

Issue:  
October  
2021



# KNIGHT INSIGHT



## Back to School - 2021

School has begun and students are filling the halls each day with renewed energy for the 2021-22 school year. The sounds of laughter, lockers being used, and papers being rustled are ones that are welcomed by our staff and faculty. Sports are being played and clubs are

being formed. The After School program at the elementary is operating and the Activity Period late bus at the JSHS is running its routes.

In September, both schools held their annual back to school nights virtually. The elementary's Back to School Night was a mix of virtual live and pre-recorded sessions with parents being able to join the sessions pertinent to their child. Mr. Kupiec also held a virtual Q & A for parents.

The JSHS's Curriculum Night was a website showcase that parents could navigate by grade level and department in which a video was presented of each

teacher/course. This was so parents could follow their child's schedule and put a face to each teacher.

Teachers presented their syllabus, classroom expectations, anything specific to their class, and their contact information. Parents could also "meet" the administration, counselors, and the district's SRO officer.

With the year well underway, we are sure there will be some exciting things happening in our classrooms for everyone to hear about!





## Principal's Message



Edward Kupiec

We are humming right along! It's great having all students learning back inside the building again. I'm enjoying getting to know the students better by interacting with them at lunch and recess. I also have been learning a lot sitting in classrooms and witnessing some excellent instruction. As a reminder, all school meals are free this year. We held version 2.0 of our virtual "Back to School Night" that was a combination of live events, pre-recorded sessions, and document postings.

In P2, students learned more about the strengths of Curiosity and Teamwork and will be learning about Open-Mindedness. This month, students will learn about being present along with the strengths of Integrity, Forgiveness, and Creativity. On Friday, October 29th, we will have our annual Halloween celebration. Look for more information about Halloween later this month through SchoolMessenger and/or student backpacks.

*Sincerely, Mr. Edward Kupiec, ES Principal*

*Phone: 315.696.6213 . Twitter: @ekupiecTullyES • Email: ed.kupiec@tullyschools.org*

## PTO

Happy fall, TES PTO families! We would like to thank each student and their families for participating in the Summer Reading Challenge.

Next month we will once again be offering "Tully gear" via our annual Spirit Wear sale. Details will be distributed in the near future. (These items make GREAT Christmas gifts!) Please visit our Facebook Group (Tully Elementary PTO) or the PTO page on the school website for more information.

Our meetings are being held virtually on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, October 13, 2021. A link to the meeting will be sent out via email as well as posted on our Facebook page.

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.



**TULLY  
CENTRAL  
SCHOOLS**

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

## ATHLETICS



### Fall Lineup

#### Southern Hills Storm Football

Head Varsity Coach:  
Brad Keysor

Assistant Coach:  
Jeff Russell

Assistant Coach:  
DJ Charles

Assistant Coach  
Greg Scott (from LaFayette HS)

Modified Head Coach  
Stewart Snyder

Modified Asst. Coach  
Nick Zupan

Fall Football Cheer Coach  
Bettemae Russell

#### Boys Golf

Head Coach: Don McClure

#### Soccer

Head Varsity Boys' Coach:  
Bill Donald

Head Varsity Girls' Coach:  
Ashley Brunelle

Junior Varsity Girls' Coach:  
Kate Mahns

Modified Boys' Coach  
Charlie Locke

Modified Girls' Coach  
Tim Villhauer

#### Cross Country

Head Varsity Girls' Coach:  
Michelle Rauber

Head Varsity Boys' Coach:  
Jim Paccia

## Principal's Message



Mr. Michael O'Brien

As the leaves begin to change, we are so happy to be working with all of our students each and every day this year! Hopefully, everyone is back into the full routine of the five day a week learning and have made strong meaningful connections with peers and adults throughout the school community. Positive relationships are vital to academic success. Our intent is to foster positive relationships throughout the school community for all students. 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 and routines that will benefit them as lifelong learners. 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. If a student needs suggestions or support in this area, they can reach out to any teacher or

counselor for advice.

During the fall, seniors have a lot on their plate! Seniors need to be mindful of many different events, and this can create an overwhelming feeling as they navigate their senior courses and plan their future. Parents and guardians have an important role when their student is a senior. It is important that students continue to have dialogue with their families and receive advice, while at the same time, the senior is allowed to become more and more independent. Seniors should work on college applications, military requirements, and resumes. There are many deadlines to meet such as early decision and general admission to college. This year we anticipate that representatives from a wide variety of colleges will be visiting Tully in person to meet with students who are interested in their institution. More information regarding visits from college representatives can be found in the counseling and career center. If there is anything a senior parent or student needs with regards to future and career planning, please contact the counseling and career center.

