

ROAR ACADEMY

at Lieberman Learning Center

University City High School • 7401 Balson Avenue • University City, MO 63130

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ROAR Academy at Lieberman Learning Center (LLC) is an alternative learning environment located within the walls of University City High School for students who are in need of credit recovery, Missouri Options and/or a smaller learning environment. The ROAR team is committed to providing an alternative learning experience in a safe, caring and nurturing environment and will establish opportunities for students to succeed by providing them with experiences to learn, collaborate with peers and advocate for themselves.

Program Mission

The staff of ROAR Academy @ LLC is committed to providing comprehensive educational services to secondary students who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to adequately complete their education in a conventional setting.

Program Vision

ROAR Academy @ LLC's vision is for all students to learn in an environment that fits their individual needs and graduate with a post-secondary plan that will put them on the path to success.

Core Values: Empower, Engage, Educate, Excel

Learning Reimagined

The District operates under the vision of Learning Reimagined, a plan to Humanize, Personalize and Problematize student learning through modern, rigorous and relevant experiences and academics. The plan strives for well-being and joy in our students and staff, excellent staff, all hands in partnership with others, and strategic, equitable use of resources. Student voice is supported and a social justice mindset is encouraged.

Program Overview

ROAR Academy @ LLC provides secondary students with opportunities to succeed and grow in a non-traditional and safe educational environment that promotes the necessary academic, emotional and behavioral changes needed for future educational success.

- individualized programs of study
- post-secondary learning experiences
- assistance in developing pro-social skills
- credit opportunities for valuable training through community service or work experience based on student's career interest
- an environment that will provide personal and social emotional development



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Alternative Programs and Services

Missouri Options

Offers students who are at least 17 years of age, enrolled in Missouri public or charter school, and at risk of dropping out or not graduating with their cohort group the opportunity to earn a high school diploma.

Students study on Essential Ed, an online platform that helps prepare students to take the HiSET. The HiSET consists of five tests in the areas of Math, Reading, Writing, Science and Social Studies. Students who successfully pass all tests will walk with their cohort during graduation.

“Road to 24” Credit Recovery

For students who are credit deficient and need to recover credits at an accelerated rate in order to graduate on time with their cohort. Most classes are completed in Edgenuity. Edgenuity is an online platform that allows students to recover credits in core and elective courses. Students will

Embrace

An after school supplemental program for students currently enrolled in ROAR that provides students an opportunity to complete work in a smaller environment with fewer distractions.

RENEW Program

Provides an opportunity for students who are suspended longer than 10 days to receive education support within the school building in the evenings. Two teachers, a counselor and SSD teacher are assigned to the space to help support students.

Work Experience

The purpose of allowing students to earn credit for work experience is to assist them in exploring occupations, being employed on a part-time basis and adjusting to the real world of work. Students must obtain their own employment and retain employment throughout the semester, even though they may change positions. Students should present their paycheck stubs to the counselor who will keep copies of them on file and then issue credit at the end of each semester if the requirements have been met.

Enrollment

Students who wish to attend ROAR Academy must apply by first enrolling at University City High School. After enrolling they may request to a counselor or administrator an application to be submitted for them. Current UCHS students are referred by counselors. There is an intake process that includes a meeting with student and guardian to understand the expectations of the program as well as gain an understanding of the child’s education and personal goals to determine if the road to 24 (credit recovery) or Missouri Options is the best pathway to success.

Program History

Recognizing that not every student is able to thrive educationally in a large school setting, the District created an Alternative School Program in 1992. The program was renamed in 2007 to honor the then-retiring school board member Joy Lieberman, who served the community for 24 consecutive years.

Over the years, the program has been housed in various locations from above businesses in the Delmar Loop to behind a church on Olive near I-170 and under the same roof as the administration building. However, things changed drastically during the summer of 2021 when the administration building was sold and the District relocated LLC students to their own space inside University City High School. District leaders vowed to give them the space that they needed to thrive.

Thanks to the talents of St. Louis area artist Sara Zigman, bright modern murals adhere to the walls that are intentionally inspirational and modern, appealing to the sensibilities of an older teen dealing with modern pop culture, the dynamic and changing world of everyday technology and the very modern challenges in their daily lives.

In 2023, the academic program within LLC was named ROAR Academy to capture the essence of the resilience, boldness, and power it takes for students to persevere and overcome obstacles they face.

All schools in The School District of University City are designated as Title I. Each school receives federal funding to provide extra services to students, coaching and professional development for teachers and parent involvement activities.

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