



POCONO MOUNTAIN EAST HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Tamala L. Toleno, Principal

Ms. Jamie Marra, Assistant Principal
Mr. John Richards, Assistant Principal
Mr. Brian Williams, Assistant Principal

Emerald Foundation and benefactors,

Pocono Mountain East Esports has been a club since Spring 2022. We started off with 12 dedicated students who met in an old computer lab every week. These students were individuals who otherwise were not involved in extracurricular activities in school. As a club we were given the support of our administration to move to a new room with some new accommodations this last fall. The interest for the club grew beyond what we could have expected. The first week we met this year we had around 50 students. This was great to see but also came with negative results. We currently have limited resources and enough equipment for 20-25 students to participate. Once students realized there were limited opportunities for them we lost members.

Esports, to us, is a group of students who come together on an equal playing field of gaming. These students have used this opportunity to find their people, to find their purpose, and to create a community they can count on. Not only are these students building a relationship, it is helping with discipline issues and attendance. Our students make sure they stay in good standing and are attending school regularly so they can be a part of our weekly meetings.

We are also using this opportunity to teach our students beyond the controller. We recently hosted our first tournament. Our students were on the front lines of event production and management. They were involved from start to finish. We take every opportunity to provide opportunities to expand this interest and love for gaming into something they can build on and incorporate in their lives moving forward.

When we were presented with this opportunity to partner with the Emerald Foundation and all it stands for we were very excited. When we were told about the donation of funds to provide more consoles for our students to use we were blown away. The funds being given will provide us with 4 Nintendo Switch consoles, monitors, and the items necessary to incorporate them into our club. This means we will now be able to reach those students we lost. More students will be able to find their place in our club and we will be able to reach more students and give them the opportunity to go beyond the controller.

Thank you Emerald Foundation for what you stand for and for giving us this opportunity to partner with you.

*Pocono Mountain East Esports
Jason Anglada & Jessica Allshouse*

◆ TO PROVIDE DIVERSE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL STUDENTS TO BECOME RESPONSIBLE MEMBERS OF THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY ◆

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