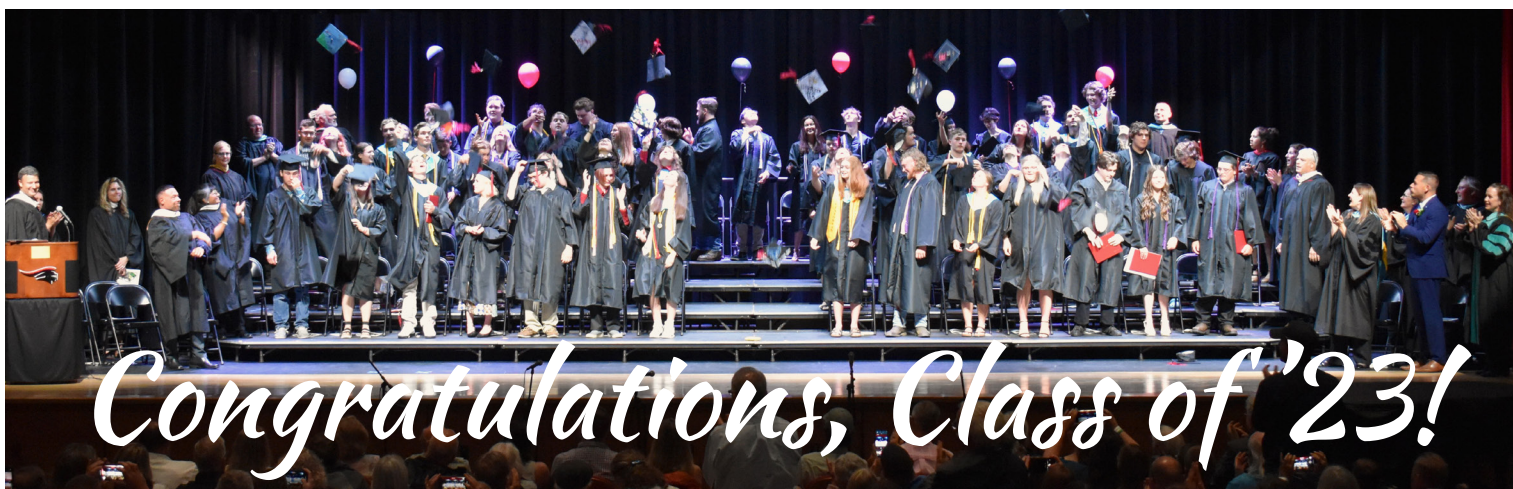


Issue:
August
2023



KNIGHT INSIGHT



From Your Valedictorian: "It is time for us to discover who we really are. Self-discovery is the most important aspect of growing up. I want to stress the importance of accepting yourself for who you are. Each person is different from the rest, and that is what makes the world such a beautiful place. Each and every one of us graduates are different, but we've still managed to form a family. I hope that you all believe in yourselves as much as I believe in you. I know that you all have so much potential to do amazing things. Now, it is time to start turning that potential into reality."

-Alexa Shay

From Your Salutatorian: "All we've ever wanted to do was grow up. We wanted to be older, taller, wiser, and stronger. We grew up anxiously waiting for the bell to ring. We grew up learning wisdom from the teachers who ignited something within each of us to be our best selves. We grew up making cherished memories that we will never forget. We grew up dreaming about the day we'd get to go off on our next adventure and we couldn't wait until graduation. We didn't realize how fast we were growing up. We know that we still have a lot of growing to do, and we are grateful for all of the moments that brought us here."

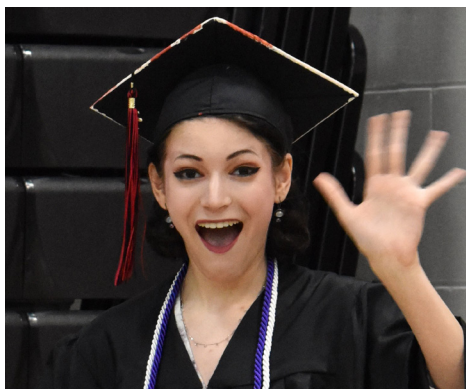
-Kaitlyn Edinger

From Your Class President: "No two individuals are the same, and we have lent our energy, and above all, our passion, to a great many ventures. Our accomplishments, both inside and outside of school, have been nothing short of amazing. As we move out into the world with this next step of our lives, it will no doubt change us, and shape us further. But before long, undoubtedly, we too will begin to shape the world around us. And with a group of passionate, dedicated, and incredible individuals, positive changes are not only hopeful, but nearly inevitable."

-Daniel Foody

Special Thanks go to all those who helped facilitate Tully's graduation, impart words of wisdom, and distribute awards, scholarships, and diplomas; and also to our special guests including: County Executive Ryan McMahon and BOE Members Colleen Kania, Dr. Andrea Mourey, and Ed Wortley.





