



Character Council Sponsors Santa's Workshop



The Character Council headed up a successful new project this year called Santa's Workshop. Before the holiday season, they asked for new or like-new items to be donated for this cause. They received an abundance of items including kitchen towels, pot holders, candles, soaps, puzzles, blankets, writing pads, Pokemon cards, books, tools, and so much more. This allowed for students of all grade levels at the elementary to be able to shop for their families. The Character Council priced the items ranging from \$0.25 to \$2.00 so students could afford to purchase an item for each of their family members. Students created lists of who they wanted to shop for and had the task of looking over the items and budgeting with the shopping money that they had. Lots of students walked away excited at the prospect of being able to surprise their family members with the thoughtfulness they were able to put into purchasing items. The profits that the Character Council brought in were used to sponsor the Christmas of a family in need. What wonderful math and intrapersonal lessons for the students buying items as well as the Character Council. Special thanks to those who donated and helped make this endeavor possible!



SAVE
the
DATE

The JSHS presents ***The Addams Family***
on March 6th and 7th at 7 p.m. and March 8th at 2 p.m.

Principal's Message



Welcome to the second half of the school year! On January 6th, our fifth grade performers were finally able to showcase their musical talents during their rescheduled concert that was postponed due to the weather in December.

In February, we celebrate several milestone attendance days. Many classrooms celebrate the 100th day of school, Pre-K celebrates the 101st day of school, and second grade will mark the 102nd day. Although not a celebration, it is important to note that our fourth grade students who have attended since Pre-K will also have attended school for 1000 days!

Even though we have entered the second semester, TES utilizes three marking periods rather than four, which means we still have another month before the end of marking period two. Report cards will be published on Schooltool and ParentSquare in mid-March.

Mark your calendars for February 6th and 7th for the fifth grade Drama Club musical production of *Summer Camp*. The Friday show is at 7 p.m. and the Saturday matinee is at 2 p.m. Our performers are excited to showcase their hard work!

Edward Kupiec, ES Principal • Phone: 315.696.6213 • Twitter: @ekupiecTullyES • Email: ed.kupiec@tullyschools.org

PTO News

Throughout the school year, TES PTO offers funding to various student clubs and activities, as well as teacher/classroom support. Some of the funding this past school year went to the following groups/activities: picnics, field trips for each grade level, teacher and teaching assistant allotments (for extra items that they may need in their classrooms), clothing and undergarments for the nurse's office, a Staff Appreciation luncheon and stocking the break room with snacks and beverages at the beginning of the school year, Maker Lab items, Summer Reading/Read-A-Thon prizes, funding for the Literacy Club, Field Days dunk tank and popsicles, and much more!

In order to continue supporting the students and teachers at TES, PTO holds fundraisers throughout the school year. We just wrapped up the first of two book fairs which earned the school over \$1,000 in Scholastic Bucks! All earned money was put back into the school for books for classrooms and reading prizes. The largest fundraiser is the upcoming Read-A-Thon in March. This is also our most successful and most important fundraiser of the year! Please stay tuned for more details on how your family can get involved.

If you would like to learn more about PTO, become involved (various levels of volunteering available), or just listen to a meeting, please join us on Zoom! At this time, we are holding our monthly meetings virtually on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Please also join our Facebook page, Tully Elementary PTO. You can reach out via email at pto@k12.tullyschools.org.

2025-2026 Board of Education Meetings

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

February 10, 2026

March 3, 2026

March 24, 2026

April 20, 2026 (Monday)

May 5, 2026 (Budget Public Hearing ONLY)

May 19, 2026 (Budget & Election Vote 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 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

Please note that there is an article about **Nominating Petitions Available for Board of Education Seats**, on page 6.

Principal's Message



As the days become longer and we excitedly wait for spring, the Junior-Senior High School has finished our first semester and we have begun our second semester. The second semester is filled with new experiences for all our students, as new half-year courses have commenced. As we inch closer to graduation, we invite our seniors and their families to celebrate this milestone by staying focused on the upcoming graduation, future aspirations, and finishing their journey at Tully strong!

Spring can be a hectic time for our seniors as they prepare for the next chapter of their lives after high school. Almost all seniors will need to earn credits in physical education, English, and Participation in Government to meet graduation requirements. I encourage all seniors to be vigilant and ensure that they complete all necessary coursework for graduation. Hopefully, all seniors enjoy traditions as they stay focused on academics, extracurricular activities, and their future in the workforce, college, or military. We are excited to celebrate the graduation of the Class of 2026 on Thursday, June 18th. The remainder of the student body should have their attention on their personal care, academics, and extracurricular activities. It is essential for all students to regularly check SchoolTool and ensure that they are working towards their personal school goals.

