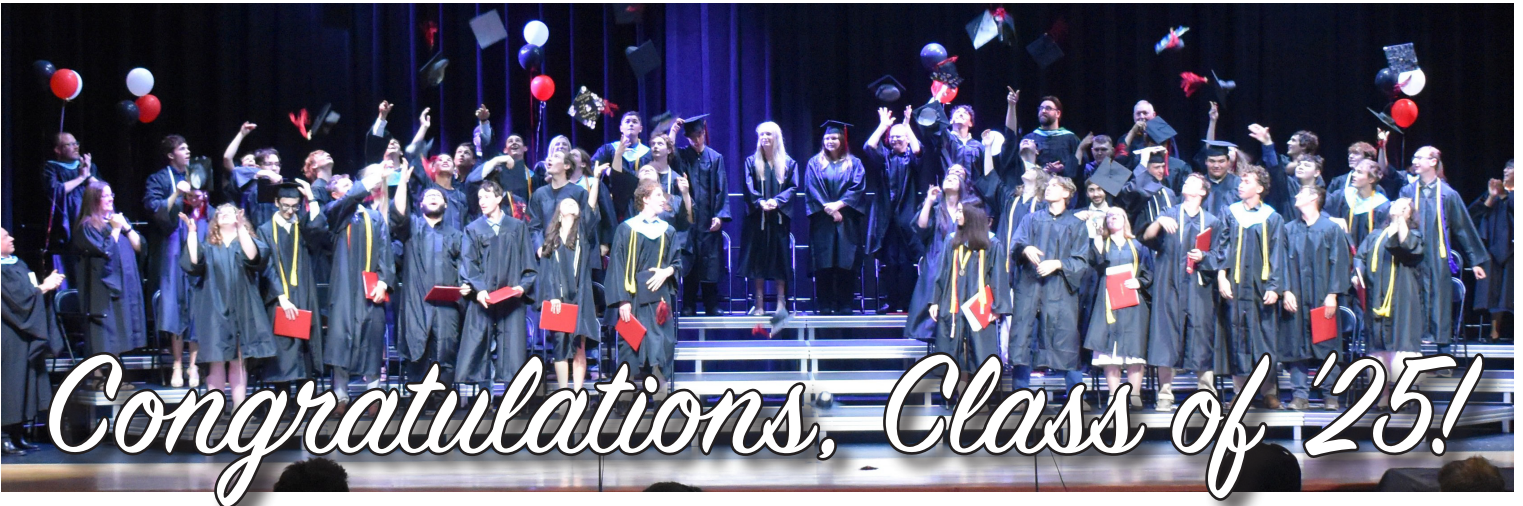


Issue:
August
2025



KNIGHT INSIGHT



From Your Valedictorian: "Each of these graduates has something extremely special about them and... have shaped this high school in so many ways, gaining and making memories to last a lifetime. Some advice I got from a video on Instagram: It said that as young people, we are often told how to live these next few years. We're told to travel the world and try everything while we can but also stay grounded and maintain our finances to ensure a stable future. We're told to work really hard because time is limited, but also not to put too much pressure on ourselves. We're told to both find a passion project and not get pinned down to any one project. These conflicting pieces of advice can make it hard to figure out what exactly to do, but I truly don't think that there is really one truth. I think that any choice that you're gonna make is gonna come with the risk that it's gonna be wrong. You're not always gonna be right, no matter what advice you listen to, but at the end of the day that's kind of what this time is for. You're gonna fail and you're gonna keep going and when you get to the age of 30, 40, 50, or however long you live, you're gonna look back and see those timeless memories that shaped you, regardless of what they were or whether they were failures or successes. Everything has a place in your life, just as these past few years do too. In the coming years, a lot will change, but what I hope to see continue is the special parts of each of you that makes all of you who you are. To the class of 2025, even if our paths never cross again, know that I am endlessly grateful to have met you all and proud of everything you will accomplish and learn in these coming years. Have fun." - *Lucy Wright*

