



Boys Varsity Soccer Makes it to State Semifinals



The boys varsity soccer team has been a strong contender this year, challenging almost any school in Section 3 to play as hard as possible when up against the Black Knights. To get to regionals, the team beat Thousand Islands and Cooperstown, then Manlius-Pebble Hill in the semifinals, and Fabius-Pompey in the finals. The regional semifinals were especially challenging because it was a back and forth game that went into double overtime. During the second overtime period, Julian Shay pulled off a goal

that won the game. After regionals, the Black Knights beat out Southern Cayuga, putting them in the state final four.

With this being the first time in history for the boys varsity soccer team to make it to states, the District was excited with students showing their support of the team. A spirit day was held at the JSHS the day before state semifinals were held, with students donning red and black clothing, jerseys, sweatshirts, and face paint. The halls were abuzz with well wishes for the team and plans were made for a watch party to be held.

The boys varsity soccer team left the evening before the state semifinals were held with parents and students watching as they pulled out of the parking lot. The day of the game, the weather was sunny and cool. Tully had a point lead against Alleghany-Limestone but eventually fell 3-2. Even though the game was lost, we couldn't be more proud of the team working together to make it as far as they did. They definitely set the bar high for upcoming teams.

Another historical record was made this year with Ryan Rauber surpassing the most career goals in school history, scoring a whopping twenty-four goals. With eight seniors graduating this year, including Rauber, several underclassmen will step into leading roles next year with high hopes that they can make it back to the state level.



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



Principal's Message



Our Halloween festivities had perhaps their best weather ever and we had a great turnout for our annual parade. On November 5th, parent-teacher conferences were held. Thank you to our PTO for sponsoring a visit from Syracuse Stage for a performance of *Pandora's Suitcase*. Our fourth and fifth grade students and their parents were able to take advantage of presentations on internet safety that were provided by representatives from New York State.

December is the month for our first ensemble concerts. On December 12th, our fifth grade band and chorus will perform in the evening.

As we enter the winter months, we will see the usual increases in illnesses like cold, flu, and strep throat. Please make sure to keep students home if they have a fever or are not feeling well so we can try to limit the spread of all illnesses. Students who have a fever and are sent home from school must stay home the following day.

Have a wonderful holiday season, we'll see you in 2025!

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PTO News



Greetings from the Tully Elementary School PTO! We hope that you are enjoying this holiday season. Thank you to everyone that participated in our yearly Tully gear sale. Looking ahead, the winter Scholastic Book Fair will run from December 2nd-5th, with the 3rd being Family Night.

A big congratulations to our Summer Read-a-Thon participants! Each participant received a prize and a big high-five!

Please check on the happenings of TES PTO by visiting and joining our Facebook Group, "Tully Elementary PTO" or the PTO page on the Tully School website. Our meetings are typically held virtually on the first Thursday of the month, unless otherwise indicated. A link to the meeting will be sent out via ParentSquare as well as being posted on our Facebook page. All parents of TES students are welcome and encouraged 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!

PreK/K Registration

Tully Central School is starting the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Registration process for the 2025-2026 school year. If you have not already done so, please register your child(ren) online at <http://www.tullyschools.org>.

To be eligible for pre-kindergarten, children must be district residents and turn 4 years of age, but not yet reach age 5, by December 1, 2025. For the 2025-2026 school year, Tully Elementary School is able to accommodate a maximum of 36 students in pre-kindergarten. If more than 36 students have been registered for pre-kindergarten by January 31, 2025, the District will need to conduct a lottery to determine enrollment and organize a waiting list. Please note that Pre-K is a 5-days-a-week, full-day program (8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.) and the District cannot provide school bus transportation until a child is 4 years old.

To enter kindergarten, children must be at least 5 years of age, and no older than 6 years of age, by December 1, 2025. Unlike pre-kindergarten, there is no limit on the number of district-resident kindergarten students who can be enrolled at Tully Elementary.