This past January, we held our annual Electives Fair at the JSHS. During the Electives Fair, students had the opportunity to view displays created by elective teachers, learn more about the courses, and see firsthand the electives that interested them. Additionally, Mrs. Newton and Mrs. Davin will be giving presentations to eighth grade students and their parents as they transition to high school. Eleventh grade students and their parents will meet individually with our counselors to review their schedules and discuss post-graduation plans. Counselors will work on schedules with seventh, ninth, and tenth graders as well.

I encourage all families to sit down and discuss with their student(s) the courses they plan to take next year. The full program of studies that we offer at the junior-senior high school can be found on the junior-senior high school webpage by clicking on the "Counseling and Careers" tab, then looking under the "Documents" section and clicking on the "Full Program of Study" link. Please call the office at 315.696.6235 if you have any questions. We hope all our family members have a healthy, safe, and warm February!

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

Choir Corner



Congratulations to Clara Currie for making JH All-County, Brennan Dilmore for making SH All-County, and Nate Houghton for making SH All-County, SH Area All-State, and the All-Eastern Honor Choir. All three students auditioned for All-County and were chosen to perform with other elected students from Onondaga County. Nate continued on to All-State representing students from all over NY in a special concert. In addition, Nate will be traveling to Rhode Island at the end of February to perform among students from across eleven states. Almost two thousand students auditioned for this honor and approximately one hundred were chosen. All of these students have been dedicated to their vocal abilities and have persevered to achieve their goals. Good luck to them on their future endeavors!

Athletic News

JV/Varsity Spring Start Date
Monday, March 9, 2026

JH/Modified Spring Start Date
Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Sign-ups on FAMILY ID
(Tully Athletic website)

Schedules located on Schedule
Galaxy (Tully Athletic website)



Senior Spotlight - BRYCE KELLER



People/Pets in your family: My mom; dad; stepmom, Rachel; sister, Lila; brothers, Colton, Easton, and Brody; and dog, Olive.

What has been the best part of your high school career and why? I think the best part of my high school career thus far has been my overall growth as an individual. I have really started to grow into the person I want to become, and I've made so many

friends and memories along the way that I'll always remember.

What have you learned from the activities you have participated in at school? Through the activities I've participated in I have learned so much about art, culture, leadership, and about who I am as a person overall. There are so many opportunities to explore different personal interests and passions at Tully and I think that through many of my extracurriculars I've learned a great amount about myself and what I really want to pursue in the future.

What is your proudest moment in high school so far? My proudest moment in high school thus far has been completing my art portfolio, *Metamorphosis*. The series means so much to me and the pieces within it really show my journey of self-becoming and personal evolution. I had to complete all of the works at a pretty fast pace to finish it before the Scholastic Arts Competition, but I was able to get it done in time which felt amazing. I'm really proud of not only the speed at which I was able to complete it, but also the overall look of how it turned out. Art means so much to me and having Mrs. P and Ms. G always supporting me really made it one of my best and proudest experiences at Tully.

Where do you see yourself in ten years? I'm not sure of where I'll be in 10 years, honestly, but I know that I'd like to be travelling and maybe even living in a different country. My goal is to see as much of the world and its cultures as I can, so I hope that I'll have visited many countries and continents. I am sure that I'll still be creating art because that is something that will stay with me forever.

If you could invite two or three people to dinner, who would they be, and what would you talk about? I would invite my past and future self to dinner. I think we'd discuss how things have changed, how we've grown, and what new things we've learned. I feel like it'd be really interesting to see what I become, but also interesting to see what things have remained with me since childhood.

What challenges have you faced and how have you overcome them? The biggest challenge I've faced is realizing that you're not going to be understood by everyone. I've had a hard time with trying to please all of the people in my surroundings or trying to make myself understood, but I realized this year that I only really want to be understood by the people who will listen and the people who listen will understand.

Senior Spotlight - MACKENZY OURSLER



People/Pets in your family: Carrie Oursler (mom), Ralph Oursler (dad), Wyatt Oursler (brother), Remington (cat), Sasha (dog), Zoey (dog).

What has been the best part of your high school career and why? My best part of high school has to be the coaches and teams I have gotten to join and grow closer with over the years. The people and coaches

on these teams have grown to be like family to me.

What have you learned from the activities you have participated in at school? Everyone has a different story and background so it's important to get to know the person instead of judging them based on what they look like or what you hear about them.