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

## COMMUNITY NEWS



### Tully Free Library

12 State Street • [tullyfreelibrary.org](http://tullyfreelibrary.org) 315-696-8606

Happy autumn! What do you enjoy most this time of year?  
Picking apples or pumpkins? Looking forward to fall holidays?

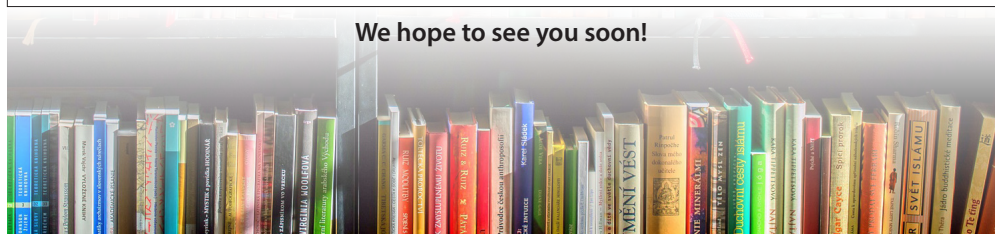
This season of shorter days and cooler temperatures is the perfect time of year to have a book to read. The library has a nice selection of fiction, non-fiction, biography, and graphic novels, in both our kids and teens sections. Stop in and see what we have!

Don't have a library card? It's easy to get one! Students as young as kindergarten age can apply for a card. Stop in for more information today! There are books about apples and pumpkins (and lots more) waiting for you!

Please check our website regularly for updated information regarding activities such as teen programming and Full Steam Ahead, as well as library COVID policies. At the time of this writing, ALL patrons must wear masks inside the library regardless of vaccination status.

**Open Monday-Thursday 10 AM to 7 PM; Friday 10 AM-5 PM;  
and Saturday 10 AM to 2 PM.**

**We hope to see you soon!**



## In the World of FFA



Congratulations to Ella Tordel, Tully sophomore, for being chosen as a member of the National FFA Chorus! There are only 80-90 students chosen for this honor nationwide each year. Tordel will grace the national FFA convention and expo stage, representing Tully's FFA and NY state, in late October with the rest of the chorus.

Tully's FFA chapter has had many accomplishments in year's past but never had a national FFA Chorus member until now. What a great distinction for Tordel!

## Senior Spotlight - SCOTT PETRUCCO



**Family:** Joei Petrucco (mom), Eleanor Petrucco (sister), Ben and Simon Petrucco (brothers).

**What has been the best part of your high school career and why?** Probably the best part of high school was Mr. Mahns's AP World class just because it was the most fun I have ever had in a class.

**What have you learned by the activities you have participated in outside of school?**

Sports have taught me a lot. My coaches have taught me how to handle discomfort and how to do things you need to do but don't want to. I have learned a lot from Mr. and Miss Paccia and also a lot from Mrs. Rauber about sportsmanship and how to lay everything out on the line while being a good sportsman.

**What is your proudest moment in high school so far?** My proudest moment was definitely winning the pole vault at sectionals last year for outdoor track along with the team winning sectionals that day. It was a very special and proud day for me to accomplish that with my team.

**What are your plans after high school?** I don't currently have any nailed down plans but I am definitely looking at college as my next step.

**What do you hope to achieve by the time you're 30 years old?** I hope to have done a lot of good in this world and feel like I have made the most of the time given to me. I hope to be in a secure place in life, but most of all, I want to be happy with the person I am at 30.

**If you could invite two or three people to dinner, who would they be and what would you talk about?** I would probably invite Mr. Mahns, Mr. Fregly, and Mr. O'Neil to dinner and just listen to them talk because they are very funny to listen to together.

**What challenges have you faced and how have you overcome them?** I have had a lot of challenges in my personal life, one being me coming to Tully in 8th grade as a homeschooler who didn't really know how to act socially. I had to learn how to act around people and had to overcome a lot of challenges that year. My life has really been on a pretty good path since then.

**Who's your hero and why?** My hero is definitely my mom. We've been through a lot together and she has always been very strong and has made countless sacrifices for me.