From Your Salutatorian: "I think one of the biggest things we learned as a class isn't academic at all. It's that life moves fast. One day, we were at recess on the wooden playground, and the next we're here - with caps, gowns, and about to receive our diplomas. We've been on the same campus for years and most of us have known each other since elementary school. That kind of time tricks you into thinking everything will stay the same; that we'll always be passing each other in the hallway. But, as we all know, it doesn't stay the same. None of this is permanent. And that's not a sad thing; it's just the way it is. Time doesn't wait, and moments don't come with a warning. So whatever makes you feel alive, do it. Stay up late having real conversations with people who matter to you. Go skydiving. Try the weird idea you don't think will work. Don't wait for perfect timing because it's not coming. Because what we remember won't be the polished, perfectly planned days. It'll be the messy, impulsive, real ones. The ones we showed up for. So, to the Tully Class of 2025: take your opportunities. Congratulations and good luck. We're all going to need some." - *Isaac Stoogenke*

From Your Class President: "I want to say that I have never seen more determined people than I have seen in this class. There are many examples of how truly committed our class is to each and every person's passion, and we have endured so much. I am truly grateful to be classmates with all these amazing people, and I hope to hear about the great things that they will accomplish in the coming years. I want to reinforce that this speech isn't just about the past, it's about the future. OUR future. And though there might be a slight melancholy in the air from the thought of leaving all this behind, I want to remind you all that this is where the rest of our lives' begin. Everybody says, "Change the world," and I'm all for that too, but I also want to reinforce that you are going to have so much freedom from now on - it's your choice what you want to do with that. So follow your passions, take as many chances as you can, be spontaneous, blast your music in the car, treat people with kindness, stay motivated, work hard, work harder, BE ON TIME, don't give up, and don't look back." - *Wesley Chambala*



Thank You from the Class of '25

We would like to extend special thanks to all our donors and scholarship providers:

Applied Concepts
 Apulia Ladies Auxiliary and Fire Department Award
 Douglas Ayers Memorial Scholarship
 Nadine Ayers Memorial Award
 Beak & Skiff Apple Farms, Inc.
 Lenny Bucaro Memorial Award
 Helen and William Burke Memorial Scholarship
 The Class Of 2019 Scholars Excellence Award
 George J. Clow Memorial Scholarship
 Rodger Conway Memorial Scholarship
 Dedication to Children & Youth Award
 Denise's Hair Care
 Hildegard Doody Music Memorial Award
 Eagle Scout Award
 Claude and Freda Ferguson Memorial Award
 Dr. Anthony Ficalora Award
 Ida Gleason Memorial Scholarshi
 Godsave Family Award
 Hayes Agency, Inc.
 Kenneth and Viola Henry Memorial Scholarship
 Edward R. Hillenbrand Memorial Scholarship
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 Jason Kuss Memorial Award
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 George Lamson Memorial Award
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 NYS Comptroller Thomas Dinapoli Student Achievement Award
 Jim Nicholas Memorial Award
 The Nickerson Memorial Award
 Otisco Lake Preservation Ass. Care of the Environment Award
 Otisco Valley Tel-Com Scholarship
 Coach James Paccia Longest Mile Award
 Principal's Perseverance Award
 David F. Prindle Memorial Award
 Riehlman Shafer And Shaw, LLC
 John Shirley Memorial Character Award
 Cathyrn Berbos Steiger Memorial Scholarship
 T. Shaw, Inc.
 Tasty China Tully Inc.
 Tri King Ventures (Burger King)
 Tully Action Group Inc. Award
 Tully After School Program Award
 Tully Area Historical Society Benefactor Scholarship
 Tully Bottle & Can Shack Donations
 Tully Firemen's Ladies Auxiliary Award
 Tully Rotary Scholarship
 Tully Teachers Association Scholarship
 Donna Voggel Memorial Scholarship
 Coolidge S. Wakai, M.D.

