



## From the Superintendent



I have had an incredible experience since joining the Tully Central School District on February 2nd. As your Superintendent, I am truly honored by the trust placed in me by the Board of Education and the school community. I have been overwhelmed by the kindness and acceptance Tully has shown since my official appointment. My wife, Kelly, and our sons, Jack, Sam, and Max

are also excited to become involved in and connected to the Tully community.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Todd Freeman for his guidance and leadership to the district during his time as Interim Superintendent; as well as the time he spent with me as we transitioned the position. His deep care for Tully and his willingness to share his experience made this transition seamless. I wish him the very best in his well-earned retirement.

This month, I have appreciated the opportunity to visit our buildings and classrooms and to meet our students and staff. The enthusiasm, encouragement, and innovation throughout our schools are truly special. I have also enjoyed attending school events, engaging with committees, and spending time in the community. Across all of these experiences, I have been impressed by the dedication and achievement of our students and staff and the strong sense of pride that defines the Tully school district and community.

I look forward to building open, honest, and collaborative relationships throughout the district and community. Working together is an essential component to fostering a student-centered environment, a positive and innovative culture, and a strong school-community partnership. These principles will be at the core of our work as we move through the remainder of the school year and into the future.

Please feel comfortable reaching out to me with your questions, ideas, and feedback. Your collective voice will be instrumental as we continue to grow and move the district forward.

Go Black Knights!

**Andy Buchsbaum, Superintendent**

**Phone: 315.696.6204**

**Email: [andy.buchsbaum@tullyschools.org](mailto:andy.buchsbaum@tullyschools.org)**

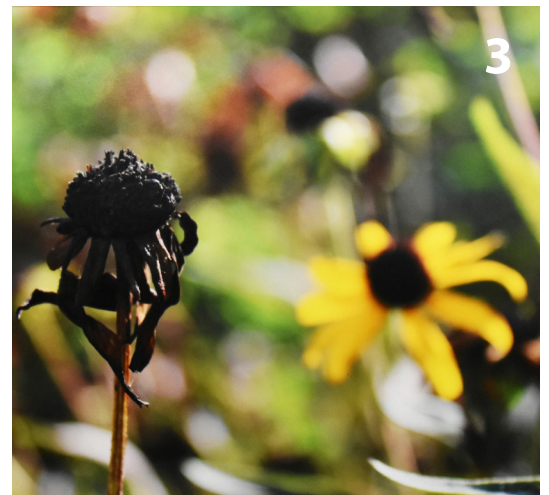
## Scholastic Sweep



This year's art students did a wonderful job of making a clean sweep at the Scholastic Arts competition with a few earning more than one award. Sophomore

Desiray Gables and junior Kira Reis both received two Honorable Mention awards; Desiray for her pointillism *Nova* (12) and her scratch art *Red Panda* (17), and Kira for her drawing *My Angel* (16) and her scratch art *Parrot* (15).

Juniors Ella Polak's photograph *Death of a Flower* (3) and Brier Huggins' drawing *Alaska* (10) both also earned Honorable Mentions. Junior Nora Bort received a Silver Key for her pointillism *Cujo* (14) as well as sophomore Dravyn Stage for his wood burning *Jesus is King* (13). Senior Adeline Nash won two awards; a Silver Key for her photograph *A World Contained* (1) and a Gold Key for her photograph *A World Within* (11). Marz Huggins, a junior high student, won a Gold Key award for her armature *Don't Clown Around* (2). *(continued on page 3...)*



## Summer Camp Shenanigans



Nothing could stop the fifth graders from showcasing their hard work during the presentation of their play, *Summer Camp*. Not a little winged creature or sub zero temperatures could keep them from entertaining their audiences. Their first attempt on stage was to perform in front of the student body at the end of their school day, but a real-life bat wanted to join in on their campfire song. Students were evacuated from the auditorium and the bat was then removed. The cast then made an encore for the student body the following day. Their weekend performance didn't garner quite as large of a crowd as normal due to snowy weather and temperatures that dipped below zero, but that didn't deter them. The cast eagerly got on stage and did an amazing job.

