



## The Keys of Success

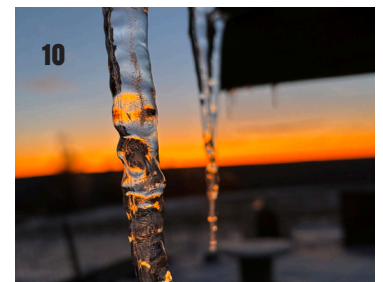
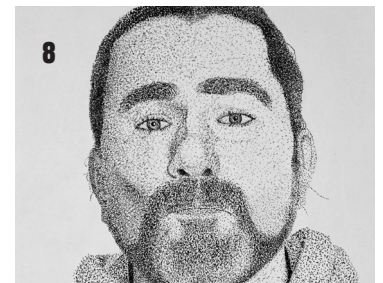
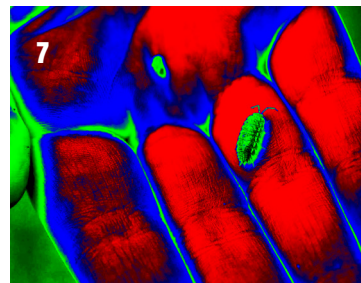
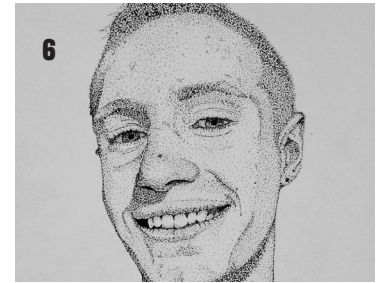


Not pictured: Nicholas Hobart, Kira Reis, Ryan Rauber

Each year, we have several senior high students enter pieces of art in the Scholastic Art competition, competing against thousands of other students, vying for a key. The judging is subjective each year, which keeps our art students on their toes. This year, eight of our students received awards.

We had one gold key winner for their stippling piece titled *Gabby*. This piece of art fell into the Drawing and Illustration category. Congratulations to freshman Allison Marinich! Also in the Drawing and Illustration category were our four silver key winners. Junior Nicholas Hobart entered his stippling *Roger*, sophomore Brier Huggins entered her mixed media *Jerry the Chameleon*, junior Bryce Keller entered his acrylic painting *What's Up?* and sophomore Kira Reis entered her stippling *Boyfriend*. Wonderful works of art! We had several pieces win Honorable Mentions as well: freshman Ayla Gallagher's stippling piece *Guppy*, sophomore Leah Revette's photograph *Playing with Nature*, junior Bryce Keller's colored pencil drawing *Ensemble*, and three of senior Ryan Rauber's photographs *Chain*, *Icy Sunset*, and *Reality*.

Art students then got the opportunity to see theirs and other winner's art in a gallery-like setting on OCC campus, which was open to the public. With so many pieces of art entered, our students are top notch in the art department, earning the keys of success!



1-*Gabby* by Allison Marinich.  
2-*Guppy* by Ayla Gallagher. 3-*Jerry the Chameleon* by Brier Huggins.  
4-5: *Ensemble* and *Whats Up?* by Bryce Keller. 6-*Boyfriend* by Kira Reis. 7-*Playing with Nature* by Leah Revette. 8-*Roger* by Nicholas Hobart. 9-11: *Chain*, *Icy Sunset*, and *Reality* by Ryan Rauber.

## Pirates!



Ahoy, Tully Matees! It seems that pirates took over the TES auditorium for a while and then recruited shipmates during their annual musical performances. With fewer students than usual due to the sixth grade now being housed at the JSHS, a concern for the TES drama team was if there would be enough students to have a full cast, but the fifth grade students stepped up to the task and pulled off amazing performances. Lots of humor and some pirate banter made for a good time among the students during the school-wide preview and then again at the night performance and Saturday matinee. As always, our community showed up for the students and staff that put so much time and effort into the production, filing into the auditorium for a chance to see someone walk the plank or be thrown overboard.