Principal's Message



The class of 2025 was sent off with amplified applause after their commencement ceremony on June 20th in the JSHS auditorium. During the ceremony, I addressed the class on taking a moment to reflect on the people who made graduation day a reality as well as how decisions can shape their future: "I believe graduation day is a great time for reflection. Take a moment to think about the many people who played a part in your being here today. Think about your elementary teachers and the staff members who knew each and every one of you by your first name. This is what makes Tully special - we know each and everyone of you by name, by the car you drive, or your favorite hobbies. Think about your junior high teachers and how they worked tirelessly to teach you about study skills and educational processes that could make you successful. Think about your directors, advisors, and coaches who spent countless hours with you as you chased your passions. Think about your high school teachers and the memories you made in class over the past four years. I hope that these memories don't fade, but are the foundation of your future. Think about the people in the audience who have been your teachers and mentors outside of the classroom as you've navigated through life... Every day, from the moment we wake up, we are faced with decisions. Some are small, like what to wear or what to eat. Others are much bigger, like career paths, relationships, or major life changes. Each choice, no matter how insignificant it seems, creates a ripple effect. It sets in motion a chain of events that can lead us down different paths. It's about being mindful, intentional, and thoughtful in our decision-making. It's about understanding that our future isn't predetermined; it's being built, brick by brick, by the choices we make today. Every choice matters. Let's choose wisely, not just for ourselves, but for the impact we can have on the world around us. Let's choose growth over stagnation, kindness over indifference, and courage over fear. Our future is in our hands, shaped by the choices we make, starting now."

Congratulations, Class of 2025 - you will do great things!

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

Play Your Cards Right



Students on the yearbook staff worked hard to brainstorm a theme that would work with the year at hand and settled on creating a book that incorporated a deck of cards, bringing about "Play Your Cards Right." The 2025 Oracle's cover was designed to look like a deck of cards and the theme of cards was then carried throughout. Asking for the seniors' help, they voted on who the book should be dedicated to. Mrs. Emily (Paccia) West was at the receiving end. Not only was the yearbook staff tasked with having to keep the secret for the majority of the year, they also had to create a ruse to get her back in the building for the dedication ceremony as she was on maternity leave. Upon arriving, the entire student body cheered for a quite surprised Mrs. West. Her family cheered along as she made her way to the front of the auditorium to receive the dedication. This year marked the second year of giving the nominated recipient a complimentary yearbook and a personalized knight trophy to display. The yearbook advisors are proud of the work the rotating staff has done to revamp the book in the last three years and thank the staff who have helped to make each year better than the last!

Biliteracy and Triliteracy Seal Obtained



The NYS Seal of Biliteracy is not an easy feat for students - it takes determination and grit, as well as a lot of preparation. Working with the World Language and ENL departments, two seniors chose to pursue the seal which would open up additional opportunities in college and the workforce if obtained. Lucy Wright, class valedictorian, earned the biliteracy seal in English and Spanish. After graduation, Lucy will head to Georgetown University to major in international politics. Mehdi Dursun, earned the triliteracy seal in English, Turkish, and Kurdish Kurmanji, a first ever for Tully CSD. After graduation, Mehdi will attend OCC majoring in political science. He has already made a name for himself earlier this year on the steps of the Senate, beginning his plight to help other immigrants. Both of these students have shown boundless courage in their endeavors and we can't wait to see their future accomplishments!

Senior Installation



This year's senior art installation was created by Lilith Andrews, Louis Bennett, and Rowan Usherwood. After brainstorming and comparing ideas, they chose to create a wave design entirely out of plastics. They then added figures of the senior art students riding the wave. This installation was not only to encourage the viewers to consider how recycled materials can be used to create art but to bring awareness to the pollution of our oceans. This was a great piece to be analyzed during the art show and throughout the rest of the school year, bringing about wonderful discussion. What a powerful message!

2025-2026 BOE Meetings

Board of Education meetings are held in the Junior-Senior High School Library at 6:00 p.m. Dates, time, and location are subject to change and additional special meetings may be scheduled as needed. Check the school website for updates or call the District Office at (315) 696-6204.

August 19, 2025

September 16, 2025

October 21, 2025

November 18, 2025

December 16, 2025

January 20, 2026

February 10, 2026

March 3, 2026

March 24, 2026

April 20, 2026 (Monday, due to BOCES election and budget vote)

May 5, 2026 (Budget Public Hearing only)

May 19, 2026 (In addition, Budget Vote 6 a.m. – 9 p.m.)

