

Issue:  
October  
2022



# KNIGHT INSIGHT



## Back to School – 2022

The 2022-2023 school year is officially underway with brand-new lessons being taught, activities in full swing, sports being played, and picture days underway. The first day of school was great for students and teachers alike; lots of smiles were shared between friends and co-workers as everyone saw each other after a restful summer. September brought both the TES Back to School Night and the JSHS Curriculum Night with great turnouts. ParentSquare is now being used consistently by the entire district and positive feedback has been noted. In addition, the Superintendent search is pushing forward while Mr. Hoose, Tully CSD's Interim Superintendent, has been very helpful in many facets. We are so excited to share all of the wonderful things teachers and students are engaging in this year!

Keep a lookout on ParentSquare, the District website, Facebook, Twitter, and of course, the *Knight Insight*!



**Thank you** to all of our custodians that work tirelessly to make our schools a wonderful place to learn! Please join us in celebrating these amazing individuals on National Custodian Day, Oct. 2, and every day! See a custodian?  
**Thank a custodian!**



## Principal's Message



Edward Kupiec

Thank you to everyone for such a great turnout at our fall Back to School Night on September 22nd! It was great to see this event return, fully live and in-person, with no restrictions! If you have any lingering questions after Back to School Night, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher. We do have a number of new staff this year and hope you enjoy reading more about them in this issue!

In P2, students learned more about the strengths of Curiosity and Teamwork, and are currently learning about Open-Mindedness. This month, students will also learn about being present along with the strengths of Integrity and Creativity. Be on the lookout for more information about Halloween later this month through ParentSquare and student backpacks.

Enjoy this transition to fall. If there is anything you would like me to highlight in the *Knight Insight* or my weekly blog, please let me know.

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

## PTO Update

Hello, TES PTO families! We hope that the new school year has started out well for you and your child(ren) and that everyone is into a good routine. We would like to thank each of you who participated in the Summer Reading Challenge. Students did receive a small prize for their participation. Next month we will be offering families the opportunity to purchase Spirit Wear - "Tully Gear" - through a clothing sale. Families will be provided with more information at a later date. Feel free to visit and join our Facebook Group (Tully Elementary PTO) or the PTO page on the Tully School website for more information about PTO happenings. Our meetings are still being held virtually on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise indicated. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, October 12, 2022. A link to the meeting will be sent out via email as well as posted on our Facebook page and the Tully School website. All parents of TES students are welcome to attend. We are a 501(c)(3) organization and gladly accept tax exempt donations. Please inquire if you wish to make a donation. Thank you for your continued support of the TES PTO.

## ATHLETICS

### ATHLETICS SAVE THE DATE:

**Saturday, October 8**

Fabius-Pompey HS

7th Annual Kickin' Cancer Soccer Game  
Tully vs. Fabius-Pompey

### WINTER START DATES:

**10/26/22** - Winter 1 Junior High Season -  
Boys Basketball and Volleyball

**11/14/22** - JV/Varsity Winter start date -  
Boys Basketball, Wrestling, Girls Basketball, Volleyball, and Indoor Track

**1/3/23** - Winter 2 Junior High Season -  
Wrestling and Girls Basketball

### NEW HS FITNESS CENTER

**HOURS: Mon-Thurs 4:30-6:30 p.m.**

Game schedules can be found  
on the school website under  
departments<athletics<sport schedules

Don't forget to follow Tully athletics on  
Instagram (tullyathletics)  
and Twitter (@tully\_athletics)!

## COMMUNITY CORNER

**OCTOBER: Sweet, Sassy and Sublime Afternoon of Jazz**

**John Spillett Super Trio - Sax, Keyboard, and Drums**

**Sunday, October, 2 - 3 p.m. at Tully United Community Church**

This free concert is made possible by CNYarts, TAG Partners in Motion, and Many Angels! Bring your friends and family. Meet and greet/dessert after the show.

## Tully Free Library

**12 State Street • tullyfreelibrary.org • 315-696-8606**

New programming for kids starts this month: Get on board for a new 10-week session of **Full Steam Ahead** for kindergarten and first grade students after school on Tuesdays, and for second, third, and fourth graders on Wednesdays. We'll be investigating, running experiments, and learning all about water, weather, and the world around us! Full Steam Ahead starts **October 4th**. Register online or call the library to sign up.

On the first Monday of the month, starting in October, we have **Imagination Mondays** for second through fourth graders. Build, create, play, and have fun with a different project every month. Please register in advance for this program.