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

Fall ReCap

The 2024 Tully varsity athletic fall season was a huge success! The Varsity Golf team had a great season, finishing in the top half of the OHSL and qualifying for sectionals. They placed several players on the all-league team. The Varsity Girls Soccer team advanced all the way to the sectional semifinals before dropping to the eventual sectional champions. Only graduating two players, this team will look to reload for next year. Varsity Boys Soccer had a great year, winning the sectional championship and advancing to the NYS State tournament. This year's team has put a lot of time and energy into the soccer program and it has paid off.

The Girls XC team finished as one of the top teams in Class D at sectionals. They also continued to show improvement, running their best at the end of the year. Anna Congelli moved on to the NYS XC Championships after a great season. The Boys XC team once again finished as one of the top teams in Section 3 Class D. They had a lot of success throughout the year and showed tremendous improvement. The future is bright as they return a lot of key runners for next year. Southern Hills Football battled all season, playing in a very tough Section 3 Class C league. They finished the year with two very strong performances versus Solvay and defeating Holland Patent. Southern Hills Cheer had a great fall as well. The cheer squad was able to grow as a program, adding new cheers and routines. Thank you to all our coaches and athletes for a great fall season!



TULLY JR-SR HIGH SCHOOL

Fall Inductions

The National Honor Society (NHS) and the Spanish National Honor Society (Spanish NHS) held their fall induction ceremonies in the JSHS auditorium in November. This special night honored students that have gone above and beyond in their academics and service.

The Spanish NHS welcomed Oscar Breitzka, Wesley Chambala, Elaina Iozzo, Cameron Morey, Karissa Olander, Anna Pierce, Andrew Polak, and Lucy Wright into the chapter. Many of these students, who were inducted into the NHS last year, welcomed singular new member Cameron Morey into their chapter as well, making it a double induction night for him.

These chapters may be on the smaller side this year, but they are mighty, and we are proud of their efforts!



Principal's Message



We hope that everyone had a wonderful and restful Thanksgiving holiday and enjoyed the company of friends and family. As we start to think about shorter days and the winter season ahead, it's hard to believe that we are only a few weeks away from the winter holiday recess and the beginning of 2025!

A month ago, we held our annual leadership training program called Daneli Partners. The training was facilitated by leadership professionals from the Daneli Partners group, spearheaded by retired teacher and coach, Paul Muench. Over the past two years, these facilitators have formed relationships and bonds with our students, and have even written college letters of recommendations for some of our leaders. Mr. Dando, Ms. Krumbach, and I are the staff liaisons for this leadership opportunity. The student leaders of this program are the sophomore class officers and returning juniors and seniors who have participated in the program in the past. We had about 20 students spend the morning learning about their own leadership styles and strengths. Before the training, each student took the Gallup Clifton Strengths Assessment. This survey informed each student of their individual leadership strengths, which they then used to have group conversations about how to use their individual skills as leaders in the building, in their activities, on their teams, and within their clubs. The students told the staff liaisons that the training was great! Part two of this year's training, with the same students, will take place in early February. We are also expanding the program and are planning a field trip to a few businesses in the area to learn about leadership opportunities in a professional setting in addition to a trip to meet with two local districts who also have the program to work on networking skills with our leaders. We are excited to see what these student leaders can do in our school community!

Additionally, we like to remind all of our families that every student has the opportunity for continual academic support. Please remember that every day, except for Tuesdays, we offer our Activity Period directly following 9th period. This is an excellent time for students to take advantage of seeing their teachers with specific questions and increase their knowledge in areas of interest. We wish everyone a safe holiday season!

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

Congratulations

A round of applause to Isaac Stoogenke for becoming a **Commended Student of the National Merit Scholarship Program** sponsored by College Board based on PSAT/NMSQT results. This recognition is based on Isaac earning a high score when taking the PSAT and reflects his outstanding potential for success in college and beyond.

We are proud of Isaac and his hard work and look forward to his continued success as he pursues his post secondary education!

2024-25 JSHS Student Council

Students on the Student Council are chosen by their peers each year to help facilitate change at the JSHS. They make up the student population of several boards, including the Superintendent's Student Cabinet, and take part in many of the leadership opportunities such as Teen Institute and the Daneli Program. They also help sponsor events such as dances, the Craft Fair, and Trivia Night.

