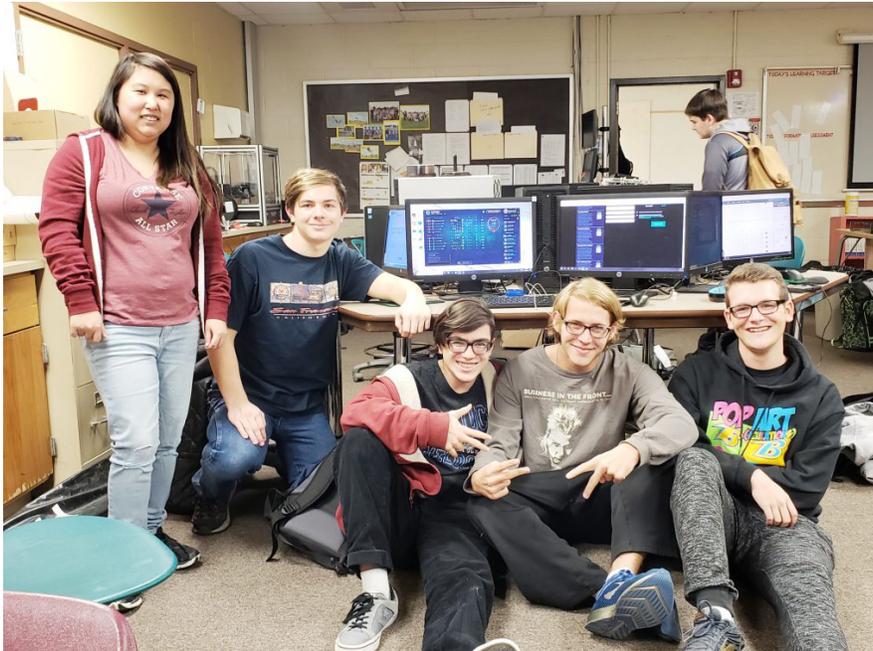


# A new sports craze at BCHS

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By **ALAYSIA ORTIZ** and **SIDNEE SLONE**

*Boyle County High School*

There is a new sport sweeping the state of Kentucky, but it may not be what one would expect. Earlier this year, the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) decided to try something new. An activity currently sweeping college campuses, eSports has now been rolled out for any high school student wishing to have fun competing against other schools across the state via video game. Boyle County was notified of this new opportunity and decided to take part.

Damian Laymon, a teacher at the high school and the head coach,

explains its beginnings. "Just in the fall, maybe in the beginning of October, we got an email from the KHSAA asking us if we'd like to be involved. So we put out feelers throughout the school very quickly and we had 16 students who were interested enough to go ahead and join for the season."



Photo by Damian Laymon

eSports junior varsity members include (from front to back) Kyle Tyler, Landon Simmons, Cole Whitt, Wyatt Sleight, and Creed Farthing.

On game day, the team breaks into groups of five to compete against another eSports high school team to begin League of Legends play. Each week, Boyle will play another school in the state and in January they will be involved in their first KHSAA post-season tournament. Sophomore eSports member Cole Craig shares "the good sense of community among the team" as his favorite part of being on the squad. "We share the same interests and enjoy playing the game together."

*Alaysia Ortiz and Sidnee Slone are journalism students at Boyle County High School.*

