social Studies teacher Julia Banfield. We appreciate Mrs. Banfield and our additional 400+ Launch teachers for working hard to help each and every one of their students succeed!-Editor

A FIVE-STAR REVIEW

My son is on the spectrum and has been in Launch since Kindergarten (and is now in third grade). This program has been amazing for him. All his teachers have been exceptional teachers with big hearts. I had to put in some work at the beginning to know how to use Canvas and all of the other applications, but that's understandable (and my responsibility as the parent of a child doing school at home!) He now navigates it all himself, and I just have to check my daily emails and occasionally check Canvas. I'm grateful for everyone in the background at Launch as well. The amount they do to help students with school work and home life is amazing! My son is happy and thriving at Launch. Thank you!

Carley
Launch Parent

This note was left as a Google Review for Launch Virtual Learning. We are so happy that we are helping this student succeed! Thanks to his mom, too, for helping him learn how to use Canvas Learning Management System. It takes a village, and we're happy to be a part of yours!-Editor

CONTACT US:

Do you want to share a positive Launch experience, or would you like to learn more about our program? Either way, we would love to hear from you! Send us a message at partners@fueledbylaunch.com if you have comments, questions or a request for a visit!



▲ MRS. CAMPBELL (& COMPANY) FOR THE WIN!

I just wanted to take time to let you know that you and the Launch program are our heroes, and we appreciate everything you have done for our grandson, **Chase** (pictured above). When he was in the seated classroom, he was full of anxiety, dread, and was never happy for school. Now we have a child who is excited for class and to see how his grades are, and he strives to keep them up. We are so proud of him and the success he is having, and we know it wouldn't be possible without you. So thank you so much.

Michelle
Launch Parent
Conway

This letter was sent from a grandparent to Launch Special Education Teacher Brandy Campbell, as well as several other Launch Special Education and middle school teachers. The entire SPED team, as well as our middle school instructors, consistently go above and beyond to help their students both inside and outside of the virtual classroom, and we couldn't be more appreciative! Thanks team!-Editor



Superintendent's Note

State leaders saw the power of district collaboration with a visit to the Launch office.

Each semester, *Access Launch* offers an opportunity to reflect on the progress of Launch Virtual Learning and the collective work that makes it successful. This point in our journey is especially meaningful as we continue to see strong validation of our shared mission and model.

Recently, Springfield Public Schools welcomed members of the Missouri State Board of Education for an on-site visit. During their time with us, we were proud to highlight Launch Virtual Learning and the impact it is having for students across the state. The visit reinforced the importance of district-led innovation and showcased how public schools can work collaboratively to meet the evolving needs of learners.

Launch Virtual Learning is built on 407 powerful statewide partnerships. That's the number of Missouri school districts that have come together to design and sustain a virtual learning model that prioritizes quality, accountability, and local control. Rather than relying on out-of-state providers, Launch keeps public education funding in Missouri by supporting local educators, strengthening district capacity, and reinvesting in our communities.

This collaborative approach is delivering results. Launch Virtual Learning is proud to be the highest academic performing virtual MOCAP provider in Missouri, a distinction that reflects the commitment of our educators and partner districts. High expectations, strong instruction, and continuous improvement remain at the center of our work.

As we move forward, Launch Virtual Learning will continue to evolve while staying grounded in its original purpose: providing students with high-quality virtual options through a model created by and for Missouri public schools. Together, we are proving that collaboration, not competition, is the key to sustainable innovation in education.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of Launch Virtual Learning and the students we serve.

Dr. Grenita Lathan
Superintendent, Springfield Public Schools



“Launch Virtual Learning proves what’s possible when Missouri school districts come together to lead innovation and keep public education strong.”

—Dr. Grenita Lathan

BY THE NUMBERS

Learn the latest fascinating figures that sum up our world of online learning.

FALL 2025 SUPPORT

6,258 CALLS
5,159 EMAILS
687 CHATS

FALL 2025 MATERIALS

2,158 HEART RATE MONITORS
1,204 CHROMEBOOKS
423 ROCKET SHOP SWAG

FALL 2025
MISSOURI
TEACHER
STIPENDS

\$2,211,066

407

MEMBER DISTRICTS

20,383

SUMMER 2025 ENROLLMENTS

SUMMER!

Learn about our summer 2026 programming on p. 22!

401

FALL 2025 TEACHERS

34,210

FALL 2025 ENROLLMENTS



COURSE CATALOG

HIGH SCHOOL CATALOG

Electives

A+ Tutoring ●
 ACT Prep ●
 Driver Education ■ ●
 Strategic Algebra ■ LIVE ●
 Student Leadership (STAR) ●
 Volunteerism ●

English Language Arts

AP English Lit. & Comp. ■ AP ●
 Contemporary Literature ■ ●
 Creative Writing I ■ ●
 Creative Writing II ●
 English I ■ ■ LIVE ●
 English II ■ ■ LIVE ●
 English III ■ ■ LIVE ●
 English IV ■ ■ ●
 Film as Literature I ■ ●
 Film as Literature II ■ ●
 Grammar & Composition I ■ ●
 Grammar & Composition II ■ ●
 Introduction to Speech ■ ●

English Language Development

ELD English Acquisition ■ LIVE ●
 ELD English I ●
 ELD Government ●
 ELD Health ●
 ELD Personal Finance ●
 ELD Secondary & Learning Lab ■ LIVE ●

Fine Arts

AP Studio Art 2-D Design AP ●
 Art Foundations ●
 Fine Arts Appreciation I: Music ■ ●
 Fine Arts Appreciation II: Art ■ ●
 Music Theory I ■ ●
 Music Theory II ●
 Theater I ●

Health & PE

Health ■ ●
 Lifetime Fitness ●
 Outdoor Living & Safety ●
 Physical Education I ●
 Physical Fitness ■ ●

Mathematics

Algebra I ■ ■ LIVE ●
 Algebra IA (CRC only) ■ ●

Algebra IB (CRC only) ■ ●
 Algebra II ■ ■ LIVE ●
 AP Calculus AB ■ AP ●
 AP Calculus BC ■ AP ●
 AP Statistics ■ AP ●
 College Algebra ■ ●
 Foundations of Algebra ■ ●
 Geometry ■ ■ LIVE ●
 Geometry Concepts (CRC only) ■ ●
 Precalculus ●
 Precalculus with Trigonometry ■ ●
 Professional Math ■ ●
 Statistics AP ●
 Trigonometry ■ ●

Practical Arts

Agricultural Communications ■ ●
 Agricultural Sales & Marketing ■ ●
 Agricultural Science I - Agribusiness ■ ●
 AP Computer Science A ■ AP PLTW ●
 AP Computer Science Principles AP PLTW ●
 Business Finance I ■ ●
 Civil Engineering & Architecture PLTW ●
 Computer Applications ●
 Computer Science Essentials PLTW ●
 Digital Communications ■ ●
 Employment Internship ●
 Global Distribution & Logistics I ■ ●
 Hospitality & Tourism Management I ■ ●
 Hospitality & Tourism Management II ■ PLTW ●
 Human Development I ■ ●
 Introduction to Business ■ ●
 Introduction to Engineering Design PLTW ●
 Marketing I ■ ●
 Marketing II ■ ●
 Medical Interventions PLTW ●
 Personal Finance ■ ■ ●
 Principles of Engineering PLTW ●
 Teaching as a Profession I ■ ●
 Teaching as a Profession II ■ PLTW ●
 Web Design ●

Science

AP Physics ■ AP ●
 Astronomy ■ ●
 Chemistry ■ ■ ●
 Earth Science ■ ■ ■ ●

General Biology

Human Body Systems PLTW ●
 Integrated Science (CRC only) ■ ●
 Physical Science ■ ■ ■ LIVE ●
 Principles of Biomedical Science PLTW ●

