

Issue:
January
2026



KNIGHT INSIGHT



Serving Others and Showing Gratitude



November is a month when many begin thinking about what they are grateful for and then they carry those sentiments into the holiday season, and each year we are proud of our students who step up to serve others and show their gratitude. This year was no exception - our students outdid themselves.

In the youngest grades where students are learning how to give thanks, we saw beautiful turkeys with feathers full of gratitude. Pre-K students were thankful for their families, their pets, and their teachers, among other things. Second grade students created turkey flip books in which they were able to craft and write about the different things they are thankful for. Then they wrote thankful letters to someone special.

Both the TES Character Club and JH Student Council conducted their annual food drives in which all donated items were donated back into our community. The seventh graders participated in their annual Loretto pie making field trip in which they sang songs and spent time with the residents making apple pies. This is always a meaningful trip to those that attend. FFA and Interact students also got in on the apple pie making. They spent a day at the Otisco Firehouse making pies from scratch which were then donated to veterans for Thanksgiving day.

Teen Institute conducted their annual project of students writing down what they are thankful for on paper hands, creating a bulletin board of thankfulness in the main hallway of the JSHS, and students in National Junior Honor Society sponsored a Veterans Day activity, gathering some of their peers to help. They met up in the LGI with enlarged pieces of coloring papers that when pieced together, made an American flag. NJHS students then assembled the pieces and taped them together, making a unique collage. The large collage-like flag was then laminated and delivered to the VA Hospital in Syracuse for Veterans Day.

We love seeing our students give back to the community that supports their educational endeavors and we are thankful for them as well!



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Tully Elementary School presents
Summer Camp the Musical
on Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 7 at 2 p.m.

8th Grade Parent Night
Find out all about the transition to high
school February 11th at 6 p.m.

Principal's Message



PTO was very busy in December. They held a Popcorn Day, a book fair, and a BINGO night. We are appreciative and grateful for all they do! Our vocal and instrumental ensembles were postponed to January but our fifth grade students were able to experience a women's college basketball game in the JMA Wireless Dome.

The TES Character Club was also very busy in the month of December. They sponsored a spirit week and a holiday food drive. All the food items were donated to PEACE, Inc. and stay within the community to support Tully families. Thank you for your generosity!

It's hard to believe that we will be halfway through the school year at the end of January. This month, students in grades 3-5 will complete a state test simulation and our fifth grade drama students will wrap up rehearsals in preparation for their performances on February 6 and 7.

As a reminder, if you are interested in sending your child to pre-K or Kindergarten next fall, please be sure to pre-register your son/daughter in SchoolTool by January 31. You can find the link on the District website. This will allow us to determine whether a lottery is needed for pre-K and how many sections of Kindergarten we will need next school year. Please call the school office at 315-696-6213 if you have any questions about pre-K or Kindergarten.

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

Balloons Over Tully



Tully first graders participated in the second annual Balloons Over Tully parade before Thanksgiving Recess. Students first learned all about the Macy's Day parade and then gathered the materials they would need to create their own balloons. This year's parade looked a little different. Parents and students gathered in the auditorium for the fanfare while first graders lined up in the hallway. Once everyone was ready, Mrs. Scully-Smith became the parade commentator, introducing each balloon, making it an immersive experience. There were animals, cartoon characters, unicorns, and all sorts of creative designs. In addition to the balloons, there were short intermissions in the parade in which the audience was entertained with mini performances. Some of our youngest Storm cheerleaders led the audience in a cheer and some of our youngest dancers who take classes at Studio 315 performed pieces of their ballet dance for their upcoming holiday recital, *The Nutcracker*. After all balloons made it across the stage, the students posed for pictures on the risers. They were proud of their hard work and for being able to share the Balloons Over Tully parade with their loved ones.

PreK/K Registration

Tully Central School is starting the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Registration process for the 2026-2027 school year. If you have not already done so, please register your child(ren) online at <http://www.tullyschools.org>.

