



ANNUAL  
BUDGET  
ISSUE

## BUDGET 2016-2017

Vote: Tuesday, May 17 • 6am – 9pm • Tully Elementary School Conference Room #8

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### From the Desk of the Superintendent

Included in this issue of the *Knight Insight* is information regarding both our academic program and our proposed 2016-17 school budget. A careful look at our 3-8 State Assessment results and our high school Regents Exam results reveals two trends. First, in general, our K-8 students are progressing in skill development at a faster pace than their peers across the State. Second, across the board, our high school students (along with our accelerated 8th graders) have demonstrated a much higher level of academic achievement than their peers across the State.

These NYS 3-8 Assessment and Regents Exam results tend to confirm what our own teachers see on



a daily basis, which is that academically our students are doing well. Granted the 3-8 Assessments and high school Regents Exams are imperfect measures, but in conjunction with our locally created assessments and exams, we are able to use these results to identify where our academic programs seem to be strongest, and to identify areas where we should seek to improve.

Regarding our proposed 2016-17 school budget, there are two changes I would like to point out. First, we have made some changes within the budget to more closely align our staffing levels with our needs. For example, through attrition we will be reducing the number of teaching assistants we employ by two, and hiring one certified teacher to fill the gap they will be leaving behind. In making these changes, we have marginally increased our personnel expenses.

Second, we have tried to align our proposed 2016-17 school budget more closely with actual expenses. Doing so will allow us to enhance the opportunities we provide for our students, and for the Tully school community in general. For example, we will be re-allocating some funds so that we can upgrade our fitness room equipment, and so that we can provide additional fitness room supervision during after-school hours. This will allow our students (along with other members of the Tully community) to have expanded opportunity to use the fitness center.

By aligning staffing levels to more closely meet our needs, and by aligning our budget more closely to our actual expenses, we will be able to enhance the educational opportunities we provide our students. In making these changes, we have also been able to accomplish two important goals. First, we have been able to keep proposed 2016-17 school budget increases below the local "tax cap". Second, we have been able to keep our projected use of fund balance and reserves at a sustainable level.

Robert Hughes, Superintendent of Schools

Email: [rhughes@tullyschools.org](mailto:rhughes@tullyschools.org) / Office: 315-696-6204

At **Tully Elementary School** we offer a comprehensive program to meet the academic, social/emotional and behavioral needs of our kindergarten through sixth grade students. All students learn mathematics through the use of the New York State math modules. Our literacy (reading, writing, listening and speaking) standards are taught through the use of reading groups, New York State English-Language Arts (ELA) modules, and Lucy Calkins' Units of Study (writing). Project Based Learning is the vehicle for most science and social studies instruction. Teachers use the Responsive Classroom program as a platform for helping students to develop a clear understanding of social, emotional and behavioral expectations. We hold a whole school meeting each month, as a part of our ongoing character education program. We have a daily Response to Intervention (RTI) time, which is a period of the day when students in grades 2 – 6 meet in small, ability based ELA groups, to further improve skills. We also have ELA and math teachers who push into K – 6 classrooms, to support students, and we pull out some small groups of students, who might need further remediation. All students participate in music, art, library, computer and physical education instruction throughout the week. New to our school this year is the creation of our "Middle School". Our fifth and sixth graders, housed on the second floor, work on developing increased responsibility and independence during their day.

We offer extra-curricular activities for our students in grades 3 – 6. Musically, our students can participate in grades 3/4 chorus, Jazz Band, NYSMA, and All County. Our fifth and sixth graders can also be part of our annual elementary school musical. Our students in grades 4 – 6 can be part of our Character Council and on the yearbook staff. We started a school store this year, operated by our sixth graders, so one day each week students can purchase school supplies. A small group of students also meets regularly to create our slide show with announcements, which is displayed each day using our main entrance monitor.