Social Studies

African American History ●
 American Baseball History ●
 American Civil War ●
 AP European History AP ●
 AP Psychology ■ AP ●
 AP US Gov. & Politics ■ AP ●
 AP US History ■ AP ●
 AP World History ■ AP ●
 Economics ●
 Government ■ ■ ■ LIVE ●
 Liberty & Law (CRC only) ■ ●
 Psychology ■ ●
 Psychology of Genocide ●
 Sociology ●
 US History ■ ■ ■ LIVE ●
 World Geography ■ ■ ●
 World History ■ ■ ■ ●

Special Education

11-12th Grade Transition ■ LIVE ●
 Basic English I ■ LIVE ●
 Basic English II ■ LIVE ●
 Basic English III ■ LIVE ●
 Basic English IV ■ LIVE ●
 Basic Math I ■ LIVE ●
 Basic Math II ■ LIVE ●
 Basic Math III ■ LIVE ●
 Strategies 11-12 ■ LIVE ●
 Strategies 9-10 ■ LIVE ●

World Language

French I ■ ●
 French II ■ ●
 French III ■ ●
 French IV ■ ●
 German I ■ ●
 German II ■ ●
 Japanese I ■ ●
 Japanese II ■ ●
 Spanish I ■ ●
 Spanish II ■ ●
 Spanish III ■ ■ ●

Catalog Key

■ Honors | ■ Credit Acquisition | ■ Credit Recovery | ■ Dual Credit | ■ Launch Missouri's Workforce | PLTW Project Lead the Way
 ● NCAA Approved | AP Advanced Placement | ■ Co-Taught Course | ■ LIVE Launch Live Course | ● 0.5 Credit Course | ● 1.0 Credit Course

— F u e l e d B y —

LAUNCH

Fall 2025 - Spring 2026

MIDDLE SCHOOL CATALOG

English Language Arts

English Language Arts 6th Grade • LIVE
 English Language Arts 7th Grade • LIVE
 English Language Arts 8th Grade • LIVE
 Reading 6th Grade • LIVE
 Reading 7th Grade • LIVE
 Reading 8th Grade • LIVE

English Language Development

ELD English Acquisition • LIVE
 ELD Middle School Language & Learning Lab

Exploratories

App Creators PLTW
 Design & Modeling PLTW
 Flight & Space PLTW
 Medical Detectives PLTW
 Music Journeys I
 Music Journeys II
 Music Journeys III
 Outdoor U

Visual Arts I

Visual Arts II
 Visual Arts III

Gifted Education

Cryptography
 TED-Ed Student Talks

Health & PE

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

Mathematics

Accelerated 7th Grade Math
 Algebra I 8th Grade
 Mathematics 6th Grade • LIVE
 Mathematics 7th Grade • LIVE
 Mathematics 8th Grade • LIVE

Science

Science 6th Grade • LIVE
 Science 7th Grade • LIVE
 Science 8th Grade • LIVE

Social Studies

Social Studies 6th Grade • LIVE
 Social Studies 7th Grade • LIVE
 Social Studies 8th Grade • LIVE

Special Education

Basic English 6th Grade • LIVE
 Basic English 7th Grade • LIVE
 Basic English 8th Grade • LIVE
 Basic Math 6th Grade • LIVE
 Basic Math 7th Grade • LIVE
 Basic Math 8th Grade • LIVE
 Strategies 6-8 • LIVE

World Language

Spanish I

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CATALOG

Kindergarten - 5th Grade*

Homeroom

English Language Arts
 Mathematics
 Science
 Social Studies
 Health

Specials

Art
 Music
 Physical Education

English Language Development

ELD Elementary Language & Learning Lab

Launch LiftOff (Gifted Services)

Thinking and Affective Skills Lessons for Gifted Learners with new themed content each quarter!

*Elementary students are required to be enrolled full time.



Rocketing Ahead

Learn how Launch brought PBIS to our online classrooms.

If you know much about Launch, you know that we have a can-do attitude. Our general mantra? If you can do it in a school building, we can do it online! Enter implementing a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) process, and hold on to your hats—we did it!

PBIS is all about creating positive, safe, and effective learning environments by teaching and reinforcing good behaviors rather than just punishing missteps, and we believe it's great for student engagement and growth. And if you can do it seated, you absolutely know we can do it, too! It just looks a little different on our side of the house.

PBIS in the Virtual Setting

At Launch, this framework comes to life through our Every Rocket Ready (ERR) Matrix (pictured below left), which we developed to help guide students to be Engaged, Responsible and Respectful in both their live classes and independent work. Under each category, the matrix outlines practical ways students can show these traits, including turning cameras on and participating actively, practicing positive self-talk, using kind words in breakout rooms, submitting assignments on time, and asking for help when needed.

“Our goal was to improve student behavior in a virtual environment,” says Launch Virtual Learning K-12 Principal Dr. Kara Boehmer. “Misbehavior here looks different than in a traditional classroom. For us, it’s students being disengaged or not turning in assignments. The ERR Matrix gives everyone a clear roadmap for success.”

Positive Reinforcement

Teachers reinforce PBIS behaviors using Rocket Boosters—points students earn when they demonstrate Every Rocket Ready expectations. Boosters can be redeemed in the Launch Rocket Shop for both tangible and experience-based rewards, with swag items like stickers, pens, and hoodies as well as special opportunities such as Principal for an Hour or lunch with a counselor. They have also implemented class-wide activities that students can choose, with items like brain breaks, reading time, or choosing a teacher’s Zoom background. “Teachers are also empowered to tailor rewards to what works best for their students,” Dr. Boehmer says. “This helps ensure the system feels meaningful, motivating, and authentic in every classroom.”



LAUNCH MISSOURI'S



Enroll, Lead, Succeed

Launch Virtual Learning's new Leadership & Citizenship course helps students develop leadership, teamwork, and critical thinking skills—all while exploring JROTC-style structure and service.

What does it take to be a strong leader—not just in school, but in life? Launch Virtual Learning's newest course, Leadership & Citizenship, invites high school students to find out.

As the first course in Launch Missouri Workforce's new Military Pathway, Leadership & Citizenship is a JROTC-based class designed to help students grow as confident leaders, critical thinkers, and responsible citizens. Through hands-on activities, real-world scenarios, and reflective learning, students don't just study leadership—they practice it.



Throughout the course, students are introduced to JROTC structure, including ranks, customs, and courtesies. They explore what discipline, teamwork, and service look like in action, learning how leadership principles apply both inside and outside of military-style environments. No prior JROTC experience is required—just a willingness to learn, grow, and step up.

Leadership & Citizenship also places a strong emphasis on how students learn. Using tools like thinking maps, students build critical and creative thinking skills while reflecting on their own learning

styles and strengths. Along the way, they create a personalized action plan to support their academic success—skills that carry over into every class they take.

As the course progresses, students dive deeper into leadership by analyzing leadership traits, practicing conflict resolution, applying the Army Leadership Model, and collaborating on a group project to plan a mock event. These experiences help students develop communication, organization, problem-solving, and ethical decision-making skills—abilities that are valuable in any career path.

Scaling New Heights

Meet Samantha Matter, a ninth grader from Stewartsville who balances her Launch classes with Ninja Warrior competitions.

Access Launch: How did you learn about Launch?

Samantha Matter: I was considering online school, and my mom did some research and wanted me to use Launch. She used to be a public school teacher, so she knew about it. I wanted the expanded class opportunities, and I liked that I could work at my own pace.

Access: How long have you been with Launch?

S.M.: I went to public school until seventh grade, and I started with Launch full-time in eighth grade. I'm currently a freshman.

Access: Describe your typical week day.

S.M.: I take all of my core classes live on Zoom in the mornings, except for History, which is later in the day. After my live classes, I usually tackle my asynchronous assignments. Right now I'm in eight classes, so I stay pretty busy!

Access: What's your favorite class right now?

S.M.: Science! I just really like it.



Access: How do you connect with your teachers and classmates online?

S.M.: I interact a lot during my live Zoom classes, and I use the chat to connect. Last year, I went to office hours for math. That class was hard for me at first, but going to office hours really helped me understand what we were learning.

Access: What do you like to do outside of school?