To be eligible for pre-kindergarten, children must be district residents and turn four years of age, but not yet reach age five, by December 1, 2026. Eligibility applies to students born between December 2, 2021 and December 1, 2022. For the 2026-2027 school year, Tully Elementary School is able to accommodate a maximum of thirty-six (36) students in pre-kindergarten. If more than thirty-six students have been registered for pre-kindergarten by January 31, 2026, the District will need to conduct a lottery to determine enrollment and organize a waiting list. Please note that Pre-K is a five-days-a-week, full-day program (8:00 - 2:30) and the District does not provide school bus transportation until a child is four years old.

To enter kindergarten, children must be at least five years of age and no older than six years of age by December 1, 2026. Unlike pre-kindergarten, there is no limit on the number of district-resident kindergarten students who can be enrolled at Tully Elementary. Students who are already enrolled in our Pre-K program do not need to register again for kindergarten; those students are automatically enrolled in kindergarten.

Information about the screening process for both grade levels will be mailed out to enrolled students in the spring. Please don't hesitate to contact the elementary office at 315-696-6213 if you have specific questions about the registration or screening process.

Principal's Message



Happy 2026! We wish all of our families a happy and healthy new year! We are now in the home stretch of the first semester, with the second marking period ending on Friday, January 23rd. As always, we encourage all of our students to finish their semester-long courses strong and begin preparing for midterms and finals. Hopefully, students continue to take advantage of the direct academic support offered by all our teachers during Activity Period each day after school, except on Tuesdays.

Beginning this month, students in the Junior-Senior High School will begin working on their schedules for next year with their counselors. Decisions on courses for the next year need to be made for each student based on their current interests, future goals, and their aspirations following high school. Based on each student's interests, goals, and aspirations, it is essential that every student selects courses that align with their individual academic journey. While all students take courses and electives that enable them to meet graduation requirements, they will also have the opportunity to take coursework at an increased level of rigor throughout their high school career. We encourage families to have extended conversations regarding what courses are most beneficial for their student(s). Colleges will evaluate a student's transcript and look at the course rigor and their performance in those courses.

When students meet with their counselors, teacher recommendations are reviewed to facilitate conversations as we build next year's schedule for each student. Students who participate in honors, accelerated, Advanced Placement (AP), and college courses will be required to complete more work independently; engage in a higher level of critical thinking and problem solving; and be willing to write not only more frequently, but also longer pieces in styles that are new and/or unfamiliar. Depending on the course, there may be additional requirements such as labs, research projects, standardized tests, and lengthy writing assignments. Colleges offering courses at our school may require their own prerequisites and/or testing requirements that are beyond our control.

School counselors work hard to communicate course selections with students and their parents through meetings, classroom presentations, or having parents sign off on course selections. Counselors are always happy to meet with parents at any time. Those appointments can be arranged by contacting the Counseling and Career Center at 315-696-6235.

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

Yearbook Staff Celebrates 100 Years

The yearbook staff began talking about the theme and cover for the 2026 *Oracle* long before the school year began. With this year's book being the 100th edition, the staff wanted to make it special which meant preparing for it long in advance. The staff spoke about many ideas and what they thought the current students would like to see all the while keeping with traditions. They looked through years of past yearbooks and tried to incorporate some of those memories while keeping up with the current trends. The cover was planned and drawn out even before the first day of school. When September rolled around, the juniors and seniors on the staff took a trip to the Rosamond Gifford Zoo to attend the Jostens Yearbook Conference to get more ideas and learn about photography, journalism, graphic design, and so much more. Back at school, they got down to business to create the best book possible. JSHS students recently learned what the cover to the 2026 *Oracle* will look like as the yearbook staff and the Digital Media Club partnered together to do a cover reveal throughout November and December. The yearbook staff can't wait to share their hard work and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the school's yearbook with their peers and the community!



Senior Spotlight - REAGHAN FLANAGAN

People/Pets in your family: My dad, my mom, and my dog, Cocoa.

