

## Proposal for an eSports team for Russellville High School

As we plan for the next school year, I would like to formally propose the addition of a varsity Esports program to our extracurricular offerings.

In my role as Director of Technology, I have seen the increasing demand for tech-centered student activities. Esports provides a sanctioned, competitive outlet for students who may not participate in traditional sports, while offering them the same benefits of teamwork, discipline, and school pride. Furthermore, with the **KHSAA/PlayVS removal of player participation fees**, the barrier to entry has never been lower.

### Estimated Startup Costs (Initial Lab Build)

To ensure our students are competitive and our equipment meets the hardware demands of titles like *Rocket League*, *Super Smash Bros.*, and *Madden*, I recommend the following initial investment:

Item	Quantity	Estimated Unit Cost	Total
Xbox Series X (1TB)	2	\$649.00	\$1,298.00
Nintendo Switch OLED	2	\$350.00	\$700.00
Pro Gaming 4K Monitors (e.g., ASUS ROG Strix / Sony InZone)	4	\$300.00	\$1,200.00

TOTAL ESTIMATED STARTUP \$3,198.00

**Note:** This equipment typically has a 5 to 7 year life-cycle.

### Coaching & Personnel

Based on current Kentucky small-district coaching schedules (typically aligned with Level 2 or Level 3 coaching stipends), I recommend a stipend for a Head Esports Coach.

Proposed Coaching Stipend: \$1,500 – \$2,500 per year.

Note: This is comparable to stipends for Golf, Tennis, or Assistant Baseball/Softball coaches in similar KY districts.

## Key Benefits for Our District

- **Scholarship Opportunities:** Universities across Kentucky (WKU, Midway, Pikeville, etc.) are actively recruiting high school players with dedicated Esports scholarships.
- **Academic Eligibility:** All players must meet KHSAA academic standards to compete, providing a strong incentive for at-risk students to maintain their grades.
- **Infrastructure Readiness:** Our existing district network is fully capable of supporting the "4:00 PM Match Day" traffic without impacting other school operations.

## Appendix: KHSAA Game Titles & Season Schedule

For your planning, the KHSAA operates two main seasons (Fall and Spring). Most games are offered in both seasons, allowing students to compete year-round.

Console	Game Title	Typical Season(s)
Xbox Series X	<i>Madden NFL</i>	Fall & Spring
Xbox Series X	<i>NBA 2K</i>	Spring
Nintendo Switch	<i>Super Smash Bros. Ultimate</i>	Fall & Spring
Nintendo Switch	<i>Mario Kart 8 Deluxe</i>	Fall & Spring
Nintendo Switch	<i>Splatoon 3</i>	Fall & Spring

**Note:** PC-specific titles like *League of Legends* and *Rocket League* are also available if we choose to use existing computer lab hardware.

### Annual Schedule (Typical)

- **Fall Season:**
  - **Registration:** Late August – Mid September
  - **Regular Season:** Late September – Mid November
  - **Playoffs/State Finals:** Late November – Early December
- **Spring Season:**
  - **Registration:** January – Early February
  - **Regular Season:** Mid February – Late March
  - **Playoffs/State Finals:** April