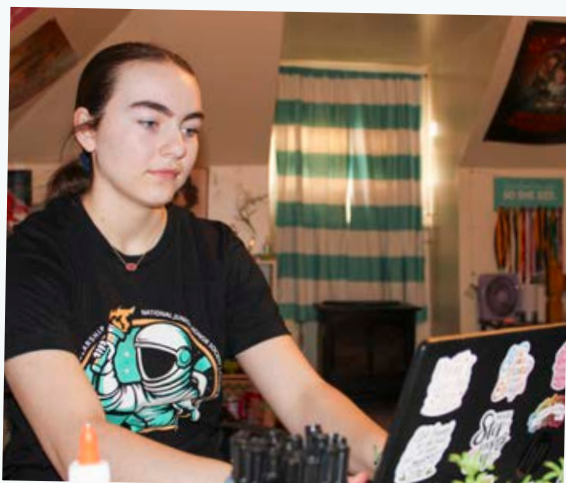
S.M.: I compete in American Ninja Warrior. I started last June, so I've been doing it for a year and a half. I also craft a lot. I like making bracelets! And I hang out with my two cats, Michelle and Pumpkin.

Access: Tell us more about Ninja Warrior—it sounds like so much fun!

S.M.: It really is! It takes up quite a bit of time, too. I practice twice a week and do competitions once or twice a month. Balance obstacles are my favorite—they're challenging, but a lot of fun. I have some Ninja obstacles at home I practice on.

Access: Do you have a favorite thing about Ninja Warrior?

S.M.: I love that it's different from other sports, and the community is super supportive. I'd love to be on the show one day!



Access: What clubs or organizations have you been involved in?

S.M.: I was in Launch's new National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) organization last year, and I even got picked to be the president! I led meetings and guided everyone through projects, including Teacher Appreciation Week.

Access: Describe the perfect Saturday.

S.M.: I like being active—practicing Ninja Warrior, or sometimes, if I want to relax, crafting at home. I also like hanging out with my older sister and playing with my cats!

Access: What's your dream vacation?

S.M.: I'd love to go to Australia, for the beaches!

Access: And how about a favorite food?

S.M.: I'd have to say chicken.

Access: What advice would you give to a student thinking about Launch?

S.M.: Do it! It's really fun, and there are so many learning opportunities. The teachers are great, and the live classes help you interact and stay on track.

Access: What's next for you after graduation?

S.M.: I'm thinking about a healthcare career—maybe a nurse or a physical therapy assistant—and I'd like to attend North Central Missouri College.

Getting Down to Business

Launch business teacher Kayla Davidson shares how she builds connections and culture in her virtual classroom.

I'm in my twelfth year of teaching, and I can honestly say that every step of my journey has shaped who I am as an educator today. I started my career at Strafford High School, where I taught business and served as the FBLA advisor. After that, I moved to Ozark High School—an experience that was truly tremendous.

While at Ozark, I had the privilege of helping implement the Academies model. I absolutely loved teaching freshmen about discovering their interests, talents, and skills. Guiding students as they explored who they are and who they want to become was one of the most fulfilling parts of my career. My time at Ozark was rewarding, dynamic, and genuinely transformative for both me and my students.

After several years, though, I found myself ready for a new challenge. I really missed leading FBLA and supporting students in leadership and competitive events. When I learned about Launch, I knew immediately it was the perfect fit. Launch provided me with everything I was craving professionally—innovation, student-centered flexibility, and a chance to think differently. Today, I proudly serve as a Launch Business Teacher as well as the FBLA and DECA advisor, and I love helping students grow into leaders with real-world skills and confidence.

I earned my bachelor's degree in business administration and marketing from College of the Ozarks. I originally imagined myself working in marketing—designing print ads and creating social media campaigns—but

becoming a full-time substitute teacher changed everything. Very quickly, I realized I'm a people person at heart. I loved being around students, building relationships, and watching them grow. That led me to pursue my master's degree in Secondary Education with an emphasis in Business Education from Evangel University.

Transitioning to virtual teaching has been both an adjustment and a joy. I love how Launch meets students where they are and offers learning opportunities that sometimes aren't possible in a traditional classroom. I also appreciate how virtual teaching encourages me to be creative and think differently. It stretches me in the best way.

One of the first ways I connect with students is through an introductory assignment at the start of the year. But before they answer anything, I answer first. I share about myself—including things I'm vulnerable about, like my fear of snakes, my absolute refusal to deal with bugs or dirt, and other quirky things that make me who I am. When students see me being open and honest, they feel safer being open with me, too. It creates trust and sets the tone for a positive, supportive learning experience.

I also work closely with families, especially when a student is struggling. It's so important to me that parents hear not just areas for growth but also all the wonderful things their student is doing. I want families to feel informed, supported, and part of a team.

Above all, I love what I do because of the students. I learn from them every single day, just as they learn from me. I love helping them discover their strengths, supporting them as they step into leadership opportunities, and providing experiences that will stick with them long after high school. The most rewarding part of my job is maintaining those relationships and seeing the impact we created together—even after they graduate.

Kayla Davidson

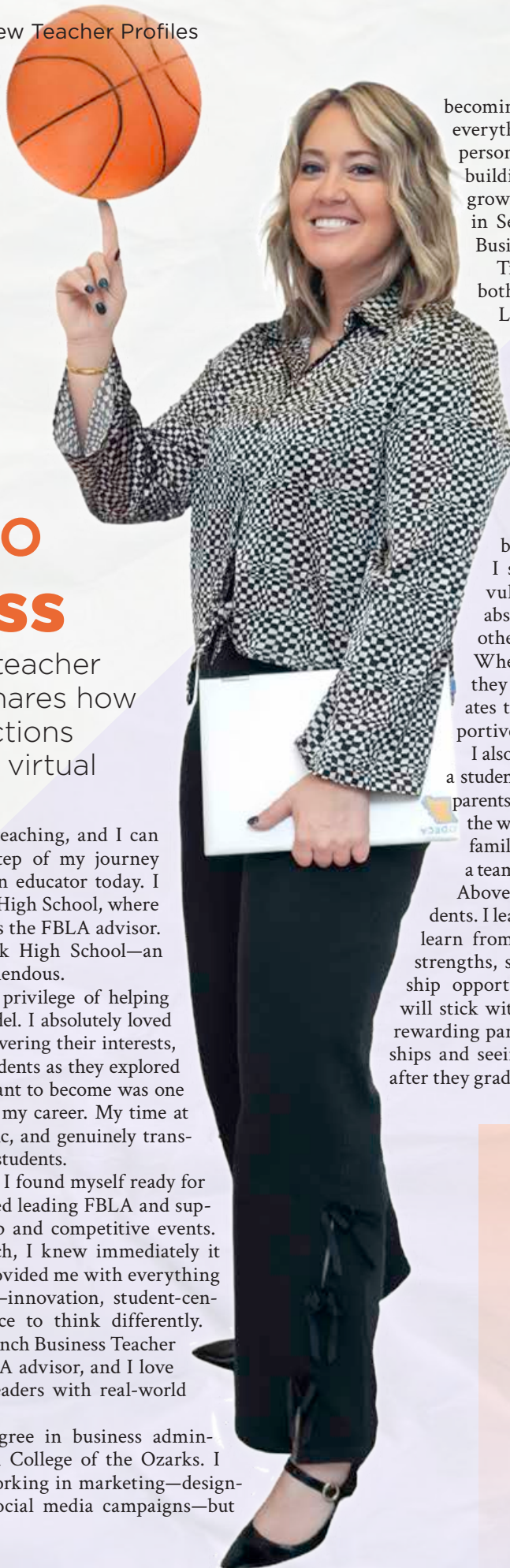
Launch Business Teacher

Home District: Springfield R-XII

Years in Education: 12

Degrees: Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Marketing, College of the Ozarks; Master's degree in secondary education with an emphasis in business education, Evangel University

Fun Fact: My daily non-negotiable is an iced coffee, and I absolutely LOVE basketball. I'm extremely competitive, so if we're playing HORSE, just know... it's game over.



Monitoring with Mr. Mott

From morning parking lot greetings to a constant stream of calls and emails, Assistant Principal John Mott helps set Launch students for success.

