



# Marion City Schools

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## ESPORTS HAS ARRIVED AT HARDING HIGH SCHOOL

(Marion, OH) Marion City Schools is pleased to announce that Harding High School will be starting an esports team for students during the 2022-2023 school year.

Esports stands for electronic sports, which is organized competitive gameplay between two teams, governed by its own set of rules and guidelines. Esports requires teamwork, communication, critical and strategic thinking and sportsmanship, just like traditional sports. Ohio currently has the biggest high school esports league in the country, Esports Ohio. In a partnership with Marion Technical College (MTC), Harding students wanting to compete in competitive esports will be coached by Financial Literacy and Government teacher, Chris Harmon, and will compete at the Pillar esports Arena at Marion Technical College, a top of the line facility right here in Marion, Ohio.

“When I was introducing myself to my colleagues, I mentioned my passion for gaming and my history as a member of the Smash Bros. Esports Club at Miami University. When informed of Harding’s opening for a coach to lead a brand new esports team, I jumped at the chance,” said Harmon. “I’ve been playing the fighting game Super Smash Bros. since I was three years old. I competed in local tournaments in middle school and when attending Miami University played competitively at regional tournaments throughout the area. I have experience with most other esports games at a more casual level.”

For this semester we will operate as a club, playing and practicing a variety of games to discover what games to focus on for future competitive play and solidify teams of dedicated members.

“Super Smash Brothers Ultimate, Overwatch, League of Legends, Valorant, and Rocket League,” said Harmon. “There is an active competitive scene out there right now for these games and I want to meet the students where they are but also push them to grow in new areas.”

Currently, there are 10 colleges in Ohio offering scholarships for esports, with that number likely to be doubled or even tripled over the next few years. The majority of colleges will offer some form of scholarships for both competitors as well as broadcasters/steamers as the rise in popularity of esports continues.

Harding High School students interested in joining the esports team should reach out to Mr. Harmon for more information.

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## **About Marion City Schools**

At Marion City Schools, we want to inspire a community of achievement. We offer innovative experiences, educational options and learning programs not available in surrounding school districts. We search for ways to prepare students for not only academic success but success in college and careers as well. Our Four Pillars follow four distinct themes including Leadership, Learning, Literacy and Legacy. We want our students to leave high school with not only their diploma, but also acceptance into a two or four-year college, an adult training program, the military, or a high-paying, in-demand job.