

Esports Information

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What is eSports?

eSports is, essentially, a video game played and treated as a sport. Most eSports games are team games, with the students having to work together to achieve objectives and win the game. It is also competitive, like physical sports, and involves our students playing against other schools once or twice a week in competition.

When does eSports take place?

There are two seasons of eSports every year- Winter and Spring. The winter season takes place from mid-October to late January, and the spring season occurs from March to late May.

What game(s) do you play?

At this point PlaysVS and KHSAA have only announced three games that are available. League of Legends, Rocket League, and Smite. More games may become available as the sport grows in Kentucky.

League of Legends.

League of Legends is known as a MOBA, which stands for "Multiplayer Online Battle Arena". In these games, there are different characters a player can pick, called champions. Each champion has a different set of abilities and roles on the team, much like how different players on a football or baseball team have a different set of roles and strengths.

The objective of the game is to destroy the enemy base before they destroy yours. To do this more effectively, you can buy items to make your character stronger, with a currency you earn in-game called gold. This game is a 5v5 team oriented game where teamwork and communication is critical. League of Legends is rated T for TEEN by the ESRB.

Smite.

Like League of Legends, Smite is another MOBA game with a team of five. The game plays similarly to League as well where you are tasked with drafting a strategy to outplay your opponents and destroy their base. This biggest difference between the two is the style of gameplay from the players perspective. Smite is rated T for TEEN by the ESRB.

Rocket League.

Simply put, Rocket League is a soccer style game played with rocket powered cars that fly. Like soccer, the objective is to score more than your opponent in a five minute timeframe. This game is played in a 3v3 format where players need to communicate and work together to understand positioning and physics in order to capitalize on their opponents mistakes. Rocket League is rated E for EVERYONE by the ESRB.

How are the games played?

Because the games are played online against opponents, there is no travel associated with this sport unless a team makes it to the state championships.

What requirements are needed to play?

Because this is a KHSAA sanctioned sport, we adhere to the KHSAA rules. This means that, yes, all students need a physical. Students will also be required to maintain KHSAA GPA Eligibility.

Are there any fees to play?

There is a current fee of \$64 a student to compete per season. I am looking for suggestions on how to cover this. It may come down to fundraising and/or self pay. This fee goes to PlayVS, not the school.

What are the benefits of eSports?

I know that many parents may be wondering what the benefits of eSports are. After all, one of the main benefits of playing a traditional sport is the physical conditioning portion of the game, and that isn't really included in eSports. eSports actually still offers numerous benefits to players, such as:

- Team Building, Problem Solving and Cooperation Skills.
- Scholarship Opportunities and a Path to College.
 - Over 200 offer Esports Scholarships. (UK, UoL, and OSU to name a few).
- Professional play possibilities.
- STEM Opportunities
- Introduction into a Fast-Growing Industry (The video game industry is worth more than music and movies combined!)

Please contact me if you have any questions! I am more than happy to talk with anyone about this! I appreciate your interest in the possible creation of an Esports program at Gallatin County Schools.