

Issue:  
October  
2024



# KNIGHT INSIGHT



## 2024-2025 Off to a Great Start



The 2024-2025 school year has begun, and academics and activities are fully underway. With a brisk morning for the first day of school, we welcomed new and returning students into both buildings cheerfully. All administrators could be seen outside welcoming the student arrivals. While there were a few nervous tears from some of our younger students, a warm welcome and a consistent routine brought them back smiling the following week. Sixth and seventh graders fell into a routine at the JSHS; while much different from the elementary in many aspects, the consensus is that the students have adapted well and are enjoying a newfound independence. Meanwhile, the fifth graders have taken well to being in the spotlight as the oldest at the elementary.

September flew by fast with school picture day, signing up for clubs and sports, Homecoming, TES Back to School Night, and the JSHS Curriculum Night. We encourage all parents and guardians to download the ParentSquare app to always have an easy way to communicate with Tully CSD and to be able to fill out forms and permission slips. You can also keep up with all things Black Knight-related through the District website, Facebook, Twitter, and of course, the *Knight Insight*.





## Principal's Message



It's hard to believe it's already been one month since we began the school year. Routines are solidly in place and there is tremendous learning taking place. It's great seeing the smiles on students' faces each morning at arrival. As we transition into the cooler weather of fall, make sure that students are equipped each day for whatever temperature it may be outside as we have recess outdoors daily unless it is raining. There is only about a month until the end of the first marking period and parent-teacher conferences, but if you have any lingering questions regarding the classroom and/or instruction after this first month, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher(s) through email or the ParentSquare portal.

In P2, students are learning more about the strengths of Curiosity and Teamwork and are currently learning about Open-Mindedness. This month, students will also learn about being present along with the strengths of Integrity and Creativity. Halloween looms on the horizon, so be on the lookout later this month for more information through ParentSquare and student backpacks. Our annual event will take place on Thursday, October 31st.

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

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

## PTO News

Hello families! We hope that the new school year has been kind to you all and that your children are all settled in with their teachers. We would like to thank everyone that participated in the Summer Reading program. Each participant will receive a small prize.

We were happy to see everyone who came to the "Back to School Night" in September. What a great turnout!

Coming up for the month of November will be our Spirit Wear/Tully Gear sale. This is not a fundraiser, rather a service to families who would like to acquire more Tully clothing and accessories. More information will be provided at a later date.

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.

## ATHLETIC NEWS



## Sports Start Dates

JH & Modified Winter I Sports .....	October 28
JV & Varsity Winter Sports .....	November 18
JH & Modified Winter II Sports .....	January 6
JV/Varsity Spring Sports .....	March 17
JH & Modified Spring Sports .....	April 7

### Please note:

Participation in interscholastic athletics/extracurricular activities at Tully Central School District is a privilege. Therefore, participants must adhere to the expectations put forth in the Code of Conduct in order to maintain the privilege of participation.

Each athlete is required to acknowledge this.

The Code of Conduct can be found on the athletic page of the school website.

## Principal's Message



their interests.

A few weeks into the school year and we are off and running! Our new sixth and seventh grade students have done a wonderful job transitioning to our school community and we are so glad to have all of them in the building. At this point, it is our hope that everyone is back into positive instructional routines that result in ongoing learning, accomplishing personal goals, and making strong meaningful connections to the school. One of the best ways to build and maintain connections is by students getting involved within the school community. On September 26th, we had our annual Activities Fair. This is when all of our students are able to learn about all of the clubs that we offer and sign-up for the extracurricular activities that interest them. I encourage every student to become involved in extracurricular activities. Our goal is for students to build positive relationships and attitudes towards school. Counselors and teachers can assist students who might need a little assistance pointing them in the direction of a club or activity that best fits

During the fall, seniors are extremely busy! Seniors are engaged with their last year here in Tully, while planning for what comes after their graduation ceremony on June 20th. Some seniors have overwhelming feelings 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 resumes, college applications, admission essays, scholarship applications and opportunities, military requirements, and/or future plans. There are many deadlines for admission to college. We encourage every senior to work with their counselor to discuss these deadlines and use their calendars to ensure successful completion of requirements. Also, every year we have representatives from a wide variety of colleges visit Tully 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 or their family needs with regards to future and career planning, please contact the Counseling and Career Center at 315-696-6240. We are here to help families navigate the beginning of the transition from high school to what follows high school.

