

Parent Guide

Your child is in a Launch class—now what? Understand Launch's virtual learning process, and find tools to help your student be successful.



— F u e l e d B y —

LAUNCH

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As a parent, you can observe your student's progress, and your student can reach out to the Launch team for tech-related questions.



Introduction to Parents

Hello, and welcome to Launch! You're likely reading this because you have a student who is interested in or currently taking a Launch class—we've designed this guide to tell you about our program.

Launch is a virtual academy that provides Missouri students quality online course offerings. While Launch is headquartered in Springfield, the virtual learning academy partners with school districts across the state to serve thousands of Missouri learners. All Launch courses are taught by highly qualified Missouri teachers, and these teachers are excited to work with your kiddos! Our Launch teachers provide students with instruction and feedback just as students would receive in seated courses, and our teachers even call home when students are inactive or failing.

The goal of this guide is to provide you with an understanding of Launch and also share how your student can be successful. If you have additional questions, feel free to reach out to your district's Launch Liaison—they are well-educated on all-things Launch and will be happy to help!

Launch's virtual courses include dynamic content just like students receive in seated classes, but everything is delivered virtually.

What is Online Learning?

Launch online courses are hosted on Canvas, a learning management system (LMS). You can think of a learning management system as an online classroom where the teacher posts assignments and grades and students submit their work. Courses are designed with dynamic content and assignments that include both individual work and collaboration. Students participate in discussion boards, create culminating projects, record themselves explaining concepts, take assessments, and various other learning formats.

Similarities to Learning in a School Building:

- Launch courses still have caring teachers to support students
- Launch students cover the same content as they would in a seated class
- Launch students complete the same types of assignments they would complete in a seated class, but the assignments are delivered in an online format

Differences From the Traditional Classroom:

- Students won't always see teachers face-to-face in real time, although they will have opportunities to conference with them each week
- Launch course content is already created for students, so students can work at their own pace

WHY TAKE A LAUNCH CLASS?

MAKE LAUNCH WORK FOR YOUR CHILD

Are you wondering if your child should take an online class? Below we outline the various ways Launch courses are helping students across the state of Missouri. Interested in learning more? Talk to your school counselor!

Meeting Student Needs

- **Alternatives for scheduling conflicts.** If your child is having difficulties fitting all the classes they want in their schedule, they can use Launch to earn required credits virtually and still attend the seated classes they want to attend.
- **College and Career Readiness.** Whether your child desires to go on to college or jump right into their career after graduating high school, they will most likely take online courses or have to attend online trainings in the future. Launch is the perfect place for students to get exposed to online learning, and they will still have a caring high school educator helping them along the way.
- **Alternatives for scheduling conflicts.** When students have difficulties fitting all the classes they want in their schedules while also covering all of their necessary graduation requirements, they can use Launch to take the classes they need (so they can take the seated classes they want!)
- **Access to hard-to-find courses and teachers.** Launch is able to provide a variety of upper level math, science and foreign language courses in addition to multiple AP offerings that students might not otherwise have access to take.
- **Electives and accelerated options.** For students who are ready for higher level courses, Launch can allow for acceleration or access to additional electives.
- **Flexibility for homebound and at-risk students.** For students needing to go on homebound or on long-term suspension, Launch can take a transfer grade in and allow the student to keep working while they are not able to attend seated courses.
- **Options for medically fragile students.** In the case that a student needs to be at home or on a reduced schedule, they can take required classes with Launch and have more flexibility in the time they have seated.
- **Credit Recovery programs.** If a student has previously failed a course, they can make up the credit with Launch—Launch has a full credit recovery suite aligned to Missouri Learning Standards.
- **Access for homeschool and private school students.** Districts may provide Launch as an option to students who are homeschooled or attend a private school.



How Launch Works

Launch helps students of all learning levels by offering honor and advanced placement courses, an expansive selection of core credits and electives and dozens of credit recovery opportunities.

Traditional Virtual

Launch's Traditional Virtual courses are NCAA and MSHSAA approved and start and stop with a traditional school calendar. Final exams are proctored online using Canvas conferencing, and course progress is monitored using Dropout Detective.