**Trouble Makers**, our pop-up maker space for teens and tweens (fifth grade and up) is now twice a month after school on Thursdays. Use our 3D printer, camera, arts and craft supplies, and more. Please register in advance for this program. And make sure to drop in for **Minecraft** and **Videogame Club** on alternate Thursdays.

We hope all students are settled in with their back to school routine, and don't forget: **Tully Free Library** is a great resource to help with homework, research, or finding a good book to chill out with during your free time. We look forward to seeing you at the library!

**HOURS: Mon-Thurs 10a.m. to 7p.m.; Friday 10a.m. to 5p.m.; Saturday 10a.m. to 2p.m.**

## Principal's Message



**Michael O'Brien**

As the fall season is in full swing, we are thrilled to be teaching and learning in a traditional instructional model without any restrictions within our school community! At this point, it is our hope that everyone is back into positive instructional routines that result in ongoing learning, accomplishing personal goals, and making strong meaningful connections to the school. One of the best ways to build and maintain connections is by students getting involved within the school community. I encourage every student to become involved in extracurricular activities and build positive relationships and attitudes towards school. Counselors and teachers can assist students who might need a little assistance in any of these areas.

Additionally, this is a great time of year to ensure that every student is forming strong educational habits. It is important for each student to maintain good organization and study habits. The school provided planners to all students. Planners are to facilitate keeping track of daily assignments, assessments, and project deadlines. We also encourage all students to have breakfast each day (either at home or here at school) and to strive to go to bed at a good hour where each student can achieve eight to ten hours of sleep a night. If a student needs suggestions or support in this area, they can reach out to any teacher or counselor for advice.

The Junior-Senior High School remains under construction, and will for the remainder of the year. We are happy to let everyone know that the renovated bathrooms in the junior high wing and by the "T" are beautiful and up and running! Also, the floor of Gym 2 is refinished and ready for volleyball season! The new large group instructional (LGI) space and the new upstairs office are coming along wonderfully. As was communicated in the August *Knight Insight*, the Junior-Senior High School Auditorium and Gym 1 locker rooms are also under renovations and will be offline for the majority of the first semester. We are excited to see the musical and spring concerts in the new auditorium, along with the renovated locker rooms in 2023!

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize National Custodian Day! We are so fortunate to have such an amazing custodial staff. During this construction project, our custodial team worked tirelessly to have the building ready for students on September 6th. This was no small feat and they all continue to keep the building looking spectacular while helping students when in need each and every day. National Custodian Day is October 2. If you have the chance, please remember to thank all of our wonderful custodians!

*Michael O'Brien, JSHS Principal • Phone: 315.696.6235 • Email: [mike.obrien@tullyschools.org](mailto:mike.obrien@tullyschools.org)*

## WELCOME NEW STAFF

### Nicole Beatson



I could not be more excited to join Tully Elementary School as a new Physical Education teacher! I received my bachelor's degree from Winthrop University in sports management and my master's at SUNY Cortland in PE. I am from Skaneateles, NY and currently reside there. In my spare time, I enjoy hiking, traveling, reading, and watching sports! I can't wait to get started here at Tully and be

a part of all the community has to offer!

### Lisa Bollinger



Hello, my name is Lisa Bollinger and I have been a resident of Otisco, NY for nine years. I am a mother of two amazing children, ages 8 and 5, who both attend Tully Elementary School. I am enjoying being a school bus driver because I have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of hundreds of children.

### Laura Cardoso



Hello! Hola! I am excited to be joining Tully Junior-Senior High School as a new Spanish teacher. I received an undergraduate degree in Spanish and Geography from the State University of New York at Geneseo and earned a Master's in Bilingual and Multicultural Education from the University of Alcalá de Henares in Spain. More recently, I completed the Master's of Science for Teachers

Program at Le Moyne College. I have spent time studying and working abroad in Spanish-speaking countries and have previously done work related to environmental education at the *(continued on*

### James Best



I am excited for the opportunity to teach PE at Tully Elementary School. I am coming from Jordan-Elbridge where I taught PE for the previous 15 years. I live in Camillus with my wife, Katie, and our two sons, Nathan (11) and Matthew (10). I grew up in the Adirondack Mountains and developed a love of the outdoors. When I'm not teaching or coaching, I enjoy spending time with my

family, golfing, fishing, and exploring the outdoors.

next page.....) Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center, and agricultural outreach with New York State. I live in Syracuse with my husband, Jordan, and son, Ari. I look forward to getting to know the Tully community!

## Mark Chambers



I am very excited to be joining the Tully Central School district this year as the new Algebra teacher. I graduated from Nazareth College with certifications in mathematics and students with disabilities. I have over ten years of teaching experience in the Syracuse area. I live in Baldwinsville with my wife and two kids. In my free time you can see me on the golf course or at the Dome watching SU!