**Grades 3-8 NYS Assessments –  
% Students Scoring at Levels 3 and 4 (Proficient)**

	ELA 13-14	ELA 14-15	Math 13-14	Math 14-15
Grade 3 Tully CSD	21%	46%	43%	49%
NYS Average	32%	31%	42%	42%
Grade 4 Tully CSD	29%	26%	51%	56%
NYS Average	32%	31%	42%	43%
Grade 5 Tully CSD	30%	34%	27%	50%
NYS Average	29%	30%	39%	43%
Grade 6 Tully CSD	13%	33%	35%	49%
NYS Average	28%	31%	37%	39%
Grade 7 Tully CSD	30%	31%	37%	30%
NYS Average	28%	29%	32%	35%
Grade 8 Tully CSD	47%	52%	44%	61%
NYS Average	34%	35%	22%	41%

  

	Science 13-14	Science 14-15
Grade 4 Tully CSD	88%	92%
NYS Average	90%	86%
Grade 8 Tully CSD	92%	80%
NYS Average	73%	70%



Complete  
**SCHOOL REPORT CARD**  
can be found at  
<http://tullyschools.org>





At **Tully Junior Senior High School** we offer a college and career ready curriculum that provides students with the required courses for graduation and many electives. Students can challenge themselves by taking Advance Placement courses in United States history, biology and chemistry as well as honors courses in English and social studies. Our 8th graders have the opportunity to take accelerated courses in Living Environment and Algebra for high school credit. Several faculty members teach courses in pre-calculus, business and finance, Spanish, French, and English as part of our partnership with Onondaga Community College. We also have articulation agreements with SUNY Morrisville and SUNY Cobleskill for most of our agriculture courses. In order to provide our students with the best opportunities possible, new courses were added in the last two years in the areas of SAT preparation, social studies, and computer programming. Support is provided to those in need through Academic Intervention Services (AIS) and special education. Based upon student need and interest, we also offer distance learning courses through partnerships with BOCES.

At the Junior High level, we help students transition from the elementary school to 7th grade through a series of activities, including a "welcome day" in the spring and an orientation in August. Early in the school year, we host a curriculum night when parents can meet teachers to learn about courses and classroom expectations. Additionally, we have a "flex" period build into the school day for our Junior High students. This is an instructional period that can be tailored to meet the needs and interests of individual students, or that can be used for enrichment and interdisciplinary learning experiences.

Tully JSHS offers 27 extra-curricular activities for our students, and we have recently added Junior High Math League, Academic Decathlon, National Junior Honor Society, and an Information Technology (IT) club where students learn computer coding. This year we officially reinstated Teen Institute and Mock Trial.

## Graduation Rates

	2013-14	2014-15
Tully CSD	94%	94%
NYS Average	76%	78%

## Regents Diploma's with Advanced Designations

	2013-14	2014-15
Tully CSD	58%	63%
NYS Average	31%	32%

## New York State Regents Exams

	2013-14		2014-15	
	Passing	Mastery	Passing	Mastery
<b>Integrated Algebra Tully CSD</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>15%</b>
NYS Average	72%	17%	62%	5%
<b>Algebra (Tully CSD Common Core)</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>15%</b>
NYS Average	68%	4%	63%	6%
<b>Geometry Tully CSD</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>33%</b>
NYS Average	73%	26%	72%	22%
<b>Geometry Tully CSD (Common Core)</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>24%</b>
NYS Average	n/a	n/a	63%	13%
<b>Algebra 2/Trig Tully CSD</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>56%</b>
NYS Average	66%	29%	60%	24%
<b>Living Environment Tully CSD</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>65%</b>
NYS Average	78%	32%	77%	33%
<b>Earth Science Tully CSD</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>64%</b>
NYS Average	72%	33%	72%	29%
<b>Chemistry Tully CSD</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>34%</b>
NYS Average	73%	21%	75%	22%
<b>Global History Tully CSD</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>53%</b>
NYS Average	66%	29%	67%	29%
<b>US History Tully CSD</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>70%</b>
NYS Average	80%	44%	84%	47%
<b>English Tully CSD</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>20%</b>
NYS Average	82%	32%	83%	38%
<b>English Tully CSD (Common Core)</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>79%</b>
NYS Average	74%	23%	80%	45%