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

**Congratulations** to **Anna Bort, Isaac Stoogenke,** and **Lucy Wright** for receiving awards through the National Recognition Program. Because of their high-achieving scores on the PSAT, Anna was awarded a First Generation award and Isaac and Lucy were awarded the Rural and Small Town award. Congratulations to these students!

## WELCOME NEW STAFF

### Jade Atherton



I am so excited to be joining the Tully Jr.-Sr. Highschool family. My name is Jade Atherton and I am the new Agriculture Teacher! I currently live in Ithaca, New York, where I am doing my Master's in Agricultural Education at Ithaca College. I completed my undergrad at SUNY Morrisville and Cornell University with a major in Agriculture Science and a minor in Animal Science. My hobbies include hiking,

being outdoors, playing sports, and showing dairy cows. I am so excited to be joining a community that has such a passion for agriculture, and with this support I can't wait to help grow the Ag program!

### Cheryl Bliss



Hello, my name is Cheryl Bliss and I am very excited to be working at Tully Elementary School. I live in Fabius with my 8th grader, Boone, and my 5th grader, Grace. I love to go camping, play cards, do puzzles, hang out with friends, and go to the beach! So far the year has been great! I am looking forward to watching the students grow throughout the year!

*.....Tully Welcomes New Staff, more on the next page.....*

## Amy Chawgo



Hi, my name is Amy Chawgo and I am excited to be the new Library Aide for the Elementary/ JSHS. I was born and raised in Tully and graduated from here as well. I currently live in LaFayette with my husband, Jayson, and my children, Justin and Megan, and our four dogs. I enjoy spending summers at our camp in the 1000 Islands, boating, and spending time with friends and family. I look forward to this school year and getting to work

with all the great students and staff here at Tully!

## Megan Chawgo



My name is Megan Chawgo. I was born and raised in Tully, and I also graduated from Tully schools. I am super excited to be back and working in the Tully School District. I live in LaFayette with my parents and brother. We have four dogs and seven chickens. I like to spend my free time hanging out with friends and family. I spend most of my summer up at my camp on Thousand Islands and enjoy spending time out on the boat

and in the sun. I look forward to working with the students and getting to know all the faculty and staff!

## Terri Clarke



I am very fortunate and excited to be part of Tully Elementary School. I graduated from LaFayette Jr.-Sr. High School in 2020. I received my teaching degree from Keuka College in 2023 and played on the women's lacrosse team there during my undergraduate years. I am currently working towards my Master's in Literacy through Keuka College. I live with my parents, Julie and Kenneth, brother Kenny, and dog Cooper. During

my student teaching experience, I realized that Tully Elementary was a remarkably welcoming and supportive environment, and I knew immediately that I wanted to be part of it!

## Kristy Clukey



Hello! My name is Kristy Clukey. I am a graduate of Tully and live in Vesper. I have three kids in school: Colton in 4th, Kendalyn in 1st, and Alayna is in Pre-K! We have two dogs: Moose, a Newfoundland, and Mitzy, a chihuahua. I did daycare in my home for seven years and love working with kids. I love music, going to concerts, and doing different things with my family! I am excited to be at Tully Elementary working with kids while being

out of my house at the same time!

## April Jackson



Hello! My name is April Jackson. I do not live in the Tully community and I am from Fabius-Pompey. I graduated from Cicero-North Syracuse High School. I am married and have four sons. We also have a bunch of chickens. I love reading and gardening and have lots of indoor plants as well. I'm very excited to be here to work with new people!

## Joe Lamoureux



I have the privilege to be taking over the School Resource Officer position at the high school. I attended Tully School District and after graduating I was accepted to Buffalo State College where I received my degree in Exceptional Education. I moved to Baltimore, Maryland where I taught at the Baltimore City School District for a year and then transferred

to the Baltimore City Police Department where I worked for six years as a police officer. Deciding I was too far from family, my wife, son, and I moved back to Central New York where I was hired by the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office. During this time, I moved back to Tully where my three kids, Nathan, Katelyn, and Charlotte, have attended the schools. I retired from the Sheriff's Office and the opportunity arose to become the high school SRO. I'm excited to be here and know it's going to be a great experience for me and the students.

## Sandra Machuga



My name is Ms. Machuga, and I am TES's new vocal music teacher. I am from Oswego, and I am a proud alumnus of Ithaca College where I majored in music education with a focus on saxophone. In my free time, I enjoy gardening, taking long walks, riding my bike, and spending time with my two kids - Lara and Mike. I am excited to build a strong foundation

in music for my students, inspiring them to create and cultivate a lifelong love for music. A fun fact about me is that I have performed with The Temptations and The Four Tops!