Principal's Message to Graduating Class of 2023



Michael O'Brien

This year's commencement ceremony took place on Friday, June 16th in the Junior-Senior High School Auditorium. A little advice I gave to the fifty-seven students that walked the stage during graduation: Firstly, always be curious. Your education does not end here today. In fact, it is only just beginning. Embrace new experiences, seek out knowledge, and never stop asking questions. Remember, it is not about having all the answers, but rather about being willing to learn and grow.

Secondly, never be afraid to fail. Failure is not a sign of weakness, but rather a steppingstone to success. The most successful people in the world have failed countless times before achieving their goals. So don't let the fear of failure hold you back from pursuing your dreams. Instead, embrace it, learn from it, and use it to drive you forward.

Lastly, always be kind. Kindness is a powerful force that can change the world. It costs nothing, but it can make all the difference in someone's life. Be kind to strangers, your friends, your family, and importantly, to yourself. Always remember that you are capable of achieving great things. It is a fact that you have the power to make a difference in the world, in your community, and to those who love you. In fact, you already have.

I wish you all the best of luck now and always. Congratulations Class of 2023. You made it!

Michael O'Brien, JSHS Principal • Phone: 315.696.6235 • Email: mike.obrien@tullyschools.org

End of the Year Activities



It was another memorable year for our seniors as they prepared for their transition into the adult world whether they were headed off to college, the military, or the workforce. In between the tasks that were necessary, we made sure that the seniors also commemorated their transition with plenty of fun, as the memories with those they grew up with are important as well. Their last week began with a senior trip to Hershey Park. It was a rain or shine kind of event, in which it indeed rained, but the seniors and chaperones made the best of it and didn't let it ruin their fun. The following day it was onto graduation practice where many of the senior parents provided a spread of breakfast items to get them through the rehearsal. While the seniors took the practice seriously, the atmosphere was light and full of joy as the prospective graduation night loomed ahead. Group pictures were taken and then it was on to the elementary school for the first annual Graduation Walk. The seniors were all smiles as their younger peers and former teachers applauded them as they made their rounds. A quick stop at the playground was a must, just to grab a quick picture and to remind them that life can still be a playground at times. Seniors then enjoyed a picnic lunch at the town pavilion with some of the town's elders at the "Seniors with Seniors" luncheon. We were glad that seniors were able to enjoy some of their last moments together as the Class of 2023 before they headed their separate ways.

From A to Z



Each year, seniors get to vote on who they would like the yearbook to be dedicated to, and this year seniors couldn't choose just one honorary, so they chose two. The two dedicates just happened to both be teachers that retired at the end of June. The 2023 *Oracle* was dedicated to Mrs. Abrams and Mr. Zupan, each being a testament to the strong bonds they formed with their students over the years. The yearbook staff members were delighted to create a spread titled "From A to Z" to honor them both. The ceremony theme was "Global" since both teachers' subjects figuratively took students around the world. Planes, suitcases, and globe decorations donned the stage and lobbyteria. The dedicates' families were in attendance and a few bittersweet tears were shed. Students who attended the dedication were more than happy to cheer for both teachers. At the end of the ceremony, senior class representatives presented Mr. O'Brien and Mrs. Holl with the senior gift of a wood-burned plaque depicting the face of Matthew Gesin; a loss that shook the Tully JSHS community. This year's ceremony was heartfelt and memorable to all who were able to be in attendance.

<i>Student Name</i>	<i>Major</i>	<i>Plans</i>
Erik Bean	Employment	Employment
Riley Bell	Nursing	Onondaga Community College
Jacob Bliss	Employment	Employment
Katelyn Browell	Business	Onondaga Community College
Amberle Brown	Wildlife Biology	West Texas A&M University
Samuel Brown-Paul	Employment	Employment
Flynn Bruhn	Mortuary Science	Point Park University
Shawn Bush	Liberal Arts/US History	Onondaga Community College
Grace Carlson	Early Childhood Education	Tompkins Cortland Community College
Everett Chambala	Industrial & Labor Relations	Cornell University
Megan Chawgo	Employment	Employment
Daniel Clemens	Employment	Employment
Connor Cochran	Sports Management	Utica University
Matthew Congelli	Kinesiology	SUNY Cortland
Dallas Conley	Undecided	Onondaga Community College
Dante Darling	Gap Year	Gap Year
Tyler DiRenzo	History/Social Studies Adolescent Education	SUNY Cortland
Matthew DuVall	Employment	Employment
Adrienne Edinger	Dairy Production	South Dakota State University
Kaitlyn Edinger	Exercise Science	University at Buffalo
Brianna Emfinger	Finance	LeMoyne College
Italia Ferro	Early Childhood Education/ American Sign Language	Onondaga Community College
Shelby Fire-Hoke	Employment	Employment
Colby Fisher	Employment	Employment
Daniel Foody	History	LeMoyne College
Margaret Fraser	Communications	Ithaca College
Matthew Haier	Agricultural Business Management	SUNY Morrisville
Olivia Hale	Employment	Employment
Emalee Humphrey	Employment	Employment
Colden Ives	Psychology	SUNY Brockport
Olivia Jacopelle	Liberal Arts	Onondaga Community College
Patrick Kelsey	Employment	Employment
Skyler Kent	Employment	Employment
Veronica Kowalewski	Biology	Elon University
Daderik Ledbetter	Navy	Military
Noah Lennox	Electrical Engineering	Onondaga Community College
James Locke	Creative Writing	Tompkins Cortland Community College