Congratulations on a job well-done, fifth grade!



## Character Call Out Recipients



Congratulations to our Character Call Out recipients. We see you!

## PTO News

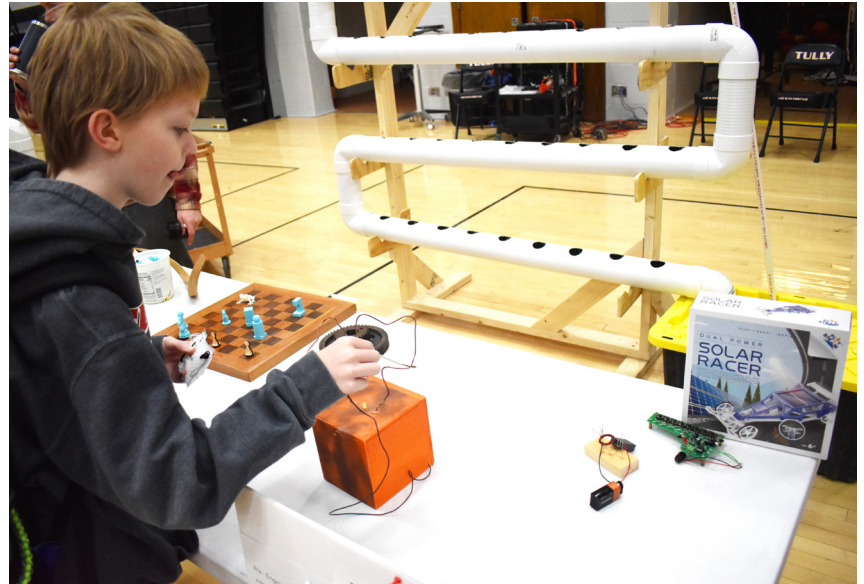
Hello TES families! Our annual Read-a-Thon is coming up! For those that have never participated in the Read-A-Thon, this is our **LARGEST** and **ONLY** fundraiser. We ask that you sponsor students to read by giving monetary donations. Students will also have the opportunity to obtain reading incentives, which consist of earning prizes after each reading milestone is reached. Be on the lookout for more information as we get closer!

Did you know TES PTO is also a 501(c)(3) organization? We accept tax-exempt donations year-round. Please inquire if you would like to make a donation.

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](mailto:pto@k12.tullyschools.org).

## TULLY JR-SR HIGH SCHOOL

## Electives Fair



For the first time, students got to peruse what electives will be offered to them for the upcoming year by way of a fair, consisting of informational boards, handouts, and hands-on activities, as well as available teachers answering any questions they had. With positive student feedback from the Activities Fair, an Electives Fair seemed like a good way to get important class information out to all students, especially since the electives can change from year to year. During an extended lunch period, students used the extra time to figure out what elective classes would be offered to them next year, getting an idea of what they might like to take right before our counselors begin scheduling for the upcoming year. This proved to be paramount for our students before going into their scheduling meetings.

## Sixth Grade Attends Presentation

The sixth graders at the JSHS attended a presentation focusing on the deforestation and endangerment of the silverback mountain gorillas of Uganda in the Large Group Instructional space.

Mr. Samite Mulondo, a world-renowned musician and humanitarian native to Uganda, shared his experience with the students, giving them a firsthand source on the topics. He also shared his message of peace and hope that he attributes through his music.

Mr. Mulondo has presented on campus before for a senior seminar, helping students make worldly connections across many subject areas.



## Exploring the CTE Programs



At Tully, we want our students to have as much information as possible to help them make a good plan for their life after high school, whether it is for college, the workforce, or for the military. While sophomores have the opportunity to visit Le Moyne campus to see what college life can offer, juniors can sit in on career presentations and shadow other students in their CTE (career tech education) program before they decide if that program is a good fit for them. New Visions offers a criminal justice program, an environmental program, and a medical program for seniors. This can be a great segway into a career in these fields. After sitting in on an informational session, students can then take the step to shadow peers for a day, getting first-hand experience on what their day-to-day education could look like, well before going to a college campus or stepping into the workforce.