What has been the best part of your high school career and why? The best part of my high school career was competing at the National Convention for FFA for Conduct of Chapter Meeting.

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

in high school was getting into the New Vision Medical program and being able to get experience in the career I want to pursue.

What are your plans after high school? After high school I am planning on going to a four year college to get my bachelors in nursing and then getting my Doctorate of Nurse Practitioner with a focus on pediatrics.

Where do you see yourself in ten years? In ten years I see myself caring for kids in a hospital and starting a 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 two people to dinner I would invite my Grandma Kareta and my Grandma Eva who have passed away and ask them about all of their stories they have.

Who's your hero and why? My hero is my dad. Ever since I was little I have always looked up to him in everything because his job has always been to help people and that's what he does.

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 on an as needed basis. Check the school website for updates or call the District Office at (315) 696-6204. *Note time change below.

January 20, 2026

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

Senior Spotlight - JULIA WORTLEY

People/Pets in your family: My mom and dad, my older sister, Meredith, my younger sister, Kalynn, my cat, Whiskers, and my dog, Cooper.

What has been the best part of your high school career and why? The best part of my high school career has been finding the clubs and extracurriculars I love. I enjoy being the President of our FFA chapter and spending my time in the Ag rooms while I work on

FFA tasks. I also enjoy being the treasurer of the Yearbook Club and the positive atmosphere everyone in the club provides. I have been accepted into both the National Honor Society and Spanish National Honor Society. Lastly, I enjoy playing softball for Tully. Softball is my favorite sport and I look forward to practicing every day. The team has a lot of personality and it makes the team enjoyable to play with. All of these extracurriculars are things I really enjoy and have helped me find my likes as well as the different values that make me who I am; because of this, they are the best part of my high school career.

What have you learned from the activities you have participated in at school? I have learned how to be a leader, how to work with others, new information about various topics that are not covered in my classes during the school day, things I enjoy and life skills in the activities I have participated in. I am a part of a wide variety of activities outside of school. These activities have a wide range and all have helped me learn new things. Being the President, Vice President, and Historian of FFA, Vice President of Student Council, a Big Buddy for Buddy Program, a captain for our softball team, and the Treasurer of Yearbook Club throughout my high school career, I have learned how to work as well as communicate with others and how to be a leader. I have learned the importance of community service while participating in several of my activities and have gained skills specific to the activity. Finally, I have learned life skills such as decision making, problem solving, responsibility, and goal-setting through participating in my activities.

What is your proudest moment in high school so far? My proudest moment so far is never giving up despite the challenges I have been faced with throughout high school so far. I continue to set goals for myself and strive to reach them. Goals such as participating in extracurricular activities and receiving good grades despite having health issues that try to hold me back.

What challenges have you faced and how have you overcome them? I have faced health challenges for my entire high school career. School and functioning every day has been very challenging for me, but I never gave up. I always tried my best and never let my symptoms limit me. I have learned to accept that sometimes I need to take more time to complete the goals I set for myself but I will eventually achieve them. This new mindset has helped me overcome the challenges I face due to my health problems.

FFA and SAEs

Each year, FFA and Agriculture students are required to complete an SAE project. An SAE is a Supervised Agriculture Experience that helps students gain experience in the real world, apply knowledge, and learn responsibility. There are four types of SAE projects in which the students decide which type they would like to complete. Some students decide to do research while others decide to build something. Some even go as far as creating a business model and offering services.

Julia Wortley and Seneca Flint-Morgan, two of our FFA officers, decided to create a business within the school. Both students are enrolled in an independent study in Greenhouse Management and wanted to learn more about managing a floral business and customer service. They began offering monthly floral arrangements to the staff. On any given month, they are creating from five to fifteen arrangements and the profits they earn are divided between buying more materials, creating teacher appreciation projects, and creating scholarships for students in the Ag department. Both students "like the challenge it offers us, being creative with each month's style, and learning a lot about the business side of our project."

What great real-world experience for our agriculture students!

