

Winchester-Clark County, KY Entrepreneurial Academy

A Letter to Parents and Guardians*Launch Lab — Free Entrepreneurship Program for Clark County Teenagers · Fall 2026*

Dear Clark County Parent or Guardian,

My name is John Chaney and I am the founder and Executive Director of the Winchester-Clark County, KY Entrepreneurial Academy — a new nonprofit organization based right here in Winchester, Kentucky.

I am writing to tell you about a free program we are launching this fall for Clark County teenagers ages 13 to 18. It is called Launch Lab and I believe it may be exactly what your teenager needs.

What Is Launch Lab?

Launch Lab is a nine-session entrepreneurship program where Clark County teenagers build real businesses from scratch. Not a school project. Not a simulation. A real business with a real product or service, real customers, and real money.

Students come in with an idea. Over nine sessions they validate the idea, figure out what to charge, find their first customers, make their first real sale, and pitch their business at a public event called Pitch Night. The winner of Pitch Night receives a \$250 seed prize to invest back into their business.

Is This Right for My Teenager?

Launch Lab is for any Clark County teenager between 13 and 18 who has an idea — any idea — and wants to do something with it. We do not screen for grades or test scores. We look for teenagers who have drive, curiosity, and a willingness to do real work.

If your teenager has ever talked about starting something, selling something, or building something — this program was built for them.

The Free Promise

Launch Lab is completely free.

No tuition. No registration fee. No materials cost. No fundraising requirement. No cost to your family of any kind. This promise does not expire.

Program Details

Program name	Launch Lab — Winchester-Clark County, KY Entrepreneurial Academy
Who can participate	Clark County teenagers ages 13 to 18
Cost	Free. Permanently. No exceptions.
Location	Cardinal Community Center, Winchester, KY
Schedule	Weekly or bi-weekly sessions — Fall 2026 through December 2026
Number of sessions	9 sessions total per cohort
Cohort size	Up to 20 students
Key events	Soft Launch Event — students sell to the public for the first time. Pitch Night — real judges, \$250 seed prize for the winner.
Coaches	Clark County business professionals volunteer as coaches every session.
Background and safety	All coaches are background checked. Mandatory reporter trained. Two adults present at every session.

Safety

The safety of every student is our highest priority. All WCEA coaches and staff complete criminal background checks through an approved provider before working with students. All adults complete mandatory reporter training required by Kentucky

law. A minimum of two unrelated adults are present at every session. We follow a comprehensive Youth Protection and Mandatory Reporting Policy adopted by our Board of Directors.

How to Apply

If you would like your teenager to be considered for the Fall 2026 Launch Lab cohort please contact me directly. I will send you an enrollment packet and answer any questions you have about the program.

John Chaney — Executive Director / Program Director
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Winchester-Clark County, KY Entrepreneurial Academy · Cardinal Community Center · Winchester, KY

I am proud to be building this program for Clark County and I hope your family will be part of it. If you have any questions at all please reach out directly. I answer every message personally.

Sincerely,

John Chaney

Executive Director / Program Director

Winchester-Clark County, KY Entrepreneurial Academy

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