## Senior Spotlight - ESTELLA VANBEVEREN



**Family:** Gabby Chapman, Matt VanBeveren, Jack VanBeveren, and Virginia VanBeveren.

**What has been the best part of your high school career and why?** The best part of my high school career was late night, music-filled drives to Homer with my good friend for ice cream runs.

**What have you learned by the activities you have participated in outside of school?**

Everyone has a talent that society and their local community can benefit from. I've learned that everyone can make a difference, no matter how great or how small.

**What is your proudest moment in high school so far?** My proudest moment in high school was when I received the University of Rochester's Frederick Douglas and Susan B. Anthony Scholarship.

**What are your plans after high school?** I plan to attend college and pursue social justice reforms.

**What do you hope to achieve by the time you're 30 years old?** I hope to have traveled across the globe and work in a job that provides meaningful differences to oppressed people.

**If you could invite two or three people to dinner, who would they be and what would you talk about?** I would invite Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Rosa Parks to dinner. I would ask them, "How did you have the strength and courage to stand up against a system that did not even recognize you as part of the system?"

**What challenges have you faced and how have you overcome them?** At the beginning of last fall, I was faced with the challenge of overcoming isolation and depression due to COVID-19. I was able to recognize that in order to overcome this, I needed to find the good in things and I took advantage of new opportunities.

**Who's your hero and why?** My hero is my cousin, Addy Shaw. She is fiercely independent but also loving and caring. She breaks down barriers and shows me what is possible. I look up to her but am also inspired by her. I know I can do great things because she has before me.

## 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](http://www.tullyschools.org)) Additionally, Tully Schools uses SchoolMessenger 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 not already receiving SchoolMessenger notices should contact Mrs. Sherry Huggins at (315) 696-6236 or [sherry.huggins@tullyschools.org](mailto:sherry.huggins@tullyschools.org).



## Welcome to Tully, New Teachers and Staff Members



### Patrick Carew

I am extremely excited to be joining Tully Elementary School as a physical education teacher this fall! I recently graduated from SUNY Cortland this past spring with my Bachelor's in Physical Education and was

lucky enough to have my student teaching placement here at Tully Elementary as well! In my time at SUNY Cortland, I ran cross country and both indoor and outdoor track while being a teaching assistant for various classes on campus. I also received some cool opportunities to attend both state and national conferences for physical education where I learned useful tips and strategies related to PE. In my free time, I like to be active while keeping up with my two orange cats, Louie and Dewey, but most importantly, watching baseball - specifically the Yankees! Originally a Long Island native, I am excited to be here and am more than ready for this upcoming year!



### Mallorey DeLia

I am thrilled to be joining Tully Elementary School as the new Pre-K teacher! I grew up in a small town similar to Tully and over the past five years I have lived in the community. My fiancé, Glen, and I recently

bought our first home in Tully. I received my Bachelor's in Early Childhood and Childhood Education from SUNY Cortland and am currently completing my Master's in Teaching Students with Disabilities there as well. When I am not teaching, I enjoy camping, spending time with my family, and spoiling my two dogs, Stella and Enzo.



### Trisha Donahue

I am excited to have accepted a teaching assistant position at the Tully Elementary School. In 2008, I graduated from Le Moyne College with my Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Education. In 2011, I earned

my Master's Degree in Literacy from SUNY Cortland. My family and I moved to Pompey two years ago to settle our roots. For the past eight years, I have been home raising my two daughters. I am eager to get back into the classroom and to see where the future takes me!



### Amie Dubos

Hola! I am so delighted to be given the opportunity to work here at Tully JSHS! I previously taught Spanish the last 14 years at Cato-Meridian Middle and High School. I received my A.A. in Humanities from Onondaga

Community College, B.A. in Spanish from Cortland State University, and my MST from LeMoyne College. I am an active member of the New York State World Language Council, a member of NYSAFLT, ACTFL, and LECNY. I believe that language learning is a vital piece of our education system and it opens up so many opportunities for our students. I live with my husband, Chris, our two boys, Chase and Owen, and our cat, Mittens. We enjoy spending summers camping and creating as many memories as possible. I can't wait to take my family to Spain. Our trip got postponed due to the pandemic. I love playing volleyball recreationally, binge watching Spanish dramas on Netflix, and I bake when I have free time! I am excited to make connections, build relationships, and collaborate here at Tully!