I am looking forward to being a part of the Tully community!

## Taylor Currie



Hi everyone! My name is Taylor Currie and I am so thrilled to be returning to Tully to teach Agriculture. I grew up on a dairy farm just down the road and am a graduate of Tully High School and the Tully FFA. I studied Ag Business at SUNY Cobleskill and Ag Education at Iowa State University. After graduating from ISU, I taught Agriculture in grades 6-12 in the Dubuque, Iowa area. I am

grateful to be back in my home community and around my family and friends again. In my free time, I enjoy taking my dog, Suzie-Q, for walks, hanging out with my brother and cousins, and singing and playing music. I also like going to cow shows, attending concerts, and shopping. I am looking forward to an amazing year at Tully CSD!

## Katelyn Dawson



I grew up on a dairy farm in East Homer. I currently live in McGraw with my son, Johnathon, and my crazy dog, Tucker. I grew up showing my dairy cattle all over the state, so why not get my son involved? He was busy all summer showing his calf. We love the outdoors and having s'mores around the bonfire. I'm excited to be a part of the Tully Central School district and can't wait for a

great year!

## Nicole Fregly



For the last nine years, I have had the blessing of being a stay at home mom. Prior to that, I worked in the transportation industry with two family-owned companies in Upstate New York. My first job out of college was as an Instructional Assistant at my high school alma mater in Pennsylvania. I am thrilled to be returning to the workforce and especially returning to education. I enjoy hiking, backcountry camping, kayaking, taking naps outside, reading, playing board games, and skiing as a family. I live in Fabius with Mr. (David) Fregly, arguably the cooler of the two, and our two children, Adelyn (10) and Theodore (7).

## Lauren Gates



I am thrilled to be joining Tully Elementary School as a kindergarten teaching assistant. I am originally from a neighboring town, LaFayette. I was a substitute teacher at the elementary school there for four years while I was in college. I have always had a passion for working with kids, so this is such a great opportunity! I moved to Tully a little over a year ago with my husband, and while I never thought I would make the transition from a Lancer to a Knight, I'm so excited to be a part of this district!

## Valerie Good



I am overjoyed to be joining Tully Elementary as a pre-K teaching assistant. This will be my 8th year as a teaching assistant for pre-K. Previously I worked at SUNY Cortland Child Care Center and in the Syracuse City School District. I am excited to learn more about the community my family and I are a part of. I have a daughter, Gwyneth, who will start kindergarten this fall and a supportive husband, Steve, of seven years. In my free time I enjoy being outdoors, going on family adventures, shopping at Target, enjoying warm coffee, and experiencing culture and traditions through food. It is my belief that each day is an opportunity for an adventure and I look forward to the many adventures this school year will bring!



## Alexzandrea Hemingway



Hi all! I am so excited to be joining the Tully Elementary team as a teaching assistant! I was lucky enough to grow up in Tully and have always appreciated being in such a nice close-knit community. It's bittersweet going what feels like full circle and working at the school I graduated from and now having my son do the same. Prior to this, I worked at Tully Hill for four years and did some schooling for funeral services. I've decided to accept the position here because working with children has always been my calling. My free time goes to being a mom of a very active little boy spending many hours of everyday outside. I am very excited to start this new school year and can't wait to see what the future here holds!

## Sarah Hill



Hello everyone! I'm so excited to be joining the Tully family as the elementary general music teacher. Having grown up going to a small school near Buffalo, I'm thrilled to be able to join a community that shares a similarly supportive atmosphere. Prior to accepting this position, I taught elementary general music in both the Liverpool and Ogdensburg school districts. I graduated from SUNY Potsdam with my bachelor's degree and then pursued my master's degree from the University at Buffalo, both in Music Education. Aside from teaching, I love spending time with friends and family, traveling to new places, and being outdoors during all four seasons. I'm thrilled to begin this new chapter and can't wait to see what the year has in store!

## Michael Hoose



I am excited to join the Tully team of professionals as your Interim Superintendent until a new Superintendent is chosen by the Board of Education. I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve the students, staff, and Tully community. My wife and I live in Cortland where I served as Superintendent for eight years. Prior to that, I held the same position in Romulus. As a former Technology teacher, I have a passion for Career and Technical Education, as well as hands-on learning and the authentic application of knowledge. Thank you to everyone for the warm Tully welcome. I look forward to meeting more of you in the coming months.