## 2016-17 Budget: \$19,830,196 / Tax per \$1,000 Assessed Value \$20.68

### Proposition #1 (2016-17 School Budget)

<b>Proposed 2016-17 Budget:</b>	<b>\$19,830,196 (Increase of \$137,984 or 0.7%)</b>
<b>Proposed 2016-17 Tax per \$1,000 of Assessed value:</b>	<b>\$20.68 (Increase of \$0.09)</b>
<b>Proposed 2016-17 Local Tax Levy Increase:</b>	<b>1.20% (Local Tax Cap 1.23%)</b>
<b>Projected Increase on a \$100,000 Home:</b>	<b>\$8.73</b>

### Proposition #2 (Bus Lease)

<b>Proposed 2016-17 Bus Lease:</b>	<b>\$360,000 (five year lease)</b>
<b>Proposed 2016-17 Tax per \$1,000 of Assessed Value:</b>	<b>\$0.15</b>
<b>Projected Increase on a \$100,000 Home:</b>	<b>\$15.44/year (for the term of the lease)</b>

*\*Calculations are based upon 2015 Assessments*

#### PROPOSITION I

Shall the Board of Education of the Tully Central School District be authorized to expend the sum of \$19,830,196 as General Fund appropriations for the school year 2016-2017 and levy the necessary tax therefor?

#### PROPOSITION II

Shall the Board of Education lease, finance (4) 66 passenger school buses and (1) 30 passenger bus at an estimated cost not to exceed \$360,000, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other necessary costs incidental thereto and to expend a total sum not to exceed \$360,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and levy a tax which is hereby voted for the foregoing in the amount of \$360,000, which shall be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education and in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue a lease of the district at one time, or from time to time, in the lease amount not to exceed \$360,000, and levy a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on such obligations when due?

	<b>Adopted 2015-2016</b>	<b>Proposed 2016-2017</b>	<b>Dollar Increase</b>
Athletics	\$331,928	\$375,794	<b>\$43,866</b>
Benefits/Debt Service	\$6,287,589	\$6,012,162	<b>\$(275,427)</b>
District	\$950,187	\$968,315	<b>\$18,128</b>
Operations	\$1,513,682	\$1,562,885	<b>\$49,203</b>
Special Education Services	\$2,624,541	\$2,631,590	<b>\$7,049</b>
Regular School	\$6,107,901	\$6,220,543	<b>\$112,642</b>
Supervision	\$492,747	\$505,332	<b>\$12,585</b>
Support	\$185,264	\$223,409	<b>\$38,145</b>
Transportation	\$1,198,372	\$1,330,167	<b>\$131,794</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$19,692,212</b>	<b>\$19,830,196</b>	<b>\$137,984</b>
<b>% of Increase</b>	<b>0.70%</b>		

#### PROPOSITION III

For the purpose of funding the Tully Free Library, shall the sum of \$166,222 be raised by annual levy of a tax upon the taxable real property within the Tully Central School District?

## BUDGET VOTE: Tuesday, May 17 • 6am – 9pm

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Is the "tax cap" really 2%?

Current New York State law does not actually define the local tax cap as 2%. Instead, it defines a formula the local school districts must use to determine a local "tax cap". This year our local tax cap is 1.23%. There are actually eight (8) variables in the "tax cap" formula. These variables include the following: the rate of inflation or 2% (whichever is lower), certain local capital expenditures, a portion of the increases in state-mandated pension costs, and a portion of certain legal costs. In some situations, the local "tax cap" can be above 2%, as was the case in Tully last year. In other situations, the local "tax cap" can be a negative number, as is the case this year in several school districts across the state.

### What if a school district decides to exceed the "tax cap"?

School budgets that exceed the local "tax levy limit" must be approved by a supermajority (more than 60%) of eligible voters. So, if our proposed budget reflected an increase above 1.23%, we would need a supermajority for it to be approved by voters. Since our budget stays within the local "tax levy limit", only a simple majority (more than 50%) of voter approval is required.