## Senior Spotlight - ANDY POLAK



**People/Pets in your family:** Alice (mom), Rob (dad), Ella (sister), Smoky and Peanut (cats).

**What has been the best part of your high school career and why?** The best part of my highschool career was definitely my senior soccer season. Being able to spend so much time with my teammates and coaches was incredible, and our postseason run was the most fun I've ever had with sports. Being

able to win a sectional title for our team, school, and community was something I never would have thought would mean so much. Going on and being able to stay at a hotel with the team and play in a State Semi-final game was amazing. Even though we didn't win the state title, the memories I made were so much more special than the trophy would have been.

**What have you learned from the activities you have participated in at school?** One thing I've learned is how important it is to take advantage of every opportunity you're given. Even if you're nervous about something, you will always feel worse if you at least didn't give it a try. Multiple times throughout highschool I found myself on the fence about whether or not I should do something that I wouldn't have the chance to do again. I would have missed out on so many experiences if I had decided to let the opportunity pass.

**What is your proudest moment in high school so far?** My proudest moment has been receiving a Scholastic Art award for a few of my works of art. I put so much time and effort into each piece, and to be recognized for that felt really great.

**What are your plans after high school?** I plan on attending Colorado State University this coming fall where I'm considering majoring in physics or chemistry. I hope to be able to do a study abroad program somewhere in Europe or Japan. I will also be skiing as much as I can.

**Where do you see yourself in ten years?** I can see myself married with two cats, hopefully finishing up medical school and living near a large mountain.

**If you could invite two or three people to dinner, who would they be, and what would you talk about?** I would invite Lewis and Clark because I would love to hear about all of their stories during their time traveling across America. I would also like to know what it was like exploring such a large area and seeing everything for the first time without getting hints from the internet or other people.

## Senior Spotlight - ROWAN USHERWOOD



**People/Pets in your family:** Colleen (mom), Seth (dad), Zac (brother), Skylar (sister), Keagan (sister) and Oak (dog).

**What has been the best part of your high school career and why?** The best part has been growing with my friends and peers and gaining new experiences with them.

**What have you learned from the activities you have participated in at school?** I have learned that winning

against your rival team in any sport is the most nerve-wracking yet rewarding feeling ever.

**What is your proudest moment in high school so far?** My proudest moment is getting an ace on game point in a five-set volleyball match against our rival team (Fabius-Pompey).

**What are your plans after high school?** I plan to attend college to study fashion design.

**Where do you see yourself in ten years?** I see myself succeeding in life and achieving the many dreams and goals I have set for myself in the career of my choice.

**If you could invite two or three people to dinner, who would they be, and what would you talk about?** I would invite my grandpa who passed away to talk about how my life looks today and what I have achieved since I saw him last. I would also invite my dad alongside me so that he could talk to my grandpa (his dad) as well.

**What challenges have you faced and how have you overcome them?** I have faced challenges in strengthening my mindset and I learned to overcome them by focusing on prioritizing my own needs. During my time at Tully, I have grown to seek out new opportunities allowing myself to become more sociable.

**Who's your hero and why?** My sister, Keagan, is my hero because throughout the course of my highschool years, I have learned the most valuable lessons from her. I look up to her and appreciate her importance to me, not only as a hero, but as a sister as well.