## Marina Machado



I am thrilled to be a full-time Technology Integration Specialist in Tully after working here as a BOCES Itinerant for the past year and a half. I was a classroom teacher for over a decade before making the switch to educational technology. I have a Master's in Educational Technology and have been a Technology Integration Specialist for about six years. I am originally from Queens, NY and moved to Marcellus in 2014, where I currently live with my husband, daughter, and dog. In my free time, I love to travel. This past summer, I visited six different countries with my family. I'm looking forward to working with teachers, staff, and students to ensure that technology is used to improve and transform classroom instruction.

## Victoria McKeever



Hi everyone! My name is Ms. McKeever and I am the new social worker at the elementary school. I recently graduated from SU (GO Orange!) with my degree in Social Work. I have a daughter named Lilyahna and a bunny, BunBun. When I'm not working I enjoy spending time with friends and family, reading, going for hikes, and all things plants! I am so excited to be here at Tully and cannot wait to get to know everyone!

## Sarah Nachtrieb



I am excited to join the Tully Elementary team for the 2022-2023 school year! I got my master's degree at Nazareth College and I'm entering my 11th year of teaching. I am thankful that I have the opportunity to teach in my community where my children go to school! My husband and two children are participating in a 1,000 hours outdoor challenge where we are trying to log 1,000 hours outside as a family. We have enjoyed hiking, swimming, picnics, and playing in our yard. We can't wait to go apple picking this fall and we will make the best of our snowy winters with our sleds, snow skates, and ice skating as winter sets in. I enjoy coffee, reading, cooking and baking, and knitting.

## Jeanette Neadom-Ellis



I am eager and enthusiastic to be joining the Tully team. I am very grateful for having the opportunity to serve the BOE, faculty/staff, students, and community here at Tully as District Clerk/Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent. After working in a Hudson Valley city public school district for 17 years, I decided to return back to my roots to be near family. I was the office manager

of a middle school with approximately 850 students and it's great that I get to continue to work in a school district! I have three children and my youngest is in her last year at RIT. I am a people person who is passionate about animals, volunteering, and helping others. I look forward to getting to know everyone including the students and can't wait to see all of the fantastic things that will unfold in the upcoming year!!

## Hayley Oliver



I am thrilled to be joining the teaching staff here at Tully Jr/Sr High School as the new 10th grade English teacher. I grew up in the Utica area and graduated from New Hartford High School. I then attended Le Moyne College where I received my Bachelor's Degree in English Literature with a concentration in Adolescent and Special Education. After this, I went to Utica University to receive my Master's of Science in Education in Adolescent

Education. Previously, I taught 8th grade Special Education and English at Herkimer Jr/Sr High School. When I am not teaching, I love to read, craft, play board games, and do anything with music and theatre! I am beyond excited to join the Tully family and immerse myself in this wonderful community!

## Darcy Shirtz



Hi everyone! I am very excited and proud to be the newest nurse at Tully Elementary! I have been married to my husband, Joe, for almost nine years, and we have two children. Our son, Trif, is in second grade, and our daughter, Piper, just started pre-K. I am actually a Tully graduate myself, which makes it even more exciting for me to be here! My family and I live in Otisco and

we have a cat (Woody) and seven chickens. We love to camp during the summer months and we went as far as Maine this past summer. I enjoy travelling, reading, hiking, biking, running, keeping chickens, doing anything outdoors, and spending time with my family and friends. I look forward to meeting all of the students and families. It's going to be a great school year!

## Kevin Sommer



Tully has always held a special place in my heart. From 2004-2010, I had the opportunity to teach science at Tully High School. Some of my fondest memories in teaching are those I shared with the staff and students in this district. Prior to my return, I received my CAS in School Business Leadership from Syracuse University. Upon graduating, I was employed with the Oriskany Central School

District as their School Business Official. I spent the past year and a half learning the intricacies of the position. When Tully posted the job for a School Business Official, I jumped at the opportunity! I am incredibly grateful that my professional journey has led me back here. I am excited and truly honored to return to Tully as the new School Business Official!

## Holly Stillman



It's so great to be back, and I'm proud to be part of the Tully family! I am the new third grade teacher after teaching third grade at Groton Elementary School for five years following a year of teaching second grade. My educational background includes an Associate of Science from Tompkins Cortland Community College, a Bachelor of Science in Childhood Education from SUNY Fredonia, and a Master of Science in Literacy Education from Syracuse University. Prior to becoming a full time classroom teacher, I was a substitute teacher at Tully Elementary School, as well as a teaching assistant through BOCES, which was when I realized how truly special this school is. I look forward to the new school year and to many more wonderful memories!

## Luke Underwood



I grew up in Virgil and currently live in Otisco with my wife and 2 year-old son. I am pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Oregon State University. Previously, I have worked as an EMT as well as an audio video technician. This will be my fourth year as a bus driver.