### David Earley

My wife Angela and I have been small business owners serving Tully for over twenty years. Angela runs Clipperworks and I run the Elm St. Cafe. I have 4 children, two graduates (Payton and Danah)

and two still enrolled here at Tully. I spend most of my free time with my kids, chasing their aspirations - mainly my daughter Mary's auto racing. I view providing safe transportation for children to and from school as a bus driver as another way to contribute to our community, and I am grateful for the opportunity!



### Taylor Gibbons

Hey fellow Knights! It's great to be back! I will be the new sixth grade Science and Social Studies teacher in the elementary school. I grew up in Tully and I've always admired the closeness and pride in our community.

I decided to stay close to home and attended SUNY Cortland where I received both my Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood and Childhood Education and my Master's degree in Teaching Students with Disabilities. Prior to joining the Tully family, I taught fifth grade at DeRuyter Central School District for three years. Aside from teaching, I enjoy concerts, reading, traveling, and of course, my two dogs. I am beyond grateful to return to Tully as an educator so I can give back to our community. I'm thrilled to see what the future holds!

## Welcome to Tully, New Teachers and Staff Members



### Sarah LaChance

I am so excited to be able to start the 2021-22 school year with the Tully Knights! I will be a Special Education Teacher in the elementary school, primarily working with 2nd grade and a few other students in a

special class setting. This is my second year as a Special Education teacher; last year I worked at Groton Elementary where I co-taught in kindergarten and first grade. I grew up in Syracuse and attended Elmira College for my undergraduate degree in childhood education and childhood special education. I am currently finishing up my Master's degree in Literacy Education at SUNY Cortland. I can't wait to see what this next year brings!



### Joelle Nesci

I am overwhelmed with excitement to be added to the Tully family as a Teaching Assistant! In 2020, I was a SUNY Oswego College graduate and I am currently expanding my education. While at Oswego, I

was a part of athletics, as I was a member of the varsity softball team. Today, I continue to be a part of the team as an assistant coach when I am not at school. Officially being a part of the Tully Family has given me great joy and I cannot wait to have a great year!



### Lindsey Shaw

I am ecstatic to be joining the Tully Central School district this year as the eighth grade Life Science teacher! Prior to accepting this position, I was a teacher at Cazenovia High School for 14 years where I

taught Regents and Advanced Placement Physics. During that time, I also taught eighth grade Physical Science and Environmental Science. I graduated from SUNY Cortland with my Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Adolescent Education in Physics in 2007 and 2011, respectively. Tully has always been "home" to me. I was born and raised here in Tully, graduated from Tully High School in 2003, and I live in the district with my husband of nine years and my two boys. My oldest son, Rhett, is currently a second grader at Tully Elementary and my youngest son, Ryman, will be entering Pre-K this year! Aside from teaching, I enjoy doing anything outdoors: water sports, skiing at Song Mountain, gardening, and hiking, especially. I look forward to beginning this new chapter of my teaching career working with students and families, as well as the staff and administration, at Tully Central School.



### Alex Starr-Baier

I'm honored to be joining the Tully Faculty as the new English 10 and AIS teacher! I was born and raised in Syracuse but have spent much of my life bouncing around New York and elsewhere. I received a

Bachelor's and Master's in English from SUNY Albany and a Master's in Education from Le Moyne. I started my teaching career in Prague and have since taught English 11, 12, Syracuse University English, Creative Writing, Film Studies, and GED. I enjoy all things nerd, in particular video games and movies. I am excited for the opportunity to teach your children and look forward to a great year!



### Shevonne Steiner

Hello to all of you! I am so happy to be joining the Tully Central School District as a Licensed Practical Nurse. I was born and raised in Elmira, N.Y. After I graduated from Southside Highschool, I received an

Associate's degree in Liberal Arts from Tompkins Cortland Community College. I received my nursing license from Oneida Madison County Boces in 2009 and am continuing my education in nursing. I love all things health and fitness related as well as spending a lot of my free time outdoors. I live in Marietta N.Y. with my boyfriend, Tim, his 21 year old son, Dylan, and my 10 year old son, Sam. We have 2 german shepherds, an 8 year old named Tobias and a 1 year old named Amber. This is a very new role of nursing for me to learn but I'm excited to do so. Prior to this position I worked at CNYDDSO for over 16 years working with individuals with developmental disabilities. I am proud to say that I have gained so much knowledge from working there and will sincerely miss the people that I served. I will also miss my co-workers from my previous job but I'm looking forward to making new friends, co-workers, and connections here at Tully.