These students are invaluable to the school community and we thank them for their service!

Schoolwide President: Elaina Iozzo. **12th Grade:** Wes Cham-bala – President, Andy Polak – VP, Lucy Wright – Secretary and Isaac Stoogenke – Treasurer. **11th Grade:** Molly Verbanic – President, Sean Mize – VP, Bryce Keller – Secretary and Kyla Campoy – Treasurer. **10th Grade:** Mari Woodcock – President, Brier Huggins – VP, Gabby Flatt – Secretary and Colton Walkup – Treasurer. **9th Grade:** Gabby Melton – President, Charleigh Mossow – VP, Allison Marinich – Secretary and Amanda O'Connell – Treasurer. **8th Grade:** Rylan Walkup – President, Ashlynn Lucas-Santos – VP, Maddy Bennett – Secretary and Ramses McCormick – Treasurer. **7th Grade:** Kenzie Woodcock – President, Andie Stanley – VP, Charlotte Lamoureux – Secretary and June Adams – Treasurer. **6th Grade:** Fletcher Wilbur – President, Evangeline Strong – VP, Kaelyn Yuckel – Secretary and Blake Schmidt – Treasurer.

Turning Trash into Tech



Earlier in the year, Mr. Tracy asked around for discarded bikes no longer in use so his engineering students could use them for a tech project. After doing some cutting, welding, grinding, and piecing together, the engineering class produced a bike-powered tennis ball launcher. Much like a pitching machine, the launcher worked better than anticipated and may end up being used to power other projects throughout the year. What a great way to turn trash into tech!

Senior Spotlight - WESLEY CHAMBALA

People/Pets in your family: Mom, Dad, Everett (brother), Eleanor (sister), Sunny (dog), and four cats.

What has been the best part of your high school career and why? The best part of my high school career was definitely winning the sectional final game on the varsity soccer team my senior season. Having never won before, and knowing how hard everyone

worked to get to that point, was a great feeling of accomplishment and pride for my team and community.

What have you learned from the activities you have participated in at school? I have learned that it is important to keep yourself as involved as possible in whatever activities are offered at the high school. Joining clubs will give students the opportunity to gain service hours, learn new things about the community and society overall, and make lasting connections that go beyond school.

What is your proudest moment in high school so far? My proudest moment in high school has been getting the ability to carry out several leadership roles in the clubs I am in, including being the Student Council class president and a facilitator for the Community Wide Dialogue Exchange.

What are your plans after high school? I plan on attending college/university somewhere in New York, and pursuing a career in electrical engineering. I hope to also continue making music as a hobby or possibly a job, as it is one of my favorite things to do.

Where do you see yourself in ten years? I see myself possibly living overseas in Europe, with a steady job, a few cats, and a really cool music studio on the ocean.

If you could invite two or three people to dinner, who would they be, and what would you talk about?

I would invite Ryuichi Sakamoto, Björk, and Aphex Twin, because all of them have inspired me musically. I would probably talk about the creative processes they take to write and compose pieces.

What challenges have you faced and how have you overcome them? During the COVID-19 pandemic, I found myself struggling to focus on school as much as I should have. That carried over as I went into my freshman year, but I continued to get through my classes knowing that I could keep striving to learn. I am now in my senior year with a much higher GPA and academic record, and although I still have some difficulties with focusing in class, I have been able to turn my standings around for the better.

Who's your hero and why? My hero is my grandmother, because no matter what, she has always been there for me. She attends all of my soccer games and track meets despite her old age, and she continues to support me heavily in all the aspects of my life. She also is always staying positive no matter what the circumstances are, and has taught me to be resilient and uplifting, which I am greatly appreciative of.

Senior Spotlight - ELAINA M. IOZZO

People/Pets in your family: In my family there's my mom, Dawn, my dad, Tony, my sister, Bella, and my Noni. I also have two adorable cats, Smokey and Dewey, along with my dog Brynn.