*Summer Camp* was a lively play in which kids are sent to Runamok summer camp with a drill sergeant of a camp director and a couple of spunky counselors. While there, the kids find that it's a place where they all feel a sense of belonging - from the kid who knows how to tie a hundred different types of knots to the shy and timid kid who writes home every night. The campers took the audience through the summer camp experience including morning routine, camp skits, a talent show, and fireside chats all while watching out for bears! Camp Runamok was filled with good ole' fashioned camp shenanigans, real and otherwise, for a fun-filled time.



**Scholastic Sweep** *(continued from the cover...)*



**Scholastic Sweep**

Senior Bryce Keller has always done well at the Scholastic competition and this year was no exception. He entered his senior portfolio which consisted of six pieces, pictured above. While he earned an Honorable Mention for his paintings *Deity* (6) and *Metamorphosis* (8), Silver Keys for his drawing *Emergence* (9) and textile *Revival* (4), and Gold Keys for his drawings *Successor* (5) and *Trap* (7), his portfolio as a whole earned a Gold Key.

In addition, he won the Onondaga Community College Foundation Award for the Best Fine Arts Portfolio. To top it off, his drawing *Trap* (7) garnered a lot of attention. It was nominated by the CNY Arts Council for the American Visions Award, which is known as “the nation’s longest-running, most prestigious recognition program for creative teens.” Bryce not only earned this recognition at the annual Scholastic Arts Awards ceremony, but is in the running for a scholarship and national recognition.

With over five thousand pieces of art entered into the competition, our students made a Scholastic Sweep! *(More art featured on page 4...)*



## Senior Spotlight - GLORIA FLATT



**People/Pets in your family:** My mom, my dad, and my two sisters, Gabby and Georgia.

**What has been the best part of your high school career and why?** The best part of my high school career has been being involved in sports and clubs that made my days more exciting and meaningful. From the energy of game days to laughing with my

friends at practice or club meetings; I found a place where I could have fun and contribute to something bigger. These experiences gave me unforgettable memories and close friendships that I will carry with me long after high school ends.

**What have you learned from the activities you have participated in at school?** Through my involvement in sports, clubs, group projects, and volunteer work, I have learned the value of responsibility, teamwork, and time management. My experiences in school taught me ways to communicate with my peers and showed me how individual effort contributes to the success of a team.

**What is your proudest moment in high school so far?** My proudest moment in high school was getting into the New Vision Medical program. This program has pushed me to step outside of my comfort zone through new hands-on experiences. This opportunity has taught me so much about the medical field and has given me more confidence going into college with a major in nursing.

**What are your plans after high school?** After high school, I plan to attend college and study nursing. I hope to gain hands-on experiences, meet new people, and stay involved in activities. Ultimately, I want to build a career where I can make a positive impact on others.

**Who's your hero and why?** My parents are, by far, my heroes. My dad is the most hardworking person I know and he has taught me what dedication, discipline, and the importance of striving for success truly looks like. My mom is kind, and supportive, always encouraging me to believe in myself and pursue my goals. They have gone above and beyond to prepare my sisters and I for our futures.

## Senior Spotlight - ANNA LUND



**People/Pets in your family:** My mom, my dad, my sisters Catherine, Maddy, and Ella, and my dog Cooper.

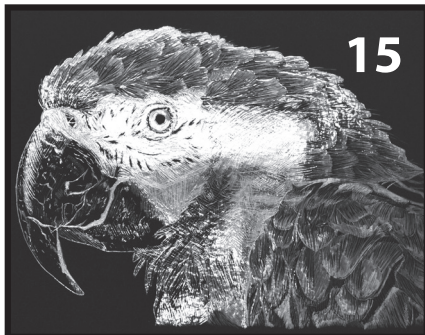
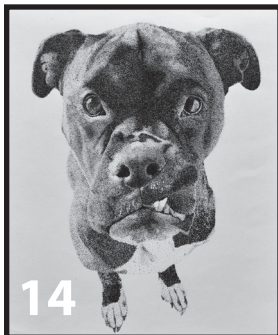
**What has been the best part of your high school career and why?** The best part of my high school career has been spending my senior year in the New Visions program. It has given me the opportunity to spend my senior year learning about information I am

passionate about and that prepares me for my future in healthcare. Additionally, I am lucky enough to be able to spend it with many of my friends from Tully, and the many new friends I have made in such a fun environment.

