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July 23, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tipton High School to Build Virtual Reality and Esports Lab

TIPTON, IN- July 23, 2018— Tipton High School will be installing a virtual reality and esports lab this fall. The lab has been made possible by a major grant from the Tipton County Foundation, and will include 12 high end computers that will allow students to supplement their education with interactive virtual reality experiences in all areas of study. The equipment will also allow for the school to develop an esports team, an up and coming area of competition where students compete in organized video game tournaments.

The lab won't be ready for the opening day of school, but it is hoped that it will be completed this fall.

John Robertson, a Tipton High School English teacher applied for the grant through the Tipton County Foundation as part of their new educational "Imagine Grant" program that they implemented this year. His hope was to create a space where students would be excited to learn.

The VR computers allow students to use special headsets and controllers that allow them to feel like they are in different places. There are a huge amount of educational uses, including being able to visit foreign countries or historical sites, reliving the Apollo missions, sculpting digital objects in 3D, and much more.

Robertson is also developing the esports program for the students.

"Esports, or competitive video gaming is growing so fast that I really wanted our students to get in on the ground floor," Robertson said, "All of the aspects of competition that make traditional sports great: teamwork, communication, practice... they all exist in esports. And there's going to be a lot of careers in this area in the future."

Students who are interested in participating in the esports program will have to try out for the team, but there will be spots for several players as there will be a number of different titles played as part of the esports program.

Tipton High School is excited to offer these opportunities to its students, and believes that students will be enthusiastic as well.