### What happens if the budget is not approved by voters?

If a proposed budget is defeated by voters, a school district has a couple of options. The school district could put the same budget up for a re-vote. The school district could decide to put a revised budget up for a vote. Or, a school district could decide to adopt a contingent budget. If a proposed budget is defeated twice by voters, a school district must adopt a contingent budget. If a school adopts a contingent budget some very specific items must be excluded, for example funding for community use of the schools, certain types of specific salary increases, and new equipment purchases. Additionally, under our current "tax cap" legislation, a school district that adopts a contingent budget may not increase its current tax levy by any amount. This, in effect, translates into a zero percent tax increase.

### What is the "Property Tax Freeze Credit"?

In 2015, the Governor and the NYS Legislature enacted the "Property Tax Freeze Credit". This credit is a tax relief program, which reimburses qualifying New York State homeowners for increases in local property taxes on primary residences. For many homeowners, the "Property Tax Freeze Credit" is roughly equal to the change in real property taxes from year to year. For homeowners to receive the "Property Tax Freeze Credit", local school districts and homeowners must meet the following guidelines:

- The local school district must adopt a budget at or below the local tax levy limit (the "tax cap").
- The local school district must have a State approved "Efficiency Plan".
- The homeowner's primary residence must be eligible for a STAR exemption.
- The homeowner must have an earned income of less than \$275,000.

How the Money is Allocated



Regular School	31%
Supervision	3%
Support	1%
Transportation	7%
Athletics	2%
Benefits/Debt Service	30%
District	5%
Operations	8%
Special Education	13%



# Tully Elementary School Conference Room #8

## Board Members

*\*Term expires June 30 of year listed*

2016

Mr. Mark Drumm, President  
(315) 696-5958

2017

Mr. James Bertolo, Vice President  
(315) 696-8786

2016

Mrs. Denise Cardamone  
(315) 696-5599

2018

Mrs. Carrie Edinger  
(315) 696-0106

2017

Mr. Steven Pierce  
(315) 575-0728

2018

Mr. Matthew VanBeveren  
(315) 696-5745

2018

Mr. Edward Wortley, II  
(315) 696-8609

2016

Miss Cassidy McGinn  
Student Ex Officio Member

## Board of Education Meetings

Meetings are held in the Junior/Senior High School Library at 6:00 pm. Dates, time and location subject to change and additional special meetings to be scheduled on an as needed basis. Check the school website for updates.

Upcoming BOE meetings through July 2016:

- Tuesday, May 10, 2016:  
includes budget public hearing
- Tuesday, May 17, 2016  
also budget vote from 6am – 9pm in elem. conference room
- Tuesday, June 7, 2016
- Monday, June 20, 2016
- Tuesday, July 12, 2016:  
reorganization meeting

## Meet the Candidates on May 4 at Tully Free Library

Tully school district residents will have the opportunity to meet and ask questions of candidates running for open spots on the Tully School Board. The Tully Free Library will host a Candidates Night– on **Wednesday, May 4 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Padget Community Room.

The Tully School District budget vote is Tuesday, May 17 in the Tully Elementary School. There are two slots available and voters can vote for two candidates. Two candidates are up for reelection.

The format on May 4 will be an informal panel presentation. A moderator will introduce the candidates and they will each speak about why they are running and what they hope to achieve on the Board. The candidates will then answer questions previously submitted to the library. If you wish to submit questions, you can do so via the library website [www.tullyfreelibrary.org/candidates](http://www.tullyfreelibrary.org/candidates) or at the library front desk.

## Board of Education Elections

In addition to the financial propositions on the ballot, there will be voting for two three-year seats on the Board of Education. Candidates are shown in the order they will be found on the ballot. Vote for Two:

**Mark Drumm**

**Denise Cardamone**

## Budget Road Shows

**Monday, May 2, 2016 @ 7:30 pm**

Tully Fire Department at Business meeting  
1 Railroad St, Tully

**Monday, May 9, 2016 @ 7:00 pm**

Town of Preble at Town Board meeting  
1968 Preble Road, Preble

**Wednesday, May 11, 2016 @ 7:30 pm**

Town of Tully at Town Board meeting  
5833 Meetinghouse Road, Tully

**Thursday, May 12, 2016 @ 7:00 am**

Tully Rotary at Breakfast meeting at United Community Church  
5872 Meetinghouse Road, Tully

## Voter Qualifications

In order to vote you must be:

- a United States citizen
- at least 18 years of age
- a resident of the school district for at least 30 days preceding the vote



## Butterfly Garden



Spring is here and summer will soon be upon us. Our second graders have been busily preparing for their year-end butterfly science unit.