**Extra Info:** 6th grade teachers, Heather Edinger, Tommy Meixell, and Leandra Reinhard have moved to the JSHS.



## Gina McNair



My name is Gina McNair, a newly hired bus monitor. I'm Filipino and I became a US citizen. I have one daughter, Elizabeth. I'm excited to be a part of the Tully team. Outside of work, I enjoy cooking, baking, gardening, sewing, painting, and fishing. I'm looking forward in getting to know you all!

## Jennifer Perrello



Hi! I am Jennifer Perrello and I live in Marcellus. I graduated from Monroe Woodbury in Orange County. I am a wife and a mother to three beautiful kids, ages 6, 11, and 15. I have two dogs. I am excited to be at Tully because I got put in a classroom with the best people!

## Tim Mowers



Hi, I'm Tim Mowers. I have lived in Preble, NY for 11 years and pastor Calvary Baptist Church there. Before that we lived in South Africa for almost 16 years. I started with Tully as a substitute teacher, in the Jr.-Sr. High School for a couple of years. Last year I was trained to drive a bus. I am happy to be a contract driver this year and look forward to getting the students to and from school safely this year and for years to come.

## Kristina Mullahy



I am excited about being a part of Tully Elementary School as a special education teacher. I grew up and graduated from Marcellus. I continue to live in Marcellus now with my 9 year old daughter. I attended SUNY Oswego and SUNY Potsdam. When I am not busy being a dance mom, I enjoy reading and spending time with my family.

## Ally Pasco



My name is Ally Pasco and I am the new band teacher at the elementary school. I am so excited to kick off my teaching career in Tully! I have been a Central New York native all my life, graduating from Oswego High School, and now living in Liverpool. I received my bachelor's degree in Music Education from Syracuse University, and then received a dual master's degree in Orchestral Conducting and

Music Education this past May. In my free time, I love to read, listen to vinyl records, and snuggle with my dog, Daisy. I am also a huge sports fan- Go Yankees, go Orange, and go Bills!

## Rae Printup



I am excited to be joining the staff here at Tully Elementary as a Teaching Assistant! I live just outside of Tully and commute daily to school. I have recently graduated from Syracuse University from the School of Education and am excited to be fulfilling my goals of working with elementary students. I am a mother of two boys who attend another district. My children and I are very active, and all enjoy lacrosse, baseball, swimming, hiking, fishing, and spending time outdoors. We also enjoy eating good food and spending quality time together as a family. Some of my personal hobbies include walking/running, exercising, traveling, reading, softball, trying out new sports, and looking for new places to hike.

## Meghan Reynolds



I am so excited to be here at Tully Elementary. I live in Marathon and have two kiddos at home along with my husband. I'm currently getting my degree in Human Services. I have one cat and one dog. I am extremely happy to be here at Tully and can't wait to have a wonderful year!

## Pamela Stano



I am very excited to join the Tully community! I grew up near Central Square, NY and currently reside in North Syracuse with my husband, Doug, and our beloved dog, Chase. I earned my bachelor's degree from SUNY Oswego and my master's degree from Binghamton University, both in Spanish and Adolescent Education. Most recently, I had the opportunity to study in Panama City, Panama. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family, traveling, boating, exercising, and reading. I look forward to making a positive impact and building meaningful connections with my students and the community!

## 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 ParentSquare to send out emergency notifications. This notification system allows school administrators to contact all parents/guardians and staff by phone, email, and text, in order to communicate information about emergencies, school closings, delays, early dismissals, important school events, and reminders.

This notification system uses the parent and staff contact information that we have on file in SchoolTool. Parents or guardians with questions regarding ParentSquare should contact Sherry Huggins at [sherry.huggins@tullyschools.org](mailto:sherry.huggins@tullyschools.org) or 315-696-6236.



## THE POSITIVITY PROJECT

Tully Central School is proud to continue as a partner school for the Positivity Project (P2) in 2024-2025! By now, most students are familiar with P2 and the 24 character strengths, common vocabulary, and philosophy of the Other People Matter mindset. Watch how P2 is used in school and how it can transfer into the community!

## SCHOOL CENSUS – All Families with Small Children

This form is to be filled out by **all families with newborns to 5-year-old children living in the school district**. Please help us to update our records to ensure we have the proper staffing when your child(ren) attends our school district.