7:28 a.m. John Mott kicks off his mornings doing parking lot duty with fellow Launch Assistant Principals. “We’re out there rain or shine—five days a week—every week of the semester,” John says. “We started this last fall, and it’s been really successful. We’re greeting our teachers, holding open the door, and sharing some energy. It’s a fun way to start the day.”

8:10 a.m. Back inside, John makes his rounds through the teaching pods to say hello to anyone he may have missed in the parking lot before tackling a list of phone calls. “A large portion of my job is attendance and academic monitoring,” John says. “I spend a lot of time on the phone, talking to parents about student performance. Once a student reaches tier 2, which means they haven’t logged in for 10 or more days, I’m on it. I might have 30 or 35 calls in a day. No two days are the same.”

9:00 a.m. John joins the academic team for a standing meeting three days a week. Discussions range from teacher performance to professional development and student interventions. “We brainstorm ways to make sure teachers and students are getting the support they need,” he explains.

10:30 a.m. Classroom walkthroughs are next. John visits live classes to check student engagement and provide feedback. For asynchronous teachers, he reviews announcements, tutoring hours, and grading practices. “I’m responsible for about 90 teachers, full-time and adjunct,” he says. “I meet with all of them on growth indicators—they pick one area they want to improve, and we work on it together.”

12:00 p.m. Lunch is a quick 20-minute recharge, often shared with fellow administrators. “We laugh, decompress, and talk about what’s coming up next,” John says.

1:30 p.m. It’s time for Principal for an Hour, a program where students get to act as principal in a virtual classroom. “Students are able to select to become a ‘Principal for an Hour’ as a reward with our PBIS Reward System,” John says. “A third grader joined me the other day. We walked through a couple classrooms together, and then sent the teachers happy grams afterward—recognition for all the great work they’re doing.”

2:30 p.m. John tackles hiring for PE and Health teachers next. “The AP team is in charge of all hiring every semester,” John says. “It’s intense because we hire multiple times a year. Basically, we are always hiring!”

3:15 p.m. Between more parent calls and a few teacher check-ins, John pops in on another Zoom class to say hello. “I love the moments when I get to connect with students,” says John, who worked as a building administrator for some 30 years before joining the Launch team.

4 p.m. John wraps up the day with a few last emails. “I never thought 35 years ago that I’d be an administrator in a virtual school,” he says. “But being able to help students succeed in ways people don’t even think is possible—that’s the best part of my job.”





Launching a New Government

Scheduled to debut Fall 2026, Launch's new Government course is built for alignment, clarity and real-world relevance.

Launch's Government course has always aimed at helping students understand the structures that shape their communities, but this fall, it's getting a major upgrade. Under the direction of Launch social studies teacher and course writer Julia Banfield, the class is being fully rewritten to align with Springfield Public Schools' (SPS) updated curriculum, ensuring Launch students learn the same essential content, skills and pacing as their seated peers.

Aligned by Design

Before writing each unit, Banfield begins with reviewing the SPS scope and sequence—carefully mapping every lesson to district priority standards and Missouri state learning expectations. "As with all of our Launch classes, our students are meeting the same expectations as students in seated buildings all over the state," she says. "They're just doing tasks that are designed for online learners."

Lessons are chunked, interactive, and built with clear directions and integrated checks for understanding. And for struggling readers, the new structure adds additional scaffolds, visuals, and opportunities to revise work—supports the seated classroom can't always provide.

How the Course Flows

Government begins with foundational questions: Why do we study civics? What is government? Why does it exist? From there, students dig deeper—exploring the roots of representative government, tracing ideas from the Magna Carta to the Declaration of Independence, and connecting those principles to the modern systems that shape daily life.



Banfield says this progression mirrors what many students learn in eighth grade U.S. History, but with greater depth and richer context. "It's exciting to see students revisit these ideas and then look at how government functions today," she says.

Building Toward Required Assessments

Launch learners must complete the Missouri Constitution Test and the Government End-of-Course (EOC) Exam. To prepare, every unit includes study-guide components that build knowledge gradually rather than cramming at the end. In fourth quarter, students receive targeted test-prep, practice questions, and test-taking strategies. (EOC exams are taken through students' home districts unless they are MOCAP learners.)

A More Engaging Virtual Experience

One of Banfield's favorite parts of the rewrite is collaborating with Launch's digital developer to bring content to life. "Instead of 'read this and answer questions,' students are interacting and having more experiences," she says.

For example, in the lesson "What Is Government?," students walk through a real-life scenario to identify how government functions in everyday situations, building understanding through application—not memorization.

Launch's new Government course will include:

- Goal Blocks that match seated learning targets
- Vocabulary lists aligned to Missouri Learning Standards
- Scaffolded readings and videos to support varied reading levels
- Apply Blocks, which are Launch's version of formative assessments, redesigned for virtual learning

Supercharging Skills: Summer Edition

Small-group instruction, intentional teacher support and new software make Launch's revamped summer learning academies shine.

What's the best way to combat the summer slide? Keep students engaged! This year, both elementary and middle school students can enroll in our revamped Launch Into Math and Launch Into Reading academies, both designed to reinforce essential skills and keep students on track while also bridging gaps from the previous school year.

"The goal is to meet students where they are and help them continue to grow during June and July," says Caitlyn Mercado, Launch's Data-Driven Instructional Specialist. "We want to make sure the learning isn't just optional—it's intentional, purposeful, and fun."

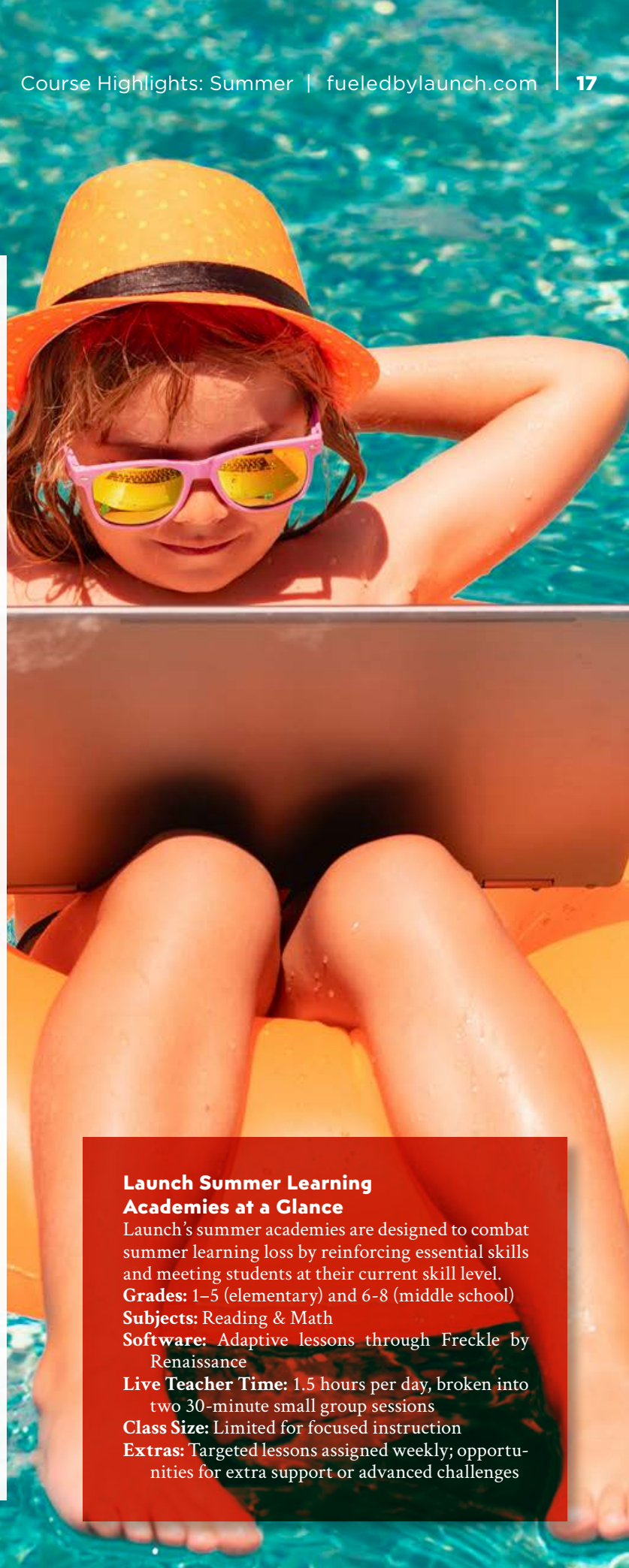
It's all in the Details

Launch's learning academies have been completely revamped and now feature Freckle by Renaissance for Math and English Language Arts. This software allows teachers to access each student at their individual needs, then target lessons to be specific to these needs. Students complete adaptive lessons weekly and are encouraged to attend live teacher-led sessions for small-group instruction. "This structure allows students to get support in the areas they need it most," Mercado says. Class sizes are limited to maintain individualized attention, and students can complete assignments at their own pace within the structured framework.