In the meantime, we have gotten a jump start in the library. We have done some initial investigation on plants required for hosting butterfly eggs, and providing nectar for food. We then planted a variety of seeds in the library. With the help of Mr. Redmond and his students at the Jr./Sr. High School, our seedlings are coming along beautifully. His students have cared for the seeds, and are working on transplanting them.

Once the warm weather arrives in May, the second graders will be transferring them into the butterfly garden in back of the elementary school. Students will be making signs to identify the various plants.

In art, each second grade class will make a clay watering bowl for the butterflies. By the end of May, it should be just beautiful! Plan to stop by and visit the butterfly garden. It may inspire you to start your own at home.



## JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

### Parent Teacher Conferences

Time is winding down to meet with teachers as the end of the school year is quickly approaching! If you have questions regarding your child's academic progress and would like a parent teacher conference, please contact the Counseling and Career Center to schedule a meeting. Conferences can be arranged after school at 2:30 pm.

### Save the Date

Everyone is welcome to attend this dessert reception to honor our students for their outstanding academic progress in high school. Students to be recognized will receive an invitation to the reception.

#### Academic Achievement

##### Spring Reception

##### Grades 9-12

##### Thursday, May 12th

##### Tully Jr./Sr. High School Aud.

##### at 6:30 pm

### We had a Fiesta!

The Junior High International Club enjoyed an evening of fun in April thanks to the officers of the JH International Club – Ellie Ives, Cameron Downey, Taylor Kotary, Emma Huggins, and Anna Moss.

We had open gym from 6–11pm and organized activities such as matball, human foosball, basketball, soccer, and kickball! In the other gym an inflatable obstacle course allowed us to race our classmates and give us plenty of exercise. Karaoke on the stage and Just Dance in the lobby were very popular. We feasted on all you can eat Taco In A Bag, Popcorn, and the delicious Chocolate Fountain (hands down our favorite). And Ellie Moss made the BEST guacamole ever!

We are extremely thankful to Mr. Schiener and for our chaperones who went above and beyond to help us enjoy the night – Mrs. Biggs, Mr. Yonko, Mr. Scalza, Mrs. Benedetto, Mr. Clay, Mrs. Daddona, Mrs. Byrne, Ms. Andrews, Mrs. Aris-Brown, Mrs. Teeter, and Mr. Rutledge. Thank you also to Ms. Derdzinski, Mrs. Sheldon, Mr. Russell, Mr. McClure, Ms. Abbott, Mrs. Shatraw, Mr. Votra, Mr. Nabinger, the kitchen staff, and the custodial staff.

### Junior Honor Society

New National Junior Honor Society members were inducted at an evening ceremony on March 31st. Parents and administrators welcomed the group of 13 eighth graders. Tully Central School District congratulates the following students for their outstanding accomplishments:

Nicole Ball  
Rachel Biggs  
Ian Byrne  
Jade Dillenbeck  
Elizabeth Ives  
Allison Kolodziejczyk  
Taylor Kotary  
Anna Moss  
Chelsea Phillips  
Marissa Scalza  
Ethan Selmser  
Grace Swan  
Angela Touchette

## Spanish

On April 22nd, the OCC Spanish V class held a community game night to raise funds for an environmental project started in class. The students were learning about ways to take care of the environment and how to reach out to the community and make a difference. The funds raised by this event will be donated to the new Cornerstone Park in the Town of Tully, as well as to Flint, Michigan to help with their water crisis. If you are not aware of the situation in Flint, they are currently going through a water crisis because lead has leaked into the water pipes, making it unsafe to drink and even wash clothes with the contaminated water.

At this game night on April 22nd, there were games in the gymnasiums such as kickball, volleyball, ping pong and more. In the lobby, there were board games being played, as well as musical chairs. Snacks and water were provided by students, as well as items or funds donated by local stores such as Wegmans, Kinney's, Beak and Skiff and Sweet Basil. The OCC Spanish V students would like to thank everyone who attended or donated goods and helped raise funds for the Cornerstone Park and the people in Flint. Have a good end to the school year!