Please complete the form and return to: **Tully Central School District, Business Office, 20 State St, Tully, New York 13159**

### ADULTS IN HOUSEHOLD

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Gender
_____	_____	_____	Male / Female
_____	_____	_____	Male / Female
_____	_____	_____	Male / Female
_____	_____	_____	Male / Female

### CONTACT INFORMATION/PHYSICAL ADDRESS

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) \_\_\_\_\_

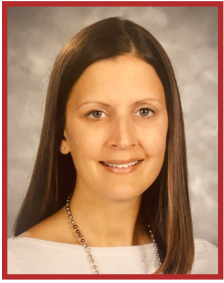
PHONE NUMBER(S) \_\_\_\_\_

LANGUAGE(S) SPOKEN IN THE HOME \_\_\_\_\_

### CHILD(REN) IN THE HOUSEHOLD

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Date of Birth	Relationship	Please check here if your child receives early intervention services
_____	_____	_____	_____	Male / Female _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	_____	Male / Female _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	_____	Male / Female _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	_____	Male / Female _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

## From the Superintendent



As October arrives, we welcome the crisp fall weather and the excitement of fall sports. The changing leaves and Friday night lights bring our community together in ways that highlight the spirit and pride of our district.

In the midst of these seasonal celebrations, it's important to recognize the work being done behind the scenes to ensure our district continues to thrive. The smooth operation and continuous improvement of our schools are guided by several key committees, each focused on vital aspects of our district's success.

These committees include:

**Academic Advisory Committee** – dedicated to enhancing the academic programs and educational opportunities available to our students. There will be an Agriculture Subcommittee reporting to the Academic Advisory Committee this year.

**Athletics Advisory Committee** – focused on maintaining and improving our athletics programs, ensuring that our student-athletes have the support and resources they need to succeed.

**Audit Committee** – tasked with overseeing the district's financial practices to ensure transparency and fiscal responsibility.

**Facilities Committee** – committed to maintaining and improving the district's physical infrastructure, creating safe and welcoming environments for learning.

**Health and Safety Committee** – focused on the well-being of our students and staff, ensuring that our schools are safe, healthy places to learn and work.

**Policy Committee** – responsible for reviewing and updating district policies to reflect best practices and education laws and regulations.

**Wellness Committee** – dedicated to promoting the overall wellness of our students, staff, and community through programs and initiatives that encourage healthy lifestyles. The DEI Committee will serve as a subcommittee of the Wellness Committee this year.

Thank you to our Board of Education members, staff members, students, and community members who serve on these committees. If you would like to read the minutes of any specific committee meeting, they can be found on the district website under Board of Education<BoardDocs. You can search for the agenda you are interested in in the upper right hand corner. The minutes will be attached under Committee Reports public files. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our district.

**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>

TULLY PARKS & RECREATION  
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US!

## HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25th**  
**5:00 – 6:00 pm**

TULLY TOWN HALL PARKING LOT  
AT MEETINGHOUSE ROAD

VOTE IN THE 'BEST DRESSED TRUNK' CONTEST  
WITH PRIZES FOR THE TOP 2 TRUNKS

PLEASE EMAIL  
[TULLYPARKSREC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:TULLYPARKSREC@GMAIL.COM)  
IF YOU'D LIKE TO PARTICIPATE  
WITH A DECORATED TRUNK AND  
BRING TREATS TO HAND OUT!

## 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:

October 15, 2024	February 11, 2025	May 6, 2025
November 19, 2024	March 4, 2025	May 20, 2025
December 17, 2024	March 25, 2025	June 17, 2025
January 21, 2025	April 21, 2025	

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

## Tully Free Library

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

If you haven't seen us at our temporary location yet, make sure to stop by! We're inside the Tully United Community Church right now as our State Street location is being renovated. You can come in and pick up holds, return items, and browse a small collection of books and magazines.

Teen Time continues at 4 PM on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, and our story times and much of our adult programming is still ongoing. Check our website for updated information regarding our services and programs, and remember, we are still here to serve you!



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

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



TO: LOCAL POST OFFICE BOXHOLDER  
OR RURAL ROUTE PATRON

## TULLY CENTRAL SCHOOL EVENTS



### OCTOBER

- 11 Superintendent Conference Day
- 14 **Columbus Day Holiday**
- 15 BOE Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 18 JH Dance, 6:30 p.m.
- 20-26 FFA National Convention
- 28 JH/Mod Winter 1 Sports Begin
- 29 JSBS Band/Chorus Concert, 6:00 p.m.

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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