"We're excited that our students will continue building skills in a fun, engaging way," Mercado says. "They'll still have the freedom to learn at their own pace, but now the learning is more targeted and meaningful."

Why it Matters

Summer learning loss is real—but Launch's academies are designed to stop it. With limited class sizes, intentional teacher guidance, and adaptive lessons that meet students where they are, the program keeps learning engaging and effective. Students can strengthen skills, build confidence, and enter the new school year ready to succeed.



Launch Summer Learning Academies at a Glance

Launch's summer academies are designed to combat summer learning loss by reinforcing essential skills and meeting students at their current skill level.

Grades: 1–5 (elementary) and 6–8 (middle school)

Subjects: Reading & Math

Software: Adaptive lessons through Freckle by Renaissance

Live Teacher Time: 1.5 hours per day, broken into two 30-minute small group sessions

Class Size: Limited for focused instruction

Extras: Targeted lessons assigned weekly; opportunities for extra support or advanced challenges

Expanding What's Possible

Through its long-standing partnership with Launch, the Lawson School District is expanding course access, increasing flexibility, and better meeting the needs of its students and families.

The Lawson School District first partnered with Launch Virtual Learning in 2018 to expand learning opportunities for high school students. Fast forward to today, and that partnership is stronger than ever. “Launch is the only virtual learning program that we choose to utilize or promote,” says Lawson High School Principal Daniel Petet. “We’re intentional about that. We like the fact that it’s a Missouri program—based in Springfield and using Missouri teachers—and we tell that to our families. It’s the local option, and that matters to us.”

That local connection, paired with quality courses and exceptional customer service, has made Launch a valued partner for the district, year after year. “We’ve had nothing but positive experiences,” Daniel says. “We primarily use Launch to supplement our course catalog. It allows us to offer classes we simply can’t offer in-house and gives us flexibility to better serve our students and families.”

It's all in the Details

Today, approximately 40 Lawson students take at least one Launch course every semester, and about 85 percent of those students are using the program as a supplemental option. Launch courses help fill gaps in schedules, expand elective options, and provide access to Advanced Placement and specialty classes the district isn’t able to offer otherwise. In some situations, Launch also allows students to complete coursework from home. “Launch is often a handy solution for us,” Daniel says. “It gives us flexibility, and that flexibility helps us serve our community.”

Lawson also makes use of Launch’s free promotional materials to ensure families understand their options. Early in his tenure as principal, Daniel worked with the Launch team to refine how courses



were presented to students. “You all allowed us to create a custom catalog that emphasized the courses you offer that we don’t,” Daniel says. “That’s been incredibly helpful in allowing us to educate our families.”

The district keeps its Launch catalog up to date and accessible, attaching digital versions to MOCAP paperwork and providing printed copies to counselors for distribution. “If a family wants to go virtual, we let them know about Launch first,” Daniel says. “Each year, the program’s catalog has continued to grow—and so has what we’re able to offer. It’s allowed us to better meet student needs.”

The process runs smoothly behind the scenes, too. “Our high school counselor handles most of the enrollment process and always raves about how easy it is,” Daniel adds. “She’s even said she wishes some of our other partnerships worked as seamlessly as Launch does.”

The Student Experience

For students like Elena Mason, Launch offers access to brand-new subject



areas. Elena is a junior and just finished taking Launch’s Civil Engineering & Architecture course—her first-ever online class. “I had an hour in my schedule where nothing else would work, so I decided to try out a Launch course,” Elena says. “It encourages me to work independently, which I think is a good thing. I’ve also enjoyed learning the content, because it’s a whole new world to me. We’re designing a house right now for one of our assignments, and I’ve had a lot of fun with that.”

Senior Joanna Mayne has taken German I and II with Launch. “I was originally drawn to the language through family connections,” she says. “My mom

spoke a little German, and I wanted to be able to communicate with her in a different way than my siblings! I also love the country and the culture, so I’ve really enjoyed being able to learn more about it.”

Joanna says she appreciates the structure and flexibility she’s had with Launch courses. “My favorite thing is the freedom I have,” she says. “I can work in a quiet space, focus better, and reach out to my teacher whenever I need help, but without disrupting an entire class.”

Junior Miles Hochwender is currently enrolled in both ACT Prep and Intro to Speech, and he plans to take German in the future. “I wanted to finish earning my English credits before my senior year, so Intro to Speech is helping me with that,” Miles says. “I also wanted to practice for the ACT so I can get a better score.” So far, results have been noticeable. “We take practice tests,” Miles says. “So far, my scores have gone up almost five points in every subject.”

A Partnership Built for Growth

Daniel says students consistently respond well to Launch’s structure and expectations. “They enjoy the freedom, but there’s also accountability,” he says. “The standards are high, and we’ve found that when given the chance, most of our students meet them.”

As Launch continues to expand its catalog, Daniel is confident the partnership will keep growing. “Launch has allowed us to offer more—and to offer it well,” he says. “That’s something we value, and it’s something our students benefit from every day.”

LAWSON AT A GLANCE

K–12 Enrollment: 1,119

MASA District: Northwest

Mascot: Cardinals

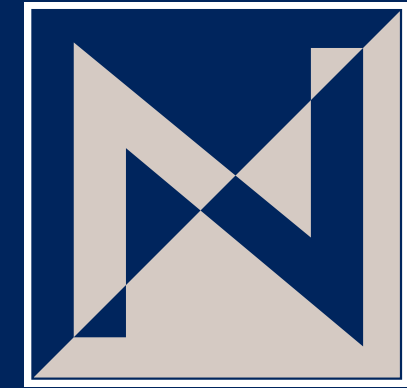
District Mission: Preparing students for lifelong learning, achievement and citizenship.

Fun Fact: The town of Lawson, Missouri, was founded in 1870, platted around a depot on the first railroad built across the country.



Lawson student Joanna Mayne (below) has enjoyed taking both German I and II with Launch.





Staying Connected in NKC

North Kansas City Schools partners with Launch Virtual Learning to offer flexible, rigorous online options—all while keeping students connected to their home schools, counselors, and support systems.

North Kansas City Schools partnered with Launch Virtual Learning to expand student opportunities, all while intentionally preserving the relationships that keep students connected to its schools. For Nick Pettit, Director of Federal Programs and Elementary Education, that balance is what makes the partnership work.

“One of the biggest benefits for us is that we can partner with a virtual program and still keep students connected to our district,” Nick says. “Even when we enroll students in Launch, they’re still our students. They still have access to our counselors, administrators, and support teams—and that’s incredibly important to us. We continue checking in and working on those relationships, and we see that our students pursue a successful path forward.”

Nick, who has worked in the district for 11 years and stepped into oversight of virtual learning in summer 2025, appreciates how seamlessly Launch fits into the larger scope of his role. “Virtual learning is just a fraction of my job,” he says. “Having a partner like Launch—where the customer service is responsive and the process is smooth—makes a huge difference.”

That ease of implementation, paired with strong course offerings, has made Launch a valuable resource across the entire district. “We hear great feedback from students, and also from the staff who support them,” Nick says. “There’s real rigor in the courses, and a lot of value in what’s being offered.”