What is your proudest moment in high school so far? I would have to say my proudest moment of high school is how I have been able to manage my sports, education, and outside life without falling behind in anything. Being able to continue my schooling while going through the unexpected losses of friends and loved ones has been very difficult.

What are your plans after high school? After high school I plan on working as a CNA to save up money while attending college to major in Marine Science. I would really like to travel while working with animals and observing their different environments.

Where do you see yourself in ten years? In ten years I hope to own my own house on a farm with many different animals and starting my own little family.

If you could invite two or three people to dinner, who would they be, and what would you talk about? If I could invite 3 people to dinner, I would invite my grandmother on my mom's side, my grandfather on my dad's side, and Gia Myers, a person I considered to be my sister. I would invite these people to dinner so we could have the opportunity to catch up and so I could see them one last time.

What challenges have you faced and how have you overcome them? In high school I've had to face the challenge of losing a close friend and family member. These challenges made me push through tough times, which showed me how strong I can be in hard times. I rose above the challenges and continued living life the way I was meant to live life. These challenges were difficult but through these challenges I taught myself that I can do more than I realize when I put my mind to it.

Who's your hero and why? For my hero I will always pick my dad over anyone else. My dad has taught me how to be independent and how to handle myself in tough situations. He has been there to pick me up when I am going through a tough time. My dad will forever be my hero.

Pep Rally Pandemonium



Pep rallies are always a source of excitement at the JSHS. The Senior High Student Council plans them with Mrs. Bovi at the helm. Add in the chaos of the holiday season, and you have pep rally pandemonium! The band played cheerful music while everyone entered the gym and the chorus sang the National Anthem and the school alma mater. This year's holiday pep rally included games like a live action Hungry, Hungry Hippos, an all-inclusive Musical Chairs, a potato sack race, a dodgeball snow ball fight, and the senior Tug of War. For Hungry, Hungry Hippos, one student lay on a scooter scooping up colored balls while another student guided them by their feet. Students who played the all-inclusive Musical Chairs had to run back to their grade level finding different objects before they could grab their seat on the gym floor. The students in the stands enjoyed being part of the game - it was quite a frenzy! Other students participated in the sack relay race while some dodged the colored "snow balls." The annual senior Tug of War always builds anticipation as the class is split down the middle to see who has the best strength as a whole. This year, students at the beginning of the alphabet won the war! For fun, seniors nominated Kaleb Dodd and Elizabeth McNair as Mr. and Miss Claus and the eighth graders nominated Reagan Willis and George Currie as their elf and reindeer who passed out candy canes. Raffles were won, songs were sung, and each of the senior high classes presented their murals, each painted to depict a different decade. In addition, Ms. Emigholz was named the teacher with the most holiday spirit donning her Christmas tree costume. With so much excitement, it was the best way to send the students on Holiday Recess!



Culture Corner: PERU



Did you know that almost three-fourths of the world's alpacas live in Peru and are used as pack animals (a domesticated animal that carries goods on its back)? Other creatures that live in Peru are anacondas, deadly snakes, electric eels, giant otters, piranha, and river dolphins. This is due to the fact that the Amazon Rainforest covers almost half of the country and that the Amazon River begins there.

While Peruvians are used to being cautious around deadly waters, they also use bodies of water to their benefit. Ancient Peruvians were among some of the first surfers, and today, there are some who create their homes on Lake Titicaca. Using reeds of indigenous plants, people make floating islands, houses, and even boats on this lake. Lake Titicaca is truly a place of livelihood. Wild potatoes of all different shapes and colors were discovered there long ago, making it the birthplace of the potato. With over four thousand varieties to choose from, Peruvians have many colorful dishes made from potatoes. From blue and yellow to pink and purple, the potatoes are not the only thing that is colorful in Peru.

A rainbow colored mountain was discovered a little over ten years ago when the climate began to change and the snow began to melt off the mountains. It is now known as the Mountain of Seven Colors. Beautiful colors such as gold, maroon, turquoise, and lavender can be seen by those who hike up far enough. The less adventurous tourist can still visit other amazing mountainous sites such as the ancient city of Machu Picchu, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Tours of Machu Picchu are common where you can learn all about the Incan civilization and take in beautiful views of the Andes Mountains. Peru is the third largest country in South America and its vibrant culture makes it one of the top global destinations for tourists. Will you put it on your bucket list?

Private Transportation Requests Due By April 1

NYS Education Law Section 3635(2) requires that a written request be made to the Board of Education of a School District when transportation of a student to a non-public, private, or parochial school is required. This written request must be made annually and received by the school district no later than April 1st for transportation for the next school year. Most non-public schools have a form available to make this request and can be contacted for assistance. Please have these written requests sent to Attn: Jamie Wortley, Tully Central School District, Business Office, 20 State St, Tully, NY 13159 no later than April 1, 2026.