June 16, 2026

2025/26 Board Members

2028	Mr. Shannon Brown	boe.sbrown@tullyschools.org
2027	Ms. Donna Doody	boe.ddoody@tullyschools.org
2026	Mr. Scott Haynes	boe.shaynes@tullyschools.org
2027	Mr. Jeffrey Phelps	boe.jphelps@tullyschools.org
2028	Mrs. Bettemae Russell	boe.brussell@tullyschools.org
2026	Ms. Cheryl Wayne	boe.cwayne@tullyschools.org
2027	Mr. Edward Wortley, II	boe.ewortley@tullyschools.org

Continuing On: Collegiate Athletes



The Tully Athletic department honored five seniors before graduation that are pursuing athletic careers in college. In a brief ceremony, Connor Bastedo (SUNY Potsdam - Basketball), Oscar Breitzka (Monroe Community College - Soccer), Ryan Rauber (West Chester University - Soccer), Nathan Reid (Nazareth University - Lacrosse), and Harper Shaw (SUNY Cortland - Lacrosse) had an opportunity to take pictures with family, teammates, and coaches to celebrate continuing on in their athletic careers. It is a tremendous honor to be a part of the collegiate athletic community and we are extremely proud of these senior athletes!



NAME	PLANS	MAJOR
Lilith Andrews	Tompkins CCC	Business and Finance
James Argus	Workforce	Employment
Connor Bastedo	SUNY Potsdam	Business Management
Louis Bennett	Workforce	Employment
Anna Bort	Tompkins CCC	Early Childhood Education
Logan Bowers	Workforce	Employment
Brianna Brame	University at Albany	Biology
Dylan Brame	Workforce	Employment
Dominick Breed	Workforce	Employment
Oscar Breitzka	Monroe Community College	Sports Management
Gavin Burrell	University at Buffalo	Computer Science
Natalie Bush	Tompkins CCC	Special Education
Daniel Byrne	SUNY Morrisville	Undecided
Wesley Chambala	Binghamton University	Electrical Engineering
Roman Chapman	Workforce	Employment
Jacob Clemens	Workforce	Employment
Daniel Duffy	Southeast Lineman Training Ctr.	Lineman
Mehdi Dursun	Onondaga Community College	Political Science
Amy Dziok	University at Buffalo	Psychology
Mary Earley	Onondaga Community College	Business
Abigail Edinger	Workforce	Employment
Matthew Ellis	Workforce	Employment
Thomas Foody	Le Moyne College	Business and Finance
Darrell Gables, Jr.	SUNY Alfred State College	HVAC
Haley Greczyn	Le Moyne College	Nursing
Garrett Hand	SUNY ESF	Forest Resources Mgmt.
Camden Horton	Workforce	Employment
Kayanna Hutt	Workforce	Employment
Elaina Iozzo	University of Connecticut	Political Science
John LaBarge	Rochester Institute of Technology	Engineering Technology
David Lyon	Workforce	Employment
Kylie McAdam	University at Buffalo	Biology
Nathaniel Melton	Workforce	Employment
Gabriel Miller	Workforce	Employment
Cameron Morey	University at Buffalo	Computer Science
Karissa Olender	Nazareth University	Biomedical Sciences
Michael O'Neill	Workforce	Employment
Anna Pierce	SUNY Brockport	Physical Education
Andy Polak	Colorado State University	Physics
Jamyson Rahrle	Workforce	Employment
Ryan Rauber	West Chester University	Finance
Nathan Reid	Nazareth University	Digital Marketing
Claire Robertson	Le Moyne College	Psychology/Public Health
Adeline Russ	Onondaga Community College	Health Sciences
Harper Shaw	SUNY Cortland	Business Economics
Isaac Stoogenke	Oregon State University	Environmental Engineering
Garrett Thompson	Onondaga Community College	Exercise Science
Gabriel Trexler	Workforce	Employment
Jennifer Turner	Workforce	Employment
Rowan Usherwood	SUNY Buffalo State	Film and Television
Sean Vaughn	Workforce	Employment
Quinzi Williams	Le Moyne College	Accounting
Lucy Wright	Georgetown University	International Politics



Memories and Moving On Up!