<i>Student Name</i>	<i>Major</i>	<i>Plans</i>
Isaac Luke	Physical Education	Onondaga Community College
Catherine Lund	Childhood Education	LeMoyne College
Jack Malchak	Employment	Employment
Ava Maley	Physical Therapy	Daemen University
Taige Mason	Employment	Employment
Daniel Mech	History	SUNY Cortland
Corinne Metz	Photography	Tompkins Cortland Community College
Ryan Mize	Engineering	Binghamton University
Jake Morgan	Adolescent Education/History	St. Bonaventure University
Brendan Murphy	Business	Onondaga Community College
Bronwyn Paul	Gap Year	Gap Year
Jasmine Phillips	Employment	Employment
Ian Rauber	Computer Science/ Cybersecurity	Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Michael Reid	Cybersecurity	Utica University
Olivia Sam	Creative Writing	Onondaga Community College
Emerson Santos Vicente	Business Administration	Onondaga Community College
Levi Schreiner	Automotive Technology	SUNY Morrisville
Maxwell Selmser	Finance	George Washington University
Alexa Shay	Mechanical Engineering/ Foreign Languages	Binghamton University
Sean Spencer	Employment	Employment
Braden Switzer	Computer Science	Stony Brook University
Liam Tobin	Paper Engineering	SUNY Environmental Science & Forestry
John Touchette	Gap Year	Gap Year
Keagan Usherwood	Veterinary Technology	Penn Foster College



Sixth Grade: End of the Year Activities



The sixth grade was busy towards the end of school, trying to squeeze in all the fun in between wrapping up lessons. In addition to their annual talent show and the introductory day at the JSHS, they hosted their annual carnival. Each year, sixth graders create carnival games out of cardboard, duct tape, and leftover art supplies as their last community service project. Their younger peers then get to attend the carnival in which they receive eight free tickets to start with and may purchase more. This year, all proceeds were donated to the Golisano Children's Hospital. Sixth graders also picked up their annual Green Lakes trip again this year. Due to the field day having to be moved to the same day as the Green Lakes trip, sixth graders got to participate at the beginning, honoring the flag and trying their hand at the dunk tank before they left. It turned out to be a spectacularly warm day for the students to enjoy the water, games, music, and food while at the lake. A busy time of year for all, but a memorable one for the sixth graders who will join the JSHS this fall!



Sixth Grade Headed to JSHS



TES Class of 2023, aka Tully Class of 2029, is officially headed to the JSHS! After spending an introductory day at the JSHS and then taking "the walk" to receive their certificate of completion, the newly seventh graders are now enjoying their summer break before their time begins at the JSHS. Parents and guardians brought their chairs to the athletic field to watch the presentations of certificates handed out. This was Mr. Kupiec's class of students that began their educational journey at the same time he became TES's principal, which made the ceremony momentous for him as well as them. Students reminisced on their time spent at the elementary, including some of the funnier moments. Trips, field days, and classrooms adventures were spoken of while proud parents thought back to all of those memories that they may have forgotten about. After the moving up certificates and special awards were handed out, students and family members enjoyed sharing stories, refreshments, and the class slideshow in the elementary courtyard. Congratulations to the Class of 2029 – we can't wait to see you begin your journey at the JSHS!



A Fond Farewell

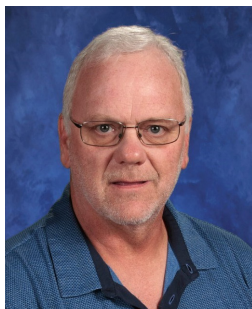
James Paccia - Mr. Paccia has been a teacher in Tully Central School District since 1983. During his 40-year career, he taught technology class to over 7,000 students. Mr. Paccia earned his undergraduate degree from SUNY Oswego after graduating from Brockton High School. He studied computer-aided drafting design for his graduate degree from SUNY at Utica. Throughout his career as a technology teacher, he was also an athletic coach and will continue to coach in retirement. Thank you to Mr. Paccia for 40 years of service.