Credit Recovery

Credit Recovery offers a way to makeup credit with courses that are MSHSAA approved and have flexible start dates. Priority standards are assessed at 80% mastery, and course progress is monitored using Dropout Detective.

Credit Acquisition

Designed for students transferring or re-entering during a semester, Credit Acquisition offers a way to gain credit with a pass or fail grade. Students get the full course content with flexible dates and are monitored using Dropout Detective.

LAUNCH GLOSSARY

Canvas: Canvas is the learning management system (LMS) your child will use to take their Launch class. You can think of a learning management system as an online classroom where teachers post assignments and grades and students submit their work.

Canvas Dashboard: After logging into Canvas, students will see their "dashboard." It will be filled with tiles—each tile represents a Launch course. They click the tile to get into their course.

Canvas Inbox: Students all have an Inbox in their Canvas classroom. Students need to check this inbox to see messages from and send messages to their teachers.

Dual Credit: Launch's Dual Credit courses allow students to earn college credit as well as high school credit. Launch offers dual credit through Missouri State University.

Launch Liaison: A Launch Liaison is a school district's designated Launch contact. This person, who is often (but not always) the counselor, is responsible for enrolling students in Launch courses and providing students Launch-related support.

Virtual Launch Course: Your student's virtual Launch course is the course they are taking online with Launch through their school district.

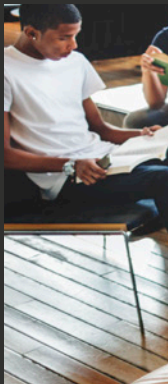


PROFILE OF A SUCCESSFUL ONLINE LEARNER

Since an online learning environment is different than a seated, face-to-face setting, students should adapt several habits and practices to help themselves be successful. Work with your child to form these habits.

How do you make sure your child is successful in their Launch course? Help them adapt these habits!

TIME MANAGEMENT



In an online setting, students will need to be able to manage their time. Help your child think through a study schedule. What time of day will they work on their online course? Where will they work on their course? It will be important that students are consistently working on their courses.

SELF MOTIVATION



Without the presence of a face-to-face teacher, students will need to have a strong will to login, complete assignments, and communicate with their teacher.

SELF ADVOCACY



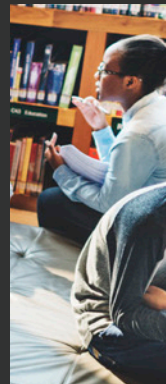
All Launch courses have a Launch instructor assigned. Walk students through the process of reaching out for help by messaging their teacher or our support team, depending on the type of support they need. If students are unsure on how to complete an assignment, they need the skill to advocate for help.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS



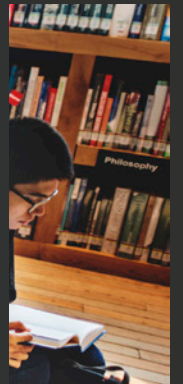
In an online setting, communication is key. Students will need to have appropriate communication with both their teachers and their classmates.

TECHNOLOGY SKILLS



In order to be successful in an online setting, students need basic technology skills and a willingness to learn new ones.

STUDY HABITS



It will be important for your student to form study habits and routines to stay up to date with their coursework.

We Are Here For You!

You will have questions as you start your virtual learning process, and we're here to help!

Support and Parent Observer Accounts:

As a parent of a Launch student, you have access to a Parent Observer Account. After your district's Launch Liaison provides you with your login information, you will log in at **launch.instructure.com**. Here you can see your student's courses and grades, find their teachers' information and much more.



The Launch technical support team is available seven days a week. To get help with a Canvas-related issue or for general information regarding Launch, you can:

- 1. Send an email to support@fueledbylaunch.com.** Launch support staff answers emails between 7:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m. seven days a week. You can typically expect a response within half an hour.
- 2. Use your Canvas to send a message to HELP.** After you send a Canvas message, you will hear back from a Launch support staff member as soon as possible.
- 3. Call the Launch office at (417) 523-0417.** The Launch office is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Contact us online!

✉ email
support@fueledbylaunch.com

🌐 website

🐦 twitter





"Launch gives students new skills and allows them to be flexible to choose when they want to learn."

—**Scott,**
Launch Instructor

fueledbylaunch.com

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

support@fueledbylaunch.com

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