## New staff members not shown:

**Felicia Evans – TES Teacher Assistant. Lauren Ritzler – TES SpEd Teacher. Jurina Sams – TES Custodian. Eric Shaffer – Bus Driver. Lottie Tordel – JSHS Teaching Assistant.**

## From the Interim Superintendent



I would like to bring you up-to-date on some of the happenings across our campus this fall. We had a smooth opening and it was great to see everyone back and feel the excitement that surrounds a new school year. Please take the opportunity to enjoy the talents of our students as they participate in concerts, athletics, and extracurricular activities.

**Board of Education:** We welcomed three new BOE members to the governance team. All members are actively involved in the search for a permanent Superintendent and should have a selection soon. This is one of the most important functions of a school board as their choice of Superintendent will affect the path of the District for years to come.

We will soon begin "budget season." The BOE sets the Budget Calendar in October and it marks the official start in the creation of a budget to put before the voters in May. This is very close to a year-long process as monitoring of the budget is ongoing.

The BOE members also work on various committees; Policy, Audit, DEI (Dignity, Equity, and Inclusion), Academic Advisory, Athletics, Facilities, Health & Safety, and Wellness. There are community representatives on the Audit, Facilities, DEI, and Health & Safety committees as well.

A very special "thank you" to all BOE members for their dedication to the students, staff, and Tully community. They are elected volunteers who give back to the school community by donating countless hours of their time to the betterment of Tully CSD.

**Capital Project:** We are wrapping up the majority of the current capital project. There is some work continuing on the JSHS auditorium and four classrooms at Tully Elementary. It is always a challenge to complete these projects on time as all districts need work done over the summer months and there are only so many contractors to go around. This year we also experienced some supply chain issues. With that being said, I think you will appreciate the final results.

I applaud your willingness to protect past investments in our campus as well as to look toward future needs. Maintaining a school district is a continuous process.

**Academics:** One of the most important jobs of an administrative team is to work with our professional educators to create a learning environment, which builds upon past success and looks forward as to how we can better educate our students. There has been a fundamental shift in public education from rote memorization to the application of knowledge and hands-on learning. It is our duty as educators to prepare our students for jobs that have yet to be created by teaching them how to think critically, work in teams, and develop a work ethic. We can only create such an environment by challenging students, and ourselves, to tolerate failure as part of the learning process.

In conclusion, thank you to everyone for all that you do for our children.

**Michael J. Hoose, Interim Superintendent**

**Phone: 315.696.6204 • Email: [michael.hoose@tullyschools.org](mailto:michael.hoose@tullyschools.org)**

## 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.tully-schools.org](http://www.tully-schools.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 our main offices. Parents or guardians who are having trouble with ParentSquare may contact Sherry Huggins by email ([sherry.huggins@tullyschools.org](mailto:sherry.huggins@tullyschools.org)) or by calling 315-696-6236.

## Board of Education Meetings 22/23

The planned schedule for Board of Education meetings for the 2022-2023 school year is as follows:

September 19, 2022  
October 11, 2022  
October 24, 2022  
November 14, 2022  
December 19, 2022  
January 23, 2023  
February 13, 2023  
March 6, 2023  
March 27, 2023  
April 17, 2023  
May 8, 2023  
May 16, 2023  
June 12, 2023

Meetings commence at 6:00 p.m. in Junior-Senior High School Library unless otherwise specified.

Additional Special Meetings to be scheduled as needed.

## Board Members

2023	Mrs. E. Fay Burt (315) 440-6149
2023	Mrs. Jane Byrne-Panzarella (315) 696-8540
2025	Mrs. Ryan Chatfield (315) 560-0680
2024	Mrs. Colleen Kania (315) 559-9108
2024	Mrs. Andrea Mourey (315) 427-7444
2025	Mrs. Bettemae Russell (315) 696-6843
2024	Mr. Edward Wortley, II (315) 696-8609



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

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## TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOL EVENTS



### OCTOBER

- 5 JSHS Underclassmen/Fall Sports Pictures
- 7 **Superintendent Conference Day**
- 10 **Columbus Day Holiday**
- 11 BOE Meeting, JSHS 6:00 p.m.
- 12 PTO Meeting, Virtual 7:00 p.m.
- 17 JSHS Senior Pictures
- 24 BOE Meeting, JSHS 6:00 p.m.
- 26 TES Picture Retakes, JSHS Chorus Concert 7:00 p.m.
- 27 JSHS Band Concert 7:00 p.m.
- 28 JH Dance, JSHS 6:30 p.m.

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