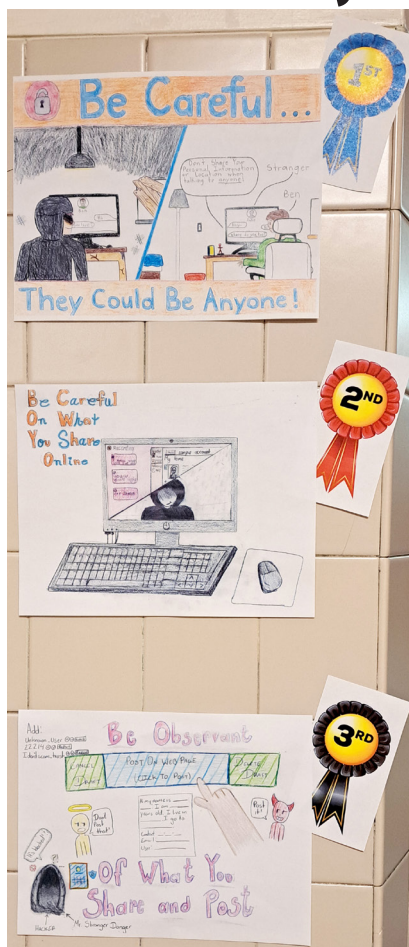


Art with the SRO



We love our SROs at Tully CSD - not only because they keep us safe, but because they interact with and know each of our students. On any given day, Mr. Lamoureux and Mr. Barnes can be seen sitting and chatting with the students. In fact, every now and then, we get a glimpse of them partaking in everyday activities that our students participate in. Before the holidays, we saw Mr. Lamoureux sit in on an art class, creating clay trees to help the Senior High Art Club raise money at the Craft Fair. He'd pop in after his daily rounds and work among the students. The consensus among the JSHS students is that they enjoy having Mr. Lamoureux around due to his serious but fun-loving nature. What better way to spend your day than doing art with the SRO?

Internet Safety Education



Internet safety education is being taught at all levels in this day and age, focusing on age-appropriate topics for each of the grade levels. Seventh graders learned about internet etiquette and security during their Flex classes by researching ways to be vigilant online. Then they created posters for the NYS Kids Safe Online Poster Contest.

All of our students were creative with their posters, giving others a glimpse into very important issues among the cyber world. While students entered their creations into the NYS contest, they also held a contest right here at the JSHS. Staff members throughout the building anonymously voted for their favorites. Britney Lopez received third place, Aaliyah Wendel received second place, and Humberto Lucas-Santos won first! They all did a great job conveying

appropriate internet etiquette and we hope they put it to good use!

From the Superintendent



Happy New Year!

I would like to thank the school community for supporting the 24.5 million dollar Capital Project on December 11. The weather was challenging but 109 people voted in person that day which is greatly appreciated. Before I arrived in July, the team had the 'bones' of the planning complete and did an excellent job refining the scope to get the infrastructure where it needs to be.

This project will pay dividends into the long term future for Tully Schools.

Although we had our last meeting for Strategic Planning cancelled due to weather, our three Action Teams have drafted SMART goals and are in a position to present to the Board of Education this month. The team at BOCES has drafted a document that is currently being evaluated by all members of the Strategic Planning Team and we are confident that the next superintendent will also have some influence on the final draft.

Speaking of weather, it is always unpredictable during the late fall through early spring. With almost 70 square miles, some parts of the district may have roads worthy of travel while others may not. As you are aware, there are some challenging hills to be negotiated and our local road crews from the state, county, towns, and villages do great work to keep them clear. When weather may be a factor on school opening on time, delaying, or the rare closure, local superintendents are in frequent contact with each other. I also check the weather on local news, the National Weather Service, and check with local towns and Tully Directors of Transportation and Maintenance. If I determine that we can get students safely to school and then home, school remains open. The efficiency of the plows and salting, the quality of our buses and our drivers, and the fact that we serve approximately 800 meals each day we are in school, always has me leaning towards an on-time opening.