## ATHLETIC NEWS

**Spring Start Dates:** JV/Varsity Spring Sports - March 17th  
JH/Modified Spring Sports - April 7th

**Register now at:** <https://students.arbitersports.com/organizations/tully-school-district>

**Tully and Southern Hills Spring Staff****Boys Lacrosse:**

Head Varsity Coach - Jason Shaw  
Assistant Varsity Coach - Daniel Manti  
Head Modified Coach - Patrick McNerney  
Assistant Modified Coach - Leo Burke

**Girls Lacrosse:**

Assistant JH Lacrosse - TBA

(The rest of the girls lacrosse staff is appointed by LaFayette School District)

**Baseball:**

Head Varsity Coach - Don Mohat  
Head Modified Coach - Mark Chambers

**Softball:**

Head Varsity Coach - Bill Donald  
Head Modified Coach - Jamie Wortley

**Track & Field:**

Girls Head Varsity Coach - Michelle Rauber  
Girls Assistant Varsity Coach - Ellen Jaworski  
Boys Varsity Coach - Jim Paccia  
Boys Assistant Varsity Coach - Emily Paccia  
Head JH Coach - Charlie Locke

## Principal's Message



**Edward Kupiec**



**Michael O'Brien**

This year's New York State Assessments in grades 3-8 will be administered across the state from Monday, April 7th - Friday, May 16th. During this window, students will take assessments in ELA and math, with fifth and eighth grade students also completing a science assessment. The tentative assessment dates for Tully students are included below:

	ELA	Math	Science
Tully Elementary School	April 8 & 9, 2025 (Grades 3-5)	April 22 & 23, 2025 (Grades 3-5)	April 29, 2025 (Grade 5 ONLY)
Tully Junior-Senior High School	May 13 & 14, 2025 (Grade 6-8)	April 29 & 30, 2025 (Grade 6-8)	May 2, 2025 (Grade 8 ONLY)

As reminders for parents, the number of test sessions for each grade level is two (2) days for ELA and math tests and one (1) day for science. All Tully students will take their assessments in the computer-based testing (CBT) format using Google Chromebooks, as we have been doing for several years. We are ahead of the curve here as New York State is mandating a transition to computer-based testing for state assessments in all subjects, grades 3-8. We are excited to see how our students perform regionally and statewide!

Assessments have always been an integral part of the educational process. When used appropriately, assessments provide critical information regarding the success of educational programs, areas of strength, and potential areas of adjustment. When the entire student body participates fully in an assessment, valuable program information can be gathered based upon the overall results. For example, if a high percentage of students demonstrate that they've performed well on a particular skill, it tells teachers that their curriculum and instructional strategies met the standards. The opposite is also true. If students don't do well in a particular skill area, it tells teachers where to focus their efforts in curriculum alignment and instructional strategies. Without this information, it is very difficult to determine the success of our program or analyze trends that provide the basis for program adjustment and improvement. We strive to perform as well as, or better than, similar districts in New York State. The grade 3-8 assessment results have been, and will continue to be, a way that we can measure how our program compares statewide.

At Tully, we use several measures, including student performance on the NYS assessments, to evaluate our curriculum and instructional program. We use NYS assessment results along with other standardized measures and classroom performance on homework, quizzes, tests, and projects, as well as communication with home to evaluate children at an individual level. The more information we have about student performance, the better we can make informed decisions about what adjustments to educational programs are necessary on both a district and individual student level.

If you have any questions or concerns about assessments at Tully, or you wish to receive additional information, please contact your child's counselor, teacher, or principal.

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

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

## Nominating Petitions Available for Board of Education Positions

Two terms of office on the Tully Central School District Board of Education will expire on June 30, 2025. Each winner will be elected for three-year terms from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028 at the annual school district election to be held on May 20, 2025.

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 21, 2025. 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 his or her 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
- a qualified voter in the school district

Prospective Board Member Candidate packets are now available. 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](mailto:jeanette.neadom@k12.tullyschools.org).

## From the Superintendent



At the January Board of Education meeting, we had the privilege of approving the retirements of three outstanding educators who have made a lasting impact on the students and families of the Tully Central School District. Please join me in recognizing Teresa Hoke, first grade teacher at TES, Mary Kirk, Earth Science teacher at JSHS, and Susan Biggar, teaching assistant at TES.

As a district, we will ensure that we properly celebrate their years of service toward the end of the school year. We are grateful for their unwavering commitment to education and wish them all the best in their well-earned retirements.