**Where do you see yourself in ten years?** In ten years I hope to be living near my family while working at a hospital as an L&D or NICU nurse.

**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 Rick and Aunt Laura. I do not get to see them often because they live in Michigan, so I would love to spend a dinner with them and share what has been going on in my life. Although they are technically not my grandparents, that has never stopped them from treating me like their grandchild. They are always finding ways to support me and stay updated on my life even while being so far away. They have experienced a lot of life, and I would love to hear what they have to share from all of the different adventures they have been on and the lessons they have learned throughout their lives.

**Who's your hero and why?** My heroes are my parents because they have done so much for me and are a constant inspiration. They are my biggest supporters and I can count on them to always be there for me. My father is one of the most hardworking and selfless people I know, and is forever putting the needs of others ahead of his own. My mother has taught me how to be a kind and respectful person, and that is what I am most grateful for. The lessons she has taught me as I have gone through life are some that I will keep with me, and hopefully teach to my own children one day. I hope to be as kind, hardworking, and selfless as my parents when I am older.

**Scholastic Sweep Art, continued from the cover and page 3**

## Children's Literature



Six students took a new elective called Children's Literature this past semester. In addition to reading and analyzing over two hundred children's books, they also wrote six of their own. For one of their books, they gave a pitch trying to sell their children's book idea to a "publisher" (their classmates and administrators). They had a full storyboard outline, book cover design, and one to three fully illustrated pages to present. For their final project, some students chose to submit one of their stories to a children's magazine in hopes of real publication while others chose to create a book to share with children at the elementary school library and local medical office waiting rooms. The students bonded, collaborated, and grew individually as writers.

## Snow Much to Learn



The students in Design and Drawing for Production got to have some outdoor fun this winter when they were assigned a team project that revolved around designing and building a sled. The goal was to learn and apply the design process, problem solve, and to gain experience with prototyping their designs. Using shop materials, recycled or upcycled materials, and items from home, the groups created functional sleds that were strong enough to hold their weight and hopefully fast enough to have fun in the snow. When the prototypes were built, the students tested them and then got right back to work, redesigning and making improvements. By the time the project was completed, the snow was so deep none of the sleds worked as well as expected, so the students got busy packing down the snow for a short run. Trying one last time, the sleds held up well enough for the teams to enjoy some fun in the snow, all while learning about the production process.

### 2025-26 BOE Meetings

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

- March 3, 2026
- March 24, 2026
- April 20, 2026 (Monday)
- May 5, 2026 (Budget Public Hearing ONLY)
- May 19, 2026 (Budget & Election Vote 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.)
- June 16, 2026

### 2025-26 Board Members

2028	Mr. Shannon Brown	<a href="mailto:boe.sbrown@tullyschools.org">boe.sbrown@tullyschools.org</a>
2027	Ms. Donna Doody	<a href="mailto:boe.ddoody@tullyschools.org">boe.ddoody@tullyschools.org</a>
2026	Mr. Scott Haynes	<a href="mailto:boe.shaynes@tullyschools.org">boe.shaynes@tullyschools.org</a>
2027	Mr. Jeffrey Phelps	<a href="mailto:boe.jphelps@tullyschools.org">boe.jphelps@tullyschools.org</a>
2028	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>

## Athletic News

### Spring Start Dates

JV/Varsity Spring Sports - March 9th  
JH/Modified Spring Sports - April 8th

### Boys Lacrosse

Head Varsity Coach - Jason Shaw  
Assistant Varsity Coach - TBA  
Head Modified Coach - Jeff Russell  
Assistant Modified Coach - TBA