The end of the year brings joy for many as they finish taking field trips, look back on ones they had at the beginning of the year, and end-of-the-year activities are planned. Student field trips included farms, Albany, Wonder Works, the theater, the Erie Canal, petting zoos, and so many other places. Students love these adventures and oftentimes do not realize that these are hands-on learning experiences, but they are certainly wonderful memories when looked back upon. Flag Day, play days, and popcorn days are cherished activities that stick in their minds. Dances, the Read-a-thon, the book fair, and Rev Theatre visits hold a special place in their hearts. But then the end of the school year quickly approaches and we hold our Moving Up ceremonies to celebrate the accomplishments of our younger students. This year, all ceremonies were held in the TES auditorium which gave our students and families a reprieve from the heat. PreK students shared sweet smiles and sang songs about what they learned, showing us they were ready to take on next year wholeheartedly. Kindergarten students graduated proudly, officially becoming elementary students next year. And for only the second time, fifth graders also commemorated their time at the elementary school with a moving up ceremony, heading across campus to the junior-senior high school after what seems like the shortest summer ever. Congratulations to all of our students on another successful year! We can't wait to see what next year brings!



From the Interim Superintendent



I am thrilled to be joining the staff at Tully as the Interim Superintendent. I recently retired as Superintendent of Schools at Cincinnati Central School District where I worked for six and a half years. Prior to that I was an elementary principal at Split Rock in the West Genesee School District. My teaching experience was in grades 5 and 6 at East Syracuse Minoa where I also coached lacrosse and football. My wife is a retired special education teacher from East Syracuse Minoa and we have twenty-seven year-old triplet girls. We have been residents of the District since December of 2019.

In our free time, my wife and I enjoy paddling the local lakes, riding snowmobiles, hiking, and we have recently started camping. As much as possible, the fall finds me deer hunting and I hope to be able to pursue more trout on the fly.

I look forward to continuing the work of Dr. Woodcock, supporting the staff at Tully, and most importantly, supporting the needs of our students. I will be attending as many of the after school events as possible when we start the new school year and I would welcome you to introduce yourself to me. The best part of any day at school is seeing kids perform whether it be on the field, in the classroom, or in a concert.

Todd M. Freeman, Interim Superintendent • Phone: 315-696-6204 • Email: todd.freeman@tullyschools.org

A Fond Farewell

Cristy Bobbett



Cristy was an administrator for 13 years in our district. Most recently, she was the Director of Student Support Services. She leaves a lasting legacy of building strong relationships with students and their families.

Sue Biggar



Sue worked as a teaching assistant for 26 years in Tully. Sue was a valuable member of the elementary musical team and worked to keep all students safe while directing traffic in the parent drop off and pick up circle.

Susan Ball



Susan was the Executive Secretary of the JSHS for seven years. She was instrumental in so many things including the organization and execution of our graduation ceremonies. She will be missed as she was essential in keeping the JSHS running smoothly.

Terry Hoke



Terry was a teacher in Tully for 31 years. She was also a Tully graduate. Terry was instrumental in the curriculum and instructional decisions made at the elementary school. She leaves a legacy of teaching students to read.

Mary Kirk



Mary was a science teacher for 23 years in Tully. She came to the district with 12 years of teaching experience in Virginia and Buffalo. She will leave a lasting impression on the science department at the JSHS.

Once a Black Knight, Always a Black Knight

**Open to
all Tully
Alumni!**

ALUMNI NEWS - Save the Date

The next Alumni Gathering will be held on **Sunday, September 21, 2025**, from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at The Loft in Tully.

This year's class being honored (50 years) is the class of 1975.

\$5.00 Donation. All are welcome.

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TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOL EVENTS



AUGUST

- 19 BOE Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 26 6th Grade Orientation, 5 p.m.
- 28 Superintendent Conference Day

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Labor Day Holiday
- 2 Superintendent Conference Day
- 3 First Day for Students

Dates are subject to change. Please check our website for the most up-to-date information.