## Tully High School Students "Object!"



This year's Tully High School Mock Trial team "took to the court" to present and participate in a tournament sponsored by the Onondaga County Bar Association. The students prepared questions, memorized witness affidavits, and learned the proper court procedures of an actual trial. This year's case was an evidentiary hearing concerning evidence obtained by a law enforcement official. The students were required to think on their feet during the competition, as they role-played the case. Members of the team were: Chloe Adour, Jessica Benedetto, Elena Fecco, Taylor Grosso, Griffen Magnan, Elena McAninch, Cassidy McGinn, Maureen Murphy, Alyssa Riese, Samuel Sheldon, Sabrina Sovocool and Austin Taubman. Mr. Mike Shafer, local community member, served as the attorney advisor, and Mrs. Bovi and Mr. McCloskey were the teacher advisors. We rest our case until next season.

## Student Council Flips for Pancakes

Members of Tully High School's Student Council volunteered on Saturday, March 12th at the Ronald McDonald House in downtown Syracuse. The students prepared and served breakfast for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. Food for the breakfast was graciously donated by the Otisco Fire Department and Wegman's of Dewitt. Mrs. Bovi, Student Council Advisor, was proud of not only how well the students represented Tully High School, but also their culinary skills. Bravo!

## The Zika Virus



7th graders in Ms. Mirabito's spring semester health class put their detective hats on & worked together to solve an infectious disease that infected the Tully faculty! They also learned about a variety of infectious diseases and created posters to warn travelers, pregnant women and U.S. citizens about the dangers of the Zika virus. A poster contest was the culminating event and here are our winners below!

(Above) 6th Period: Moira McAninch, Jake Fox & Melissa Courts.  
(Below) 7th Period: Tessa Mucha, Zeke Hendricks (Not pictured), Isabell Rapp, Tieran Tobin





## Senior Spotlight

### TESSA E. DOODY



**Family:** Laureen- mother, Leo- dad, Gabby & Shannon- sisters, Nate, Leo & Luke- brothers

**What has been the best part of your high school career and why?**

Being part of many great sports teams and learning from all my great teammates.

**What have you learned by the activities you have participated in**

**outside of school?**

I have learned leadership and how to work well with other people and accept our differences.

**What is your proudest moment in high school so far?**

Our soccer team beat Bishop Grimes under the lights one night. No-body thought we would be able to do it but we stuck together and made it happen.

**What are your plans after high school?**

I plan on attending college and going on humanitarian trips to third world countries.

**What do you hope to achieve by the time you're 30 years old?**

By the time I am 30, I would like to have a degree in psychology and have seen different parts of the world. I will hopefully have influenced someone else's life in a positive way.

**If you could invite two or three people to dinner, who would they be and what would you talk about?**

Nelson Mandela- I want to learn about the way his mind works and just having a conversation with him would be amazing.

Jesus- I would want to talk about his life and how he found strength to do what he did.

**What challenges have you faced and how have you overcome them?**

I have had to work with people on sports teams that I don't get along with and I learned to see past their flaws to focus on a common goal.

**Who's your hero and why?**

My mom is my hero because no matter how stressed or worn down she is, she makes time for my siblings and I and is willing to support our choices regardless of her feelings.

### BRENDAN M. GORDONA



**Family:** Christine- mother, Michael- father, Ryan- brother, Nellie- dog, Peanut- cat

**What has been the best part of your high school career and why?**

I had the honor of going to Area Allstate for six (6) years. It's always been a pleasure to perform with new and familiar faces, and having the privilege to do it six (6) times is a blessing.

**What have you learned by the activities you have participated in outside of school?**

I think what I have learned from any activity I've been involved in, whether it is sports, music or drama is that you need to push yourself past your comfort zone in order to get a good time in a race or to put on a good show for the audience to enjoy.

**What is your proudest moment in high school so far?**

Honestly, just making it to my senior year was the proudest moment for me. I never thought I would make it this far in my life.