### Girls Lacrosse

Head JV Lacrosse - Madison Lyon

### Softball

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

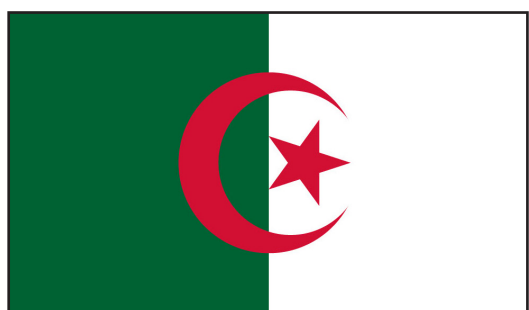
### Baseball

Head Varsity Baseball - Don Mohat  
Head Modified Baseball - James Best

### Track & Field

Head Varsity Girls Track & Field - Michelle Rauber  
Assistant Varsity Girls Track & Field - TBA  
Head Varsity Boys Track & Field - Jim Paccia  
Assistant Varsity Boys Track & Field - Emily Paccia  
Head Junior High Track & Field - Charlie Locke

## Culture Corner: ALGERIA



Did you know that iced coffee originally came from Algeria due to how hot the climate is? It wasn't Dunkin's invention! French soldiers in the 1800s created it to keep cool, which is no surprise since over eighty percent of Algeria is covered by the Sahara Desert.

Many of the plantlife located in the desert can survive on very little water, which is good because most of the country receives around four inches per year. Some regions don't receive any rain at all!

Algeria is the largest country in Africa with most of its population living in the coastal region. Due to its oil reserves, most often, gasoline costs less than bottled water, which is good for those who travel often, especially for their jobs.

Speaking of jobs, sixty percent of judges and seventy percent of lawyers in Algeria are women. Women also make up sixty percent of Algeria's students. There is a lot to visit while in Algeria as it hosts seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites; however, you must be prepared for the heat!

## Private Transportation Requests Due By April 1

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

## Nominating Petitions Available for Board of Education Seats

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Principals Message

This year's New York State Assessments in grades 3-8 will be administered across the state from Monday, April 6th - Friday, May 15th. 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.

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.

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*

	ELA	Math	Science
<b>Tully Elementary School</b>	April 21 & 22, 2026 (Grade 3) April 23 & 24, 2026 (Grade 4) April 22 & 23, 2026 (Grade 5)	May 5 & 6, 2026 (Grade 3) May 7 & 8, 2026 (Grade 4) April 29 & 30, 2026 (Grade 5)	May 6, 2026 (Grade 5 ONLY)
<b>Tully Junior-Senior HS</b>	May 12 & 13, 2026 (Grades 6-8)	April 28 & 29, 2026 (Grades 6-8)	May 1, 2026 (Grade 8 ONLY)

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



It's not too late to sign up for our spring session of **Full Steam Ahead: The Art of Animation!** Students in grades 3-5 can register for either our Tuesday program starting March 10, or our Thursday program starting March 12. Both sessions run for 10 weeks.

Younger kids can enjoy a new take and make craft project each month - stop in anytime to pick one up!

Our **Seed Library** will open up later this month. It's not too early to be thinking of spring! We will have a variety of veggie, fruit, herb, and flower seeds available.

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

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

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



TO: LOCAL POST OFFICE BOXHOLDER  
OR RURAL ROUTE PATRON

## TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOL EVENTS

*Pictured: Congratulations to Mr. Russell on his 300<sup>th</sup> win!*

**MARCH**

3	BOE Meeting, 6pm
5	PTO Meeting, 7pm
6-7	JSJS Musical, 7pm
8	JSJS Musical, 2pm
9	JV/V Spring Sports Begin
13	Trivia (K)Night, 7pm
14	ACT (off-site)
20	Superintendent Conference Day
24	BOE Meeting, 6pm
25	JSJS Band/Chorus Concert, 6pm
27	MP3 Ends, Spain Trip
30	Spring Recess Begins

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