## From the Superintendent



As we begin the school year, I wanted to make the Tully Community aware of our Board of Education's committee structure. Listed below are 2021-22 BOE sub-committees, along with a short description of the purpose for each committee:

**Audit Committee:** The Audit Committee advises the full Board on the external audit activities of the school district. The audit

committee helps the Board provide fiscal oversight of the school district and may provide comments or recommendations regarding proposed financial decisions.

**Policy Committee:** The Policy Committee discusses current and proposed policies, considers revisions to policies as suggested by the Erie1BOCES policy service or by district legal counsel, considers new policies as appropriate, and makes recommendations to the full Board regarding new policies, revisions to existing policies, and elimination of extraneous policies.

**Academic Advisory Committee:** The Academic Advisory Committee discusses current academic/instructional programs, considers priorities for refining, improving, and/or expanding academic opportunities for students, and makes recommendations to the full Board regarding matters related to the district's academic program.

**Athletic Advisory Committee:** The Athletic Advisory Committee discusses current athletic programs, considers priorities for refining, improving, and/or expanding athletic opportunities, and makes recommendations to the Board regarding matters related to the district's current and future athletic program.

**Facilities Committee:** The Facilities Committee discusses current conditions of the school facility, considers priorities for improvement provided through the Building Condition Survey (BCS), and makes recommendations to the full Board regarding short-term capital improvements.

**Health & Safety Committee:** The School Safety Committee coordinates current safety and security processes, programs, and protocols, considers priorities for refining, improving school safety, and makes recommendations to the Board regarding the district's school safety and security program. Additionally, this committee investigates and addresses any Capital Project-related safety complaints.

**Wellness Committee:** The Wellness Committee meets at least four times per year to establish goals for, and oversee the development of the District's wellness policy. The Committee makes policy recommendations for review and adoption by the Board, and is responsible for assessing current wellness activities, programs, and policies available in the District.

Currently, community representatives serve as members of the Audit Committee, the Facilities Committee, and the Health & Safety Committee. If you are interested in serving on one of these three committees at some point in the future, please notify our District Clerk, Mrs. Mary Fisher, by email or phone (mfisher@tullyschools.org or 315-696-6204).

*Robert Hughes, Superintendent of Schools*  
Phone: 315.696.6204 • Email: rhughes@tullyschools.org

## 2021-2022 BOE Meetings

Meetings commence at 6:00 p.m. in Junior-Senior High School Conf. Room #2 (Room 109) unless otherwise noted.

Additional Special Meetings to be scheduled as needed.

The planned schedule for Board of Education meetings for the 2021-2022 school year is as follows:

October 12, 2021	March 7, 2022
October 25, 2021	March 28, 2022
November 22, 2021	April 18, 2022
December 20, 2021	May 9, 2022
January 24, 2022	May 17, 2022
February 14, 2022	June 13, 2022

## 2021-2022 Board Members

2023	Mrs. E. Fay Burt	(315) 440-6149
2023	Mrs. Jane Byrne-Panzarella	(315) 696-8540
2022	Mrs. Denise Cardamone	(315) 696-5599
2022	Mr. Michael Dzoik	(315) 796-9177
2024	Mrs. Andrea Mourey	(315) 427-7444
2024	Mr. Matthew VanBeveren	(315) 696-5745
2024	Mr. Edward Wortley, II	(315) 696-8609

## Article Submission

To submit an article, email articles to Sherry Huggins at sherry.huggins@tullyschools.org. If you have any questions, please call (315) 696-6246. Please email articles in Word format whenever possible. Do not capitalize all the words in the article. Do not insert or embed a picture within the actual Word article. Pictures should be emailed in JPG format at 300 dpi. Material is subject to editing. The district has the final decision whether or not to publish an article.



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

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TO: LOCAL POST OFFICE BOXHOLDER  
OR RURAL ROUTE PATRON

## TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOL EVENTS



### OCTOBER

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 8  | Homecoming                                      |
| 11 | Columbus Day – No School                        |
| 12 | BOE Meeting, 6 p.m.                             |
| 13 | PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m.                          |
| 21 | French/Spanish NHS Induction, 7 p.m.            |
| 25 | BOE Meeting, 6 p.m.                             |
| 27 | JH Concert, 7 p.m.                              |
| 28 | District-Wide Picture Day<br>SH Concert, 7 p.m. |

*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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