**What are your plans after high school?**

I plan on going to either SUNY Fredonia or SUNY Potsdam to pursue a career in Music Education.

**What do you hope to achieve by the time you're 30 years old?**

I hope to have acquired a job teaching high school students as well as have a successful music career.

**If you could invite two or three people to dinner, who would they be and what would you talk about?**

I would invite Paul McCartney from the Beatles and bring Ludwig Van Beethoven back to life and have them debate about what defines music.

**What challenges have you faced and how have you overcome them?**

My biggest challenge has been having to live life while in a wheelchair. No matter what obstacles stood in my way whether it is bullying or physical problems, I always looked to life positively and got through it.

**Who's your hero and why?**

My hero is Mr. Votra because without his wisdom and his witty personality, I would never have succeeded as a musician or a student.

## "Stayin' Alive" in Health Class

A new New York State mandate effective in October 2015, **requires all students be exposed to training for CPR & AED skills by the time they graduate from high school.** All of Ms. Mirabito's HS Health classes were given a few days of training about recognizing an emergency, responding to emergencies and understanding the difference between cardiac arrest & heart attacks. Each student was also given an opportunity to practice using an AED, and to perform rescue breaths & compressions based upon the American Red Cross training materials. Although the students are not certified in CPR/AED, they have been empowered to do something in an emergency and may be able to help save a life!

## Lady Black Knights March Madness Volleyball



The Lady Black Knights is a parent-led booster club whose mission is to support all female athletic teams for grades 7-12 at Tully Junior-Senior High School. Our vision is to provide financial support to all of the female athletic teams through fundraising and community events. We are committed to help each Lady Knight Athletic team standout, so they can reach their goals of excellence, competitiveness, and sportsmanship.

This past March 11th, over 150 Junior-Senior High School students came together for a fun-filled evening of friendly volleyball competition sponsored by the Lady Black Knights. After playing a series of round-robin competition, teams in each division, 7/8, 9/10, and 11/12, were seeded and placed into single elimination brackets where they continued play until a champion was determined at each level.

The Lady Black Knight parent committee would like to thank the faculty and administration of Tully Junior-Senior High School and the many, many parent volunteers who made this night possible.

Congratulations to the winning teams of the Lady Black Knight's "March Madness Volleyball"!!!

## Project Challenge

### Part of the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant Project

SUNY Cortland, Tully Central School and LaFayette Central School will continue to collaborate on Project Challenge, a grant funded program to support students in grades 4-8 and serves approximately 100 students. This year's program will run from July 6 – July 28, on weekdays from 8:30AM-3:00PM. The program will address Math and ELA skills through the use of research, analyzing data and face-to-face conversations to learn about science, history and culture. Throughout the program, students will also have the opportunity to use an iPad-mini to record their data and report their findings.

The first part of the program will focus on the history, culture and literacy of the Onondaga Nation. These sessions will take place with all students on site at the Onondaga Nation School. At the Nation School, students will experience a series of presentations, interviews, site visits and other enrichment opportunities to learn about our nation's history through their research. One site visit includes a tentative trip to the Skä-noñh Great Law of Peace Center. The remaining days during that week will find the students and teachers returning to the Tully district site, along with members of the Onondaga Nation, to summarize and report on their findings.

The remaining weeks will involve a collaboration with the SUNY Cortland Science Department. All students will spend a total of five to six days on site in the SUNY Cortland Science Center. District teachers will work side-by-side with Cortland faculty to make use of the planetarium as well as other lab facilities found at SUNY Cortland for the purposes of research and gathering of data. The remaining days will find the students and teachers returning to the Tully district site, along with Cortland faculty, to develop/enhance skills in mathematics and ELA. This will be achieved through analyzing data, writing labs and findings and reporting out to their classmates. A tentative site visit to WonderWorks will also take place in the final week.

Applications for this summer program will be available at either the elementary school or the junior/senior high school main office prior to the end of May.