Flexibility, Without Losing the Local Touch

As Missouri’s second-largest school district, North Kansas City serves a highly diverse and mobile student population. Students may need virtual options for many reasons—family moves, health concerns, disciplinary situations, or scheduling challenges—and the district uses Launch in a variety of ways to meet those needs.

Credit recovery is a major use case, particularly within the district's High School Alternative Program (HSAP). Launch courses support flexible learning, home-bound services, and recovery opportunities for HSAP students who need a different path to graduation.

Enrolling students in these courses is just the beginning. If a student struggles academically or faces barriers outside the classroom, district counselors can—and do—step in quickly. “Our counselors are able to reach out, work directly with the student, and collaborate with the school team to make sure it’s the best learning environment possible,” Nick explains.

In one recent situation, a family chose virtual learning through Launch but encountered internet access challenges. “We were able to quickly step in and provide a hotspot,” Nick says. “That’s the benefit of keeping that local touchpoint. We’re still supporting our students.”

At the K–8 level, Launch provides an important option for NKC students with IEPs who need in-person support alongside virtual coursework. “We hear from families that the education is strong and the team is responsive,” Nick says. “The flexibility really helps us find what works best for each student, at every grade level.”

Learning That Fits Real Life

For students like senior Cary Anderson, Launch provides a flexible way to earn credits while balancing real-world responsibilities. Cary has completed multiple credit acquisition and credit recovery courses through Launch, including Chemistry I and Biology II—all while working as many hours as possible a week at Walmart.

“I like that I can work on my classes on my own time,” Cary says. “I work a lot, so that flexibility really matters. It’s not like a traditional class where you have to be there every single day. I can work when I’m able to, and that really helps.”

Senior Kollen Adams, who is newer to virtual learning, recently completed Chemistry I and II, along with a Fine Arts music course. “It’s just easier for me to learn online,” Kollen says. “I can read exactly what I need to, get in, do the assignment, and move on.”

Junior Tyler Holovach has taken Launch courses since the end of his sophomore year. “I like that you can move at your own pace,” Tyler says. “I’ve taken regular classes and credit recovery classes with Launch. For students who have lost a lot of school time for



NKC students district-wide can enroll in Launch courses through their home school building.

one reason or another, credit recovery is really good for catching up.”

All three students point to ease of navigation and flexibility as major benefits. “You always know what you have to do,” Tyler adds. “That makes a big difference.” Looking ahead, each of these students have clear plans for the future—Cary hopes to begin an electrician apprenticeship, Kollen plans to head to Hollywood to pursue an acting career, and Tyler is interested in working with his brother in real estate. And by bringing them several credits closer to earning their high school diplomas, Launch has helped keep each of their goals within reach.

A Partnership Designed to Grow

Nick says Launch consistently challenges the misconception that virtual learning is “easier” or “less rigorous.” “The expectations are high,” he says. “Launch meets student needs, but it also holds them accountable—and that aligns with what we’re striving for in North Kansas City.”

As the district continues to support a wide range of learners, Nick sees the partnership only growing stronger. “It’s a smooth partnership, and we truly appreciate the ability to stay connected with our students,” he says. “That connection is what makes Launch such a great fit for our district.”

NORTH KANSAS CITY AT A GLANCE

K–12 Enrollment: 21,800+

MASA District: Greater Kansas City

Schools: NKC Schools is the second-largest and among the most diverse districts in Missouri with 21 elementary schools, two sixth grade centers, four middle schools and four high schools.

District Mission: As relentless champions for all students, North Kansas City Schools’ mission is to develop self-aware, authentically empowered, future-ready learners through a rich array of purposeful learning opportunities in collaborative communities of belonging that are culturally affirming, academically challenging, experiential and exploratory for each student.



BIGGEST
SUMMER
EVER!





Thinking about summer? **Think BIG!** Launch Virtual Learning is gearing up for our **BIGGEST SUMMER EVER** with more opportunities than ever before!

Whether your students need to boost essential skills, get ahead, or simply stay engaged, Launch's summer courses give them the freedom to shape their own paths, all on their own schedules.

Launch's **BIGGEST SUMMER EVER** means flexible days, engaging lessons, supportive teachers, and real progress that lasts long after summer ends! We're here to help your students start the fall semester with confidence, and keep those skills they've worked on all year fresh and strong.

So, what are you waiting for? No matter the grade level or goal, your students are invited to join us for **BIG** choices, **BIG** confidence, and **BIG** momentum for the year ahead!

SUMMER LEARNING'S BIGGEST BENEFITS



Launch summer courses can help students stay engaged, get back on track, grow their skills and more!

COMBAT THAT SUMMER SLIDE!

We're sure you've heard of the infamous "summer slide"—academic regression that can occur over summer break when students don't have structured learning opportunities. According to a 2024 article published by the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA), concerns about "summer learning loss" are nothing new; in fact, they've been around for more than a century! And these worries have been proven valid, time and time again—Recent research continues to prove that when daily practice and structured

routines pause, many students' skills begin to stall or slip.

Math tends to fade the fastest, with studies noting noticeable drops in computation, problem-solving, and number-sense skills after just a few months on break. Reading skills are more stable, but students can still lose fluency, vocabulary growth, and overall reading stamina without consistent engagement.

Unfortunately, it doesn't stop here. Researchers also note that learning rates become far more unpredictable during summer. While some students continue progressing, many simply don't have the repetition, feedback, or guided learning time needed to maintain momentum. And after a long break, teachers often spend the first weeks of school reteaching material students mastered just months before.

So, why are we telling you all of this? Because we want to help! Enter Launch's summer learning opportunities, and watch that summer slide slowly dissolve into the sunset...



BUILD BIG ROOM IN FALL SCHEDULES

Of course keeping students learning during the summer months is a benefit, but the payoffs don't stop there! When students take a required course during the summer, they're not just checking a box—they're setting themselves up for a smoother school year ahead.

Launch's summer catalog provides literally 100s of options, including high-demand picks like Health, PE and Personal Finance. We also offer core subjects in the summertime—students are allowed to pick whatever works best for them. And no matter what course they take, earning these credits off of the traditional year schedule allows students to explore electives, pursue career-focused pathways, and simply enjoy a more balanced school day when Fall 2026 rolls around.

GET ON TRACK WITH CREDIT RECOVERY!

Whether a student needs to recover a credit from a failed math class, retake a required health course, or revisit a science course that didn't stick the first time, Launch's flexible summer schedule makes credit recovery manageable—and dare we say, maybe even kind of fun! (Imagine this: you can work on this course poolside!) Getting those one or two courses out of the way now can turn next school year from "make-up crunch" into "fresh start."

INTERESTED?

See a full list of our summer 2026 credit recovery offerings on p. 28!

BIG OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERY AGE!

SUMMER LEARNING ACADEMIES FOR GRADES 1-8

Launch teachers pair engaging content with individualized lessons and adaptive software to make our new summer learning academies the best yet.

Launch Into Reading

I am Sam, Sam I am! Launch Into Reading helps elementary and middle school students build confidence and strengthen foundational literacy skills—all while keeping learning fun. Using Freckle by Renaissance, teachers tailor lessons to each student's needs, offering adaptive activities and targeted small-group instruction. With limited class sizes and daily live teacher time, students get meaningful support while still enjoying the flexibility of virtual learning. It's a great way to prevent summer slide and step into fall ready to read, grow, and thrive!

Launch Into Math

Have you heard the news? Your students plus our summer learning academies equals amazing opportunities! With Launch Into Math, students receive purposeful practice and interactive activities, all while sharpening their skills. With Freckle's adaptive technology, teachers meet learners exactly where they are and assign targeted lessons that support growth in key math concepts. Students participate in small-group sessions, complete paced weekly activities, and receive one-on-one attention.

Additional Opportunities

Are you interested in offering your students even more opportunities? We also offer Launch into Coding, as well as Launch Liftoff gifted courses, during the summer months! Learn more at fueledbylaunch.com/summer



LEARN MORE!

Like the sound of our Launch learning academies? Learn more on p. 17!