As of this writing, the search for the next superintendent is wrapping up and I am expecting January will be my last month as interim superintendent. I have greatly enjoyed my time working with the staff, connecting with the students, and gaining a different perspective of the school district. The students are a special group and it is clear they have been well parented.

Todd M. Freeman, Interim Superintendent

Email: todd.freeman@tullyschools.org • Phone: 315-696-6204

As a friendly reminder, for the safety of our students, staff, and faculty, there is no through traffic allowed between the high school and elementary school while school buses are parked.

Emergency School Closings

During the school year, there may arise emergency situations when school may close, be delayed, or dismiss early. Local radio stations and local news channels provide school-related closing information. This information is also posted on our website (www.tullyschools.org) Additionally, Tully Schools uses ParentSquare to send out emergency notifications. This notification system allows school administrators to contact all parents/guardians and staff by phone, email, and text, in order to communicate information about emergencies, school closings, delays, early dismissals, important school events, and reminders. This notification system uses the parent and staff contact information that we have on file in SchoolTool. Parents or guardians with questions regarding ParentSquare should contact Sherry Huggins at sherry.huggins@tullyschools.org or 315-696-6236.

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

**NO
THRU
TRAFFIC**

**MONDAY - FRIDAY
7:30 - 8:00 am
2:20 - 2:50 pm**

**SPEED LIMIT:
15mph**

Open Monday - Friday from 10 AM - 7 PM
Saturdays 10 AM - 2 PM • Closed Sundays

Tully Free Library

tullyfreelibrary.org

12 State Street • 315-696-8606

Registration is open for our spring session of Full Steam Ahead for students in grades three through five. Our theme is “The Art of Animation: Bring your Creations to Life!” The program will take place from mid-March through May. Students can register for either Tuesdays or Thursdays and must sign up for the entire 11-week program. Seating is limited; please check our website for details.

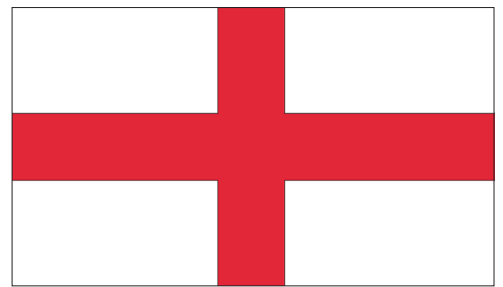
More pictures from: **Serving Others and Showing Gratitude**, from page one



Culture Corner: ENGLAND

Did you know that some of the streets in England have funny names like Ha-Ha Road, Grump Street, and Awkward Hill? In fact, some of the street names are considered outrageous; but that's not the only thing about this country that would seem silly - there are many festivals that we might classify as odd such as Cooper's Hill Cheese Rolling where participants try to catch a giant wheel of cheese rolling down a hill. Considering it can reach speeds of 80mph, no one has technically caught the cheese.

On a more serious note, England is part of the United Kingdom as a whole but is still considered its own country. In fact, each country in the United Kingdom (UK) has its own flag and is combined to make up the UK flag. England's flag is the red St. George's Cross - can you see it in the UK flag? There are many sites that tourists enjoy visiting in England such as Big Ben, Tower Bridge, and Stonehenge, which is actually an ancient calendar. Folklore such as the tale of Robin Hood and King Arthur originated from England, which also draws many tourists. You can visit Sherwood Forest where Robin Hood lived or where King Arthur sat at his Round Table. There is so much rich history regarding England - much of it you learn in history classes!



TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOLS
20 State Street, Tully NY 13159

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Tully, NY
Permit No. 7



TO: LOCAL POST OFFICE BOXHOLDER
OR RURAL ROUTE PATRON

TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOL EVENTS



JANUARY

- 7 JH/Mod Winter II Sports Begin
- 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- 20 BOE Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 20-23 January Regents
- 23 JSHS MP2 Ends

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

Pictured: JH International Students help out at the Craft Fair



@tully_csd



Tully Central
School District



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