What has been the best part of your high school career and why? I would say the best part of my high school career has been meeting my best friends and being able to

go through the highs and lows of highschool with them whether it be grades, clubs, athletics, or just social life. These are my favorite memories because often I don't even remember what game or club we were at. I just remember smiling and being happy with the people I love.

What have you learned from the activities you have participated in at school? If you don't enjoy what you're doing, don't do it. People are supposed to find themselves in highschool, so what you choose to do needs to be for yourself. Don't overwork yourself and don't join things for anyone besides yourself and your interests.

What is your proudest moment in high school so far? As I look back at my years, I realize I don't have one moment that I'm more proud of than others. I'm proud of all my awards and accolades but more importantly I'm proud of myself.

What are your plans after high school? I plan to attend a four year college for political science and then continue on to a law school where I would study criminal defense.

If you could invite two or three people to dinner, who would they be, and what would you talk about? If I could invite two people to dinner I would invite Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Billie Eilish. I know they're very different people but they are both two women that I admire very much. If I were lucky enough to talk with either of them I would just want to hear their stories. I'd like to be able to learn how they think, the inner workings of their mind, and listen to how they became the people they are today. Both Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Billie Eilish inspire me from the job I hope to have to the way I view the world and express my thoughts and feelings. Even though they have extremely diverse careers I'd say they're both amazing leaders that I hope to resemble.

What challenges have you faced and how have you overcome them? Throughout highschool I wanted to be in every club, in every sport and just do everything. For a while I was in everything, but it drained me and stopped me from being able to be myself. I now know how important it is to have a balance of school, extracurriculars, and fun. I still like to think I participate in more than enough but I now find myself having time to enjoy with my friends instead of staying in and studying all weekend.

A Day of Fun, Not Fright

This year's Halloween festivities brought so much joy to those that participated with the warmth from the sun and smiles all around. Our seniors took to the road and paraded through the elementary school, showing off their creativity. The first-place winners at the JSHS, Monsters, Inc., found some younger monsters to share their joy with while at TES, and the second-place winners, Ghostbusters, spread cheer instead of fear. Other seniors were dressed up as video game characters, religious figures, and famous groups. After the seniors made their exit, parents gathered to see the creativity of the younger students. There were all types of food, animals, princesses, dinosaurs, cartoon characters, and even the Titanic. Staff got in on the fun as usual with the elementary office fittingly dressed tropical while the JSHS office staff dressed as their building admins. Other staff members dressed as Playdough, M&Ms, Alvin and the Chipmunks, spelling bees, and so much more. After the parades, students then went to their classes for a day full of fun, parties, and mini lessons before they took part in the warmest Trick or Treat night in recent years.



Alumni News



The TCS Class of 1974 held a three-day, 50th Anniversary Reunion in September. It began with a gathering at the town pavilion where 70+ alumni shared fond memories. The following day, several of us took a tour of the JSHS with Superintendent Dr. Darcy Woodcock as tour guide. Dr. Woodcock could not have been a better host and guide. She took us through every part of the building and allowed us all the time we wanted to share comparisons and stories. We all were quite amazed and impressed with the changes and upgrades since we were here 50-years ago. We want to congratulate TCSD for finding such an admirable Superintendent and offer a huge "thank you" to Dr. Woodcock for her time shared with us. On Sunday, we attended the Alumni Association All Classes Banquet at The Loft, where our class was honored. What a wonderful weekend of fond memories! *Article and picture courtesy of Steven Fisher, Class of 1974 alumnus.*

News from the Transportation Department

Katie Murphy, Transportation Supervisor, would like to thank you all for the wonderful cooperation as we started the school year on our drop off and pick up times for buses. The bus schedules are constantly changing with activity period changes, sports practices, and game schedules. The transportation team will always try to stay within the ten minute early or late window.

A couple very important reminders:

- Students are given instruction on how to safely embark and disembark the bus so please support the instructions at all times.
- Do not ask students to get the mail until the bus has safely pulled away.
- If you are outside waiting, please allow the driver to give your child(ren) instructions on disembarking, especially if we need to help the student cross the road.

Also, we have exciting job opportunities. If you know of anyone interested in a part time job, please contact the Transportation Department or fill out the application available on our website, tullyschools.org. We are looking for bus monitors, substitute bus drivers, and bus driver trainees.

