MEDIA RELEASE

Students Compete in New Online Gaming League Tournament

What: Top high school online eSports teams will compete for FUEL title

When: Saturday, May 4, 2019
- Competition starts: 8:30 a.m.
- Awards ceremony: 2 p.m.

Where: Hoover High School Event Center
- 5550 N. First St. (93710)

The district will host the spring eSports gaming championships, concluding the first year for the Fresno Unified eSports League (FUEL), which attracted nearly 400 high school participants. More than 100 students on three-person teams from Fresno Unified and several other districts will compete, an even larger turnout than the fall championships. They will compete in Rocket League, a soccer-with-cars online game for teams.

eSports is a new way for the district to involve all types of students in an extracurricular activity that engages them in school, with staff and with fellow students, and promotes school spirit.

eSports is a booming industry with numerous job opportunities beyond being a player, including game design, coding, testing, sales and marketing, production, streaming and management. More than 200 colleges and universities are actively recruiting and providing scholarships for eSports players. The University of California system offers $9 million in eSports scholarships.
“The success of our eSports league far exceeded what we had hoped for, providing an innovative way to involve a whole new, diverse group of students in a competitive school activity. And eSports isn’t just fun – it enhances teamwork and communication skills and prepares students for career opportunities in a growing field,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson.

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