From Your SROs

Due to the time of year, please be aware of the daily temperature and dress accordingly. Even if snow is not present, be aware that roadways, parking lots, and sidewalks may still be icy.

Drivers on campus need to make sure that ALL windows are clear of snow and ice to see clearly. Driving with snow or ice blocking your view is very dangerous and could be considered reckless. The maximum speed limit on campus is 15 mph unless roadway conditions dictate slower speeds. New York State's Vehicle and Traffic Law (VTL) § 1180(a) defines imprudent speed as driving a vehicle at a speed that is not reasonable or prudent under the current conditions.

Elementary parents should make every effort to unload/load children from the passenger side of the vehicle when dropping off and picking up. This may require you to adjust seating with boosters/car seats/etc. Also, please say your good-byes at the vehicle – do not leave your vehicle unattended to walk children to the door at any time.

Nominating Petitions Available for Board of Education Seats

Two terms of office on the Tully Central School District Board of Education will expire on June 30, 2026. Each winner will be elected for three-year terms from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029 at the annual school district election to be held on May 19, 2026.

Board of Education vacancies are not considered to be separate specific offices. The nominating petition does not describe a specific vacancy. Each candidate is considered for a vacant seat on the Board of Education as a whole and not as only to a specific office presently held by an individual.

Candidates may be nominated only by petition. Each nominating petition must be filed with the School District Clerk, Tully CSD, District Office, 20 State St, Tully, NY 13159 no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 20, 2026.

Each nominating petition must state the name and residence of the candidate and be signed by at least 25 qualified voters of the school district. Each person signing must also state their residence. It is good practice to obtain more than 25 signatures.

General eligibility requirements for school board candidates under the law are: a citizen of the United States, at least eighteen years of age, and a qualified voter in the school district.

Prospective Board Member Candidate packets will be available beginning on February 2, 2026. If you would like a Prospective Board Member Candidate packet, please contact the district office at (315) 696-6204 or email jeanette.neadom@k12.tullyschools.org

Character Call Out



Here at Tully, we are proud of all our students. They make strides every day to learn and grow. We spotlight them for making the honor roll, earning Student of the Month awards, winning various academic awards, making the teams in athletics, participating in extracurricular activities, and joining clubs. Some students, however, are quieter in their day-to-day activities. They go about their day, completing their tasks with what seems to be little acknowledgement. We want students to know this is not the case. *We see you.* We see the hard work and effort all students put into their everyday educational and social growth. We see the small things that students do when they think no one is looking. Because of this, we want to acknowledge these students that have been seen doing something extraordinary for themselves, their classmates, or another person while on campus whether it was stepping out of their comfort zone or going out of their way to help one another. We are proud of you!

TES

Sienna Armstrong
Lydia Baker
Savanna Barney
Carmello Bessette
Palmer Blomquist
George Celeste
Lincoln Chapman
Emmett Dando
Wayland Fitzpatrick
Rhannon O'Meal

Mackenzie Sherman-Currie
Lucas Shirley
Piper Shirtz
Annie Smith
Ashlyn Spencer
Alexander Spicer
Ariana Stevens
Reagan Vidler
Maeve Walburger
Owen Willis

JSHS

Ben Bowers
Locklan Bucktooth
John Celeste
Madilyn Davis
Ayla Gallagher
Caden Graves
Richard Gudiel
Sophia Guo
Jason Hodge

Brier Huggins
Emily Leahey
Jasper Randall
Piper Russ
Landon Ryan
Gabriel Senecal
Jack Sofranko
Gabryel Teller
Kenzie Woodcock



Registration is still open for this spring's Full Steam Ahead program! Our theme is "The Art of Animation," and will cover such topics as flipbooks, paper animation, and stop motion. Students in grades 3-5 can register for either Tuesdays or Thursdays with sessions beginning the week of March 10 and running through May 21.

We will be open on President's Day, February 16, so stop in for a book or DVD to spend time with during your school vacation!

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OR RURAL ROUTE PATRON

TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOL EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 6 TES Musical, 7:00pm
- 7 TES Musical, 2pm
- 10 BOE Meeting, 6pm
- 11 8th Grade Parent Night, 6pm
- 14 ACT Off-Site
- 16-20 Winter Recess,
No School**
- 27 JSHS Mid-MP3 Ends

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



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Tully Central
School District



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