LOG ON FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Extra support, engaging lessons, and flicks from the big screen—Launch’s Extended Learning Program courses make learning fun!

Have you heard about Launch’s Extended Learning Program (ELP) courses designed specifically for middle school students? These courses were carefully crafted to help learners in 6-8 who are two or more grade levels below average. They help students build confidence in math and reading—while actually having fun along the way. Offered in June and July (each month with fresh content), these classes provide more structure than Launch summer academies, making them perfect for students who benefit from extra guidance or want more consistent practice.

ELP students work to complete targeted lessons, join teacher-led sessions, and even watch movies (for English), using weekly themes to spark reading and writing assignments.

And the best part? These classes are open to any student who wants to strengthen skills, stay engaged, or get ahead.

HIGH SCHOOL HOT LIST

Do you have a high schooler who’s looking to earn some credits this summer?

Their **BIGGEST SUMMER EVER** starts with one of our hundreds of courses! Read on for our most popular picks!

Health

We all have BIG goals of getting in shape (or keeping up with the great shape we’re already in), right? By earning their required Health credit this summer, your students can learn all about how to start this journey! Health gives learners the tools to build strong habits, make informed choices, and understand the foundations of physical and mental wellness.



Personal Finance

Let’s talk about some dollar dollar bills, y’all! By taking Personal Finance this summer, students learn how to budget, save, manage income, and make smart financial decisions—skills that pay off long after graduation. And the best part? They can even earn dual credit while they’re at it!

Physical Fitness

Launch’s Physical Fitness course invites students to lace up those running (or walking) shoes and get moving! With a provided heart-rate monitor and guided workouts, students learn how to build strength, boost endurance, and make movement a part of everyday life. It’s a fun, flexible course that helps them feel their very best—no gym membership required!

Creative Writing I

Calling all scribes! Creative Writing I is the perfect summer pick for students who want to exercise their imaginations while earning an English credit. The course explores poetry, fiction, and personal essays and allows learners to be creative and expressive. Bonus: this class also comes with a dual credit option!

Driver Education

Launch’s Driver Education course walks students through everything from road rules to safe decision-making, all in a supportive, easy-to-follow virtual format. By the end, students will feel more confident in their driving skills—and the rest of us will feel a bit more at ease when they’re ready to take the wheel!

BIGGEST SUMMER EVER!



HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

Electives

- A+ Tutoring ○
- ACT Prep ○
- Driver Education ■●

English Language Arts

- Creative Writing I ■●○
- Creative Writing II ■●○
- English I ■■●●
- English II ■■●●
- English III ■■●●
- English IV ■■●●
- Film as Literature I ■●○
- Film as Literature II ■●○
- Grammar & Composition I ■●○
- Grammar & Composition II ■●○
- Introduction to Speech ■●○

English Language Development

- ELD English Acquisition ●
- ELD English I ●
- ELD Government ●
- ELD Personal Finance ○

Fine Arts

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

Health & Physical Education

- Health ■●○
- Lifetime Fitness ○
- Outdoor Living & Safety ○*
- Physical Education I ○
- Physical Fitness ■●○

Mathematics

- Algebra I ■■▲●●
- Algebra II ■■▲●●
- College Algebra ■●○
- Foundations of Algebra ■●○
- Geometry ■■▲●●
- Precalculus with Trigonometry ●
- Professional Math ■●○
- Statistics ■●○

Practical Arts

- Business Finance I ■●○
- Computer Applications ○
- Computer Science Essentials ■●○
- Digital Communications ■●○
- Employment Internship ○
- Hospitality & Tourism Management I ■●○
- Human Body Systems ■●○
- Human Development I ■●○
- Introduction to Business ■●○
- Marketing I ■●○
- Personal Finance ■■●○

- Principles of Biomedical Science ■●○
- Web Design ○

Science

- Astronomy ■▲●●
- Chemistry ■■●●
- Earth Science ■■●●
- General Biology ■■●●
- Physical Science ■■●●

Social Studies

- African American History ○
- American Baseball History ■●○
- American Civil War ■●○
- Government ■■●●
- Psychology ■■●○
- Psychology of Genocide ■●○
- Sociology ■●○
- US History ■■●●
- World Geography ■■●○
- World History ■■●●

World Language

- French I-III ■■●●
- German I ■●○
- Japanese I ■■●●
- Spanish I ■▲●●
- Spanish II ■▲●●
- Spanish III ■●○

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES

Traditional Virtual

- App Creators PLTW
- Health
- Physical Education

Academies

- Launch Into Math
- Launch Into Reading

Extended Learning Program

- ELP Reading
- ELP Math

ELEMENTARY COURSES

Academies

- Launch into Coding
- Launch into Math
- Launch into Reading

Gifted Education

- Launch LiftOff Grades 1-3
- Launch LiftOff Grades 4-5



BE A PART OF OUR BIGGEST SUMMER EVER!

We can help you advertise your summer courses!

Interested in promoting your courses on your social media pages, or even with a good old-fashioned flyer? We can help! Shoot an email to partners@fueledbylaunch.com and ask about our free summer marketing materials!



Ready to offer your students BIG opportunities in June and July? Your district has four options (including some FREE!) for summer enrollment!

PARTNER DISTRICT ENROLLMENT + TUITION

Want to claim your own summer average daily attendance (ADA) as a district? Great! Your first step is promoting Launch's summer courses to your community. After the word is out, your district's Launch liaison will enroll students through Launchpad, then you will pay tuition at the end of the summer term. During this enrollment process, your liaison must select "No" for the question, "Will Springfield R-XII claim summer ADA (Open Enrollment) for this student."

Note: In this scenario, your district controls the enrollment process and determines what courses students take, and you also receive grades at the end of the term.

PARTNER DISTRICT ENROLLMENT + FREE

Yes, you read that right—you can offer your students Launch courses at no charge! For this path, your district will promote Launch's summer virtual learning opportunities to students, and your Launch liaison will enroll students through Launchpad. During this enrollment process, though, your liaison must select "Yes" for the question, "Will Springfield R-XII claim summer ADA (Open Enrollment) for this student."

Note: In this scenario, your district controls the enrollment process and determines what courses students take, and you also receive grades at the end of the term.

A COMBINATION OF 1 + 2

Guess what? You don't have to enroll every student the same way! If you wish to enroll some students as your own students and some as SPS students, that's fine—just be sure that your Launch liaison selects the correct answer of "Yes" or "No" on the question "Will Springfield R-XII claim summer ADA (Open Enrollment) for this student (as explained in blurbs 1 and 2 above).

ALLOW STUDENTS/FAMILIES TO ENROLL VIA SPS OPEN ENROLLMENT

Not up for offering summer school this year? We get it, and we can help! Thanks to SPS Open Enrollment, you can steer your families our way and have them enroll in our courses directly via open enrollment. Please do warn families that this enrollment process requires them providing us with education records, including immunizations, then send them to fueledbylaunch.com/summer for our easy enrollment process

Note: In this scenario, districts will not have student grade records automatically sent. Please keep a note of students in summer courses and send a grade request to enroll@fueledbylaunch.com at the start of the term.

ALEX'S JOURNEY FORWARD

Despite a lifetime of complex medical challenges—including a recent six-hour spinal fusion surgery—sophomore Alex Ornelas has found stability, flexibility, and confidence through Launch Virtual Learning.

Just three weeks after his six-hour spinal fusion surgery, sophomore Alex Ornelas logged back into his Launch courses from the comfort of his own room. “He was barely even able to get out of bed last week,” says Alex’s mom, Valorie Ornelas. “He hasn’t logged on to any of his live classes yet, but his teachers have all been working with him to help him make up missing assignments. They’ve been really great, and it’s been such a relief.”

This surgery—which is Alex’s eighth overall—was a major one. Alex had two rods and 20 screws placed on each side of his spine to correct an 83-degree curve caused by severe scoliosis. “We always knew he’d need this surgery, but we didn’t know when, or how we’d handle it when it came,” Valorie says. “His recovery will take a while and needs to be carefully monitored. He can’t twist, bend, or even really turn his neck.” But thanks to the flexibility of Launch Virtual Learning, Alex can continue to learn as his body heals.