## Food Service News

### Sodium & Your Health

Too much sodium in your system causes your body to retain water. This puts an extra burden on your heart and blood vessels. This may lead to higher blood pressure. Most of us get more sodium than we need. While adding salt to your food is a source of sodium, it may not be the main reason that your sodium intake is high. Packaged and prepared foods, such as ready-to-eat products or restaurant meals, are a main contributor to the salt that we eat. Sodium is added to packaged foods during processing such as in curing meat, baking, thickening, enhancing flavor, as a preservative, or to keep foods moist. Healthy adults should keep their daily sodium intake below 2,300 mg, which is the amount in about 1 tsp of table salt. Within the Food Service program we are required to keep weekly average sodium levels below 540 mg at the Elementary and 640mg at the Jr/Sr High School.

## Sixth Grade Basketball



The sixth grade Tully Parks and Recreation Basketball Team was undefeated in league play. Many enjoyed the opportunity to continue playing against stronger competition in tournament settings. They faced challenges from all-star teams of ESM, Marcellus/West Genesee, Watertown, Syracuse and others, while showing great resolve and competitive spirit.

The season concluded with our tournament, held at Tully JSHS on March 5. Players from Skaneateles, Cazenovia, Canton and many places in between enjoyed a great day of basketball. Thanks to all the parents and volunteers who made it possible.

This group of future stars has shown tremendous growth in the last 2 years and as they transition to Junior High next year I will watch with great anticipation, as they move forward as basketball players and individuals.

I sincerely appreciate the commitment of all those who supported the kids throughout the season. Special thanks to coaches Edinger and Maley, Jayne Morse, Ryan Dando and Don McClure for all they continue to do for our kids.

## Article Submission Guidelines

Welcome to the return of the printed Knight Insight. Many of you have requested your preference for the return to printed issues. We will also continue to put them on the school website.

The next issue will be the June 2016 issue. **Articles are due to the district office by May 6, 2016.** We must adhere to the deadline in order to publish each issue in a timely manner. All material is subject to editing. The district has the final decision whether or not to publish an article.

If you would like to submit an article, please email articles to Mary Fisher at the Tully Central School District Office at [mfisher@tullyschools.org](mailto:mfisher@tullyschools.org). If you have any questions, please call (315) 696-6204. It is requested that all articles be emailed in Word format whenever possible. Please do not capitalize all the words in the article. Please do not insert or embed a picture within the actual Word article. Pictures should be emailed in JPG format at 300 dpi.

## Fourth Grade Basketball Ends on High Note



Tully Parks and Recreation Fourth Grade Basketball finished up a wonderful season on March 12 at the Homer Invitational Tournament. The year ended with a win in the fourth and final game of the day against Candor.

Thanks to all who supported the children during the winter months; the kids for being so coachable and passionate; Matt VanBeveren for assisting and Jayne Morse and Ryan Dando for their commitment to Tully Youth Basketball.

The future for Tully Basketball is bright. Just look at these stars of tomorrow!

### New for 2016-17 School Year:

**All students entering 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade MUST have the meningococcal vaccine. Without it, they can't start school.**

**The Vaccine:** It is not a new vaccine. It has been recommended for a decade. Most parents already choose to vaccinate. What's new is that the vaccine will now be required for school entry as of September 1, 2016.

**Meningococcal Disease:** It causes bacterial meningitis and other serious diseases. Teens and young adults are at greater risk. Its comes on quickly and without warning. Its symptoms are similar to the flu. **Check with your doctor.** Even students who have had a shot before may need a booster to start school.

To learn more visit [health.ny.gov/immunize](http://health.ny.gov/immunize)



**TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOLS**  
**20 State Street, Tully NY 13159**

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TO: LOCAL POST OFFICE BOXHOLDER  
OR RURAL ROUTE PATRON

## TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOL EVENTS

*May*

Thurs	5-7	NYS FFA State Convention in Syracuse	Tues	17	BOE Meeting, 6pm in the HS Library Chorus Spring Concert, 7pm
Tues	10	BOE Meeting, 6pm in the HS Library	Thurs	19	Elementary Open House, 6-7pm
Thurs	12	High School Awards and Achievement Night, 6:30pm	Fri	27	Junior Prom at Traditions at the Links, 7pm

**BUDGET VOTE: Tuesday, May 17 • 6am – 9pm / Tully Elementary School Conference Room #8**