In addition to honoring our retirees, we would like to share an update on our district's strategic planning process. Last month, the Strategic Planning Core Committee met to finalize its mission, vision, and core values. This important work will help guide our district's goals and priorities for the years ahead.

This month, the committee will begin to analyze the data collected from the community-wide survey. We sincerely appreciate the time and effort of all community members who provided feedback. Your insights are invaluable in shaping a plan that reflects the needs and aspirations of our students, families, and educators.

We will continue to share updates on the strategic plan as the process moves forward. In the meantime, thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our schools.

**Darcy Woodcock, Superintendent • Phone: 315.696.6204**  
**Email: [darcy.woodcock@tullyschools.org](mailto:darcy.woodcock@tullyschools.org)**

## 2024/25 Board Members

2025	Mrs. Ryan Chatfield	<a href="mailto:boe.rchatfield@tullyschools.org">boe.rchatfield@tullyschools.org</a>
2027	Ms. Donna Doody	<a href="mailto:boe.ddoody@tullyschools.org">boe.ddoody@tullyschools.org</a>
2026	Ms. Jessica McAnaney	<a href="mailto:boe.jmcananey@tullyschools.org">boe.jmcananey@tullyschools.org</a>
2027	Mr. Jeffrey Phelps	<a href="mailto:boe.jphelps@tullyschools.org">boe.jphelps@tullyschools.org</a>
2025	Mrs. Bettemae Russell	<a href="mailto:boe.brussell@tullyschools.org">boe.brussell@tullyschools.org</a>
2026	Ms. Cheryl Wayne	<a href="mailto:boe.cwayne@tullyschools.org">boe.cwayne@tullyschools.org</a>
2027	Mr. Edward Wortley, II	<a href="mailto:boe.ewortley@tullyschools.org">boe.ewortley@tullyschools.org</a>

## Private Transportation Requests Due by April 1st

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, 2025.

## Culture Corner Greece



Did you know that the theater was invented by the Ancient Greeks and that Athens (the capital) has the most theaters of any other city in the world? The Greek people enjoyed plays as a way of entertainment and actors wore masks to show emotion. How about that the first modern-day Olympic games were held in Greece? The Ancient Olympic games were a means to bring people together even in times of strife and were considered a religious ceremony. The modern Olympics closely mirror the Ancient Olympics in that they promote international goodwill. In addition to the Olympics, the marathon was created in Greece. Greece is located in Europe and is made up of thousands of islands and long stretches of mountains but most people inhabit the cities. It is one of the major producers of olives and olive oil, which you can find on nearly every dinner table when dining there. When traveling to Greece or learning about this amazing country, the culture surrounding the Grecian heritage will always include Greek mythology where you will learn about the gods and goddesses that have influenced this diverse country.

## Tully Free Library

**[tullyfreelibrary.org](http://tullyfreelibrary.org) • 315-696-8606**

Did you know the library can offer you access to amazing digital resources? Whether you're researching information for a book report, term paper, or just want to find out more about the world around you, make sure to visit our website! You can find links to all kinds of databases on all kinds of topics, including history, music, art, and more!

If you're looking for your next fun read, use the Libby or Hoopla apps to find e-books, audiobooks, comics, and even movies and TV shows! If you need help setting up your account, stop in and see one of our staff members.

When you think of digital resources, think of Tully Free Library!

**TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOLS**  
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## TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOL EVENTS



### MARCH

- 4 BOE Meeting, 6pm
- 6 PTO Meeting, 7pm
- 7-8 JSHS Musical, 6:30pm
- 8 SAT (off-site)
- 9 JSHS Musical, 2pm
- 14 Trivia (K)Night, 7pm
- 17 JV/V Spring Sports Begin
- 19 JSHS Band/Chorus Concert, 6pm
- 25 BOE Meeting, 6pm
- 31 Superintendent Conference Day**

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



@tully\_csd



Tully Central  
School District



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