Jennifer Trexler - Ms. Trexler began working in Tully Central School District in 1998 as a special education teaching assistant. Prior to joining Tully CSD, Ms. Trexler was a piano teacher, music director, and piano player for choirs. In addition, Ms. Trexler began working with students with special needs early on in her career as she cared for a child with autism for years. Ms. Trexler has built lasting relationships with her students and colleagues throughout her time in Tully. Thank you to Ms. Trexler for 26 years of service.



Nicholas Zupan - Mr. Zupan began working in Tully Central School District in 1995 as a social studies teacher. Mr. Zupan graduated from Canastota High School and earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees from St. Lawrence University. Prior to working in Tully CSD, Mr. Zupan taught two years in Canastota Central School District. Mr. Zupan built strong relationships with his students and will be remembered for teaching them life lessons. Thank you to Mr. Zupan for 28 years of service.



Jay Larrabee - Mr. Larrabee has been a bus driver with the Tully Central School District since 2010. Prior to driving a bus, he was a network administrator for years. Mr. Larrabee has been a calm and patient driver for our students and has been appreciated for his willingness to take on any task. Mr. Larrabee is a graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School and earned his college degree from Western Illinois University. Thank you to Mr. Larrabee for his 13 years of service to our students.



Monica Abrams - Mrs. Abrams began her career in Tully in 2008 bringing with her 15 years of experience. Prior to Tully CSD, she taught Spanish at Jamesville-Dewitt Middle School. Mrs. Abrams graduated from Mary Louis Academy in Queens, NY, earned her undergraduate degree from SUNY Cortland, and her graduate degree from Syracuse University. Throughout her 15-year career in Tully CSD, she was instrumental in assisting students in earning their Seal of Biliteracy. Thank you to Mrs. Abrams for 15 years of service.



Stew Snyder - Mr. Snyder started his career as a special education teacher in Tully CSD in 1999. Mr. Snyder earned both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Syracuse University. Prior to teaching in Tully, he taught in both Sherburne-Earlville School District and Marcellus Central School District. During his time in Tully CSD, Mr. Snyder helped lay the foundation for a successful special education department with his colleagues. In addition to teaching, he was an athletic coach helping students strive for success in multiple sports. Thank you to Mr. Snyder for 25 years of service in Tully.



You will all be missed!

Board of Education Meetings 2023/2024

The planned schedule for Board of Education meetings for the 2023-2024 school year is as follows:

August 22, 2023	March 5, 2024
September 19, 2023	March 26, 2024
October 10, 2023	April 16, 2024
November 14, 2023	May 7, 2024 (<i>Public Budget Hearing</i>)
December 12, 2023	May 21, 2024
January 16, 2024	June 11, 2024
February 13, 2024	

Meetings commence at 6:00 p.m. in the Junior-Senior High School Library unless otherwise specified. Additional Special Meetings to be scheduled as needed.

2023/2024 Board of Education Members

2025	Mrs. Ryan Chatfield	boe.rchatfield@tullyschools.org
2024	Mrs. Colleen Kania	boe.ckania@tullyschools.org
2026	Ms. Jessica McAnaney	boe.jmcananey@tullyschools.org
2024	Dr. Andrea Mourey	boe.amourey@tullyschools.org
2025	Mrs. Bettemae Russell	boe.brussell@tullyschools.org
2026	Ms. Cheryl Wayne	boe.cwayne@tullyschools.org
2024	Mr. Edward Wortley, II	boe.ewortley@tullyschools.org

ATHLETIC NEWS

Continuing On: Collegiate Athletes



The Tully Athletic department honored four seniors before graduation that are pursuing athletic careers in college. In a brief ceremony during Activity Period, Katie Edinger (University of Buffalo - Cross Country & Track/Field), Ian Rauber (Indiana University of Pennsylvania - Cross Country & Track/Field), Colden Ives (SUNY Brockport - Lacrosse), and Michael Reid (Utica University - Lacrosse) had an opportunity to take pictures with family, teammates, and coaches. It is a tremendous honor to play collegiate athletics and we are extremely proud of these senior athletes!

Tully Coach of the Year Award



Congratulations to Bill Donald for being awarded Tully's Coach of the Year award!

SAVE THE DATE:

**Sunday
September 24th**

**Tully Alumni Association
Gathering 2023**

The Loft at Vesper Hills Golf Club
Time: 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOL EVENTS

Sixth Grade: End of the Year Activities, page 5



AUGUST

- | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 22 | BOE Meeting, 6:00 p.m. |
| 29 | New Student/
7th Grade Orientation |
| 30 | New Teacher
Orientation |
| 31 | Superintendent
Conference Day |

**Summer Office Hours for
all Tully CSD Offices:**
8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.