A Life Shaped by Medical Needs

Born two and a half months early, Alex has faced medical challenges his entire life. In addition to scoliosis, Alex has a feeding tube due to stomach issues, ongoing bladder complications, and has undergone multiple surgeries for various reasons throughout his childhood. “Before we started Launch, he was constantly getting sick from being around other students,” Valorie says. “When he went to school in person, we had a lot of daily stressors.”

Things changed when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and forced schools nationwide

to find virtual solutions. “Alex was attending Nixa Public Schools, and the district used Launch to help serve students throughout the pandemic,” says Valorie. “We just fell in love with it. He was in fifth grade then, and he’s been learning with Launch ever since.”

This wasn’t all up to Valorie and her husband—Alex’s father, Steven—though. “We gave him a choice when it was time for him to go to high school,” Valorie says. “We asked him if he’d rather go back in person, or if he’d rather stay online. And he chose to stay with Launch.”

This was a relief for Mom and Dad. “We love that we don’t have to worry about how he’s going to eat or how he’s going to change,” Valorie says. “Going back to school would have come with a lot of challenges for us—even worrying about how he was going to get from class to class without getting run over by other kids. With Launch, he doesn’t have to worry about any of that.”

Growth Beyond Expectations

“When Alex first started with Launch, he was reading at a first- or second-grade level,” Valorie says. “He also significantly struggled with math.” But today, things look much different. “Now he’s reading at his normal reading level,” Valorie says. “And he does great in math. These teachers have been so wonderful in helping him get where he needs to be.”

Alex agrees, and says he appreciates the one-on-one time he gets with his Launch teachers. “I really like my live classes, because I like being able to ask questions and get help as I’m working,” he says. “And my favorite class is my Strategies class with Miss Johnson. She always makes sure to take her time with me and always gets me the help that I need.”

Alex attends live Math and English classes for one-on-one support, uses his Strategies class to catch up or get extra help, and completes other coursework on his own time. “And for the classes he doesn’t attend live, me and his father help him,” Valorie says. “We can log in as parents and see everything. I’ll be on the parent portal, he’ll be on the student portal, and we work through things together.”

Looking Ahead

At press time, Alex said his surgery had already changed his life in several noticeable ways. “Before, my spine was pushing into my lungs,” Alex says. “It made breathing really hard. Now I can breathe normal. And I can take big drinks and big bites without choking.”

Alex is also walking straighter and slowly regaining strength through physical therapy. Tools from Shriners—including a handy grabber claw—help him stay independent while following strict recovery rules. “This surgery was scary,” Valorie admits. “But even now, still healing, he’s doing better than he was before.”

Alex was excited to get back to class, both to see his teachers and his friends. “It’s pretty neat,” Valorie says. “Even though he’s not in a physical school building, he’s still meeting people and building friendships. He has two really good friends that he met through Launch, and we’re maybe even going to visit one of them next year.” And when he’s not in class, Alex loves video games, TV game shows, and—most of all—football. “I’m a big football fanatic,” he says. “My favorite team is the Detroit Lions.”

And when he’s not watching his favorite team, Alex’s current focus is healing—and growing. “My goal is to be taller than my mom,” he says with a grin. Valorie, who is 4-foot-7, laughs. “He’s already grown since the surgery,” she says. “He’s determined.”

More than anything, Alex’s parents feel reassured about what lies ahead. “For years, we worried about what junior high and high school would look like for him,” Valorie says. “Launch gave us reassurance that it’s all okay, and he’s going to be okay. Honestly, this program hasn’t just helped Alex. It’s helped us as parents, too. And we’re so grateful for that.”





Skating Over Seas

Launch senior Minley Crawford keeps up with world-class competition thanks to her very own world-wide classroom.

Most students log into Launch from their bedroom. Launch senior Minley Crawford? She's logged in from France, Italy, Portugal—and most recently, China. As a member of Team USA for inline speed skating, Minley spends much of the year training and competing around the globe. For her, Launch isn't just an option—it's the only way she can chase her dreams and stay on track for graduation.

Minley joined Launch halfway through her sophomore year after receiving truancy notices for the school days she missed while traveling. "I didn't want to miss school, but I had to with my schedule," Minley says. "I needed to find a way to get my work done while I was gone." With Launch, she found the flexibility she needed. "I love being able to get things done on my time and at my own pace," Minley says. "I can work ahead, look things up, talk to my mom if I need help—it's just easier."

This flexibility helps Minley support an impressive, life-long athletic journey. "I basically came out of the womb on skates," Minley says. And now, she's one of only eight junior ladies selected for Team USA, specializing in long-distance events like the 5K and 10K. She most recently spent several weeks in China for the world championships, competing against skaters from Colombia, Portugal, Korea, Ecuador, and more.

No matter where she is in the world, Minley says her Launch teachers are always quick to respond and cheer her on. After graduation, she plans to continue traveling and competing—and maybe dip into modeling or event planning someday. "It's really cool to experience different places and cultures," she says. "Launch lets me do this and keep up with school, all while doing what I love."

— F u e l e d B y —

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 • Adair Co. R-II • Adrian R-III • Advance R-IV • Affton 101 • Al Salam Day School • 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 • Billings R-IV • Blair Oaks • Bloomfield R-XIV • Blue Eye R-V • Bolivar R-I • Bowling Green R-I • Branson R-IV • Braymer C-4 • Breckenridge R-I • Brentwood • Bronaugh R-VII • Brunswick R-II • Buchanan Co. R-IV • 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 • Christian Brothers College High School • Clark Co. R-I • Clarkton C-4 • Clayton • Clever R-V • Clinton Co. R-III • Clinton School District • Cole Camp R-I • Cole Co. R-I • Cole Co. R-V • Columbia 93 • 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 • Davis R-XII • Delta C-7 • Delta R-V • Desoto 73 • Dexter R-XI • Diamond R-IV • Discovery Center of Springfield • Dixon R-I • Doniphan R-I • Dora R-III • 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 • Gallatin 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 • Holden R-III • Holliday C-2 • Hollister R-V • Houston R-I • Howell Valley R-I • Hudson R-IX • Humansville R-IV • Hume R-VIII • Hurley R-I • Iberia R-V • Independence 30 • Iron County C4 • Jackson R-II • Jamestown C-I • Jefferson C-123 • Jefferson City • Johnson Co. R-VII • Joplin Schools • Junction Hill C-12 • Kansas City 33 • Kearney R-I • King City R-I • Kingsville R-I • Kipp Endeavor Academy • Kipp St. Louis Public Schools • Kirbyville R-VI • Kirkwood R-VII • La Monte R-IV • Laclede Co. C-5 • Laclede County R-I • Ladue • Lafayette Co. C-1 • 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 • Link Academy • 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 Co. R-III • Miller R-II • Missouri City 56 • Moberly • Momentum Academy STL • 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 • Nevada R-V • 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 Davies R-III • 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 • Ozark R-VI • Palmyra R-I • Park Hill • Parkway C-2 • Pattonville R-III • Pettis Co. R-V • Phelps County R-III • Pierce City R-VI • Pike Co. R-III • Pilot Grove C-4 • Plato R-V • Platte Co. R-III • Plaza Academy • 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 • Scott Co. Central • Scott Co. R-IV • Sedalia 200 • Seneca R-VII • Seymour R-II • Shawnee R-III • Shelby Co. R-IV • Sheldon R-VIII • 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 Lutheran High School • Springfield Private Schools • Springfield R-XII • St. Charles R-VI • St. James R-I • St. John Vianney High School • St. Joseph • St. Joseph's Academy • 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 • Swdeborg R-III • Sweet Springs R-VII • Tarkio R-I • Thayer R-II • The Arch Community School • The Biome • The Goodwill Excel Centers • Tina-Avalon R-II • Tipton R-VI • Troy R-III • Union R-XI • University Academy • 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 • Winona R-I • Winston R-VI • Woodland R-IV • Worth Co. R-III • Wright City R-II • Warren Co.

Disclaimer: Listed member districts are accurate as of press time (December 19, 2025)