From the Superintendent



As part of our ongoing commitment to educational excellence, the Tully Central School District is excited to announce the launch of a strategic planning process that will shape our goals, priorities, and initiatives for the future. This is a collaborative effort, and we are seeking input from all community members, families, staff, students, and stakeholders to help guide our district's direction.

Your insights and feedback are invaluable in this process. We invite you to complete a brief survey that allows you to share your thoughts on various aspects of our school district. This survey is designed to gather perspectives on our strengths, areas for improvement, and new opportunities we may explore. You can access the survey by using the link on the district's website homepage or by accessing the electronic version of the *Knight Insight* also on the district's website: **Strategic Planning Survey** (<https://forms.gle/kSePKcMadG2HwGmW9>)

The survey will remain open until December 15, 2024, and we encourage all community members to participate. The responses we receive will help guide our strategic priorities and ensure that our decisions align with the needs and values of our school community.

Once the survey is complete, a core committee composed of district staff, community representatives, and other key stakeholders will be formed to analyze the collected data. This committee will play a critical role in identifying key themes, areas of focus, and potential actions that will become part of our strategic plan. We will continue to provide updates on the planning process, and we look forward to sharing our progress along the way.

Thank you for helping us shape the future of Tully Central School District. Your voice matters, and together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant school community.

Darcy Woodcock, Superintendent • Phone: 315.696.6204
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Tully Free Library

tullyfreelibrary.org • 315-696-8606

The holiday season is upon us! If you're looking to take a moment for yourself during the hustle and bustle, make sure to stop by the library! We are still operating out of space inside of Tully United Community Church, where you can browse a small collection of books for adults, teens, and kids, as well as picture books and board books for the little ones. We also have some new Switch games and a few movies available for check out. If you're looking for somewhere to go during school vacation, make sure to stop in and pick up a pass to the MOST, the Everson Museum, or the zoo! We will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, and closing early on Dec. 24th and 31st as well. Please check our website for updated information regarding our holiday hours. Enjoy your holidays!

Culture Corner China



Did you know that the fortune cookie isn't really from China? Although the fortune cookie has been thought to be of Chinese culture, Japanese immigrants brought this treat to San Francisco in the early 1900s. Inventions that can actually be traced back to China are paper, the compass, and paper money. China is also known for the Great Wall of China - the longest man-made structure in the world. Something interesting about the Great Wall is that much of the mortar (the glue that holds the bricks together) was made from sticky rice! A well-known animal native to China is the giant panda. These cuddly-looking creatures are actually good swimmers and can eat up to 84 pounds of bamboo a day! Another interesting animal tidbit is that many Chinese children keep crickets as pets, which may or may not be soothing due to their chirping noise. Speaking of noise, geese can be seen on the police force instead of dogs due to their aggressive behaviors. (If you were ever chased by a goose, you may understand why they do this.) Chinese culture has many celebrations which you may have heard of, but did you know the Chinese New Year celebration actually lasts for fifteen days? It starts at the end of January and with each new year, one of twelve animals represent that year. This year is the snake. You can learn so much more about China and their culture by asking some of our students about their familial ties to China or by doing some research. No matter what you find, it will surely be interesting!

Board of Education Meetings

Meetings commence at 6:00 p.m. in the Junior-Senior High School Library unless otherwise specified. Additional Special Meetings to be scheduled as needed. The planned schedule for Board of Education meetings for the 2023-2024 school year is as follows:

November 19, 2024	March 4, 2025	May 20, 2025
December 17, 2024	March 25, 2025	June 17, 2025
January 21, 2025	April 21, 2025	
February 11, 2025	May 6, 2025	

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TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOL EVENTS



DECEMBER

7	Craft Fair at JSHS SAT, Off-site
10	JSHS Holiday Band/Chorus Concert, 6 p.m.
12	TES Holiday Band/Chorus Concert, 6 p.m.
14	ACT, Off-site
17	BOE Meeting, 6 p.m.
23-1/3	Holiday Recess

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

