

Oak Hills Esports, And How You Can Get Involved

By: Andrew Macke

Ever growing as an industry, Esports is becoming more and more prevalent, and can you believe it our school is involved! Before coronavirus canceled everything our school's Esports program boasting a Rocket League, Fortnite, Smash Brothers, and Overwatch team. Currently, most of their competitions are canceled, however, the Oak Hills Overwatch team is involved in an Esports Ohio "quarantourney" tied with Olentangy High School for first place. Both teams have a 4-0 undefeated record with Oak Hills having zero map losses.

Going into the 20-21 school year students can expect the interest to grow with not only more publicity, more wins, and a request for funding that would provide PCs to the teams. Looking toward the future, the program is expected to continually grow with the help of students looking to boost school spirit. Not only do we provide the previously listed games, if a student is interested in creating their own team for a game not listed, all that is required is providing a full roster of eligible students. For example, there would have been a HearthStone, and League Of Legends team if there were enough players interested.

If you are looking to get involved here are some things you can do. Start by improving your game whatever you play there is always room for improvement and with college scouts at some events (State Championships, Tournament Finals) you want to be at the highest level you can. When school hopefully gets started back up in the fall get in touch with Mr. Bradrick (bradrick_t@ohlsd.org) or Mr. Couch (couch_d@ohlsd.org) and express your interest, once in contact they will fill you in on the requirements to play, there aren't that many. In the meantime, summer hasn't even begun yet so here's the link to the leading organization behind the competitions (<https://www.esportsohio.org/>). Here you will find just about everything about their organization including the rules and sign-up process for later in the fall.

Going into the next school year, I can only hope this program will not only succeed but give students another reason to be highlander strong. Just to add our school's Overwatch team has beaten the previous state champion in the quarantourney so we have big things to look forward to in the upcoming school year. I hope you all are healthy and eager to see Oak Hill finally dominate a "sport", It's been a while for our school to be so dominant at something.