

Issue:
October
2025



KNIGHT INSIGHT



A Fabulous First Day



The 2025-2026 school year kicked off with a warm, sunny morning while administrators and staff welcomed just over seven hundred students to campus. Many students were returning Tully CSD students but several new families and many new Pre-K students were also welcomed to our campus within the first few days. Laughter was heard and smiles were seen both at the beginning of the day and at the end. Friends who had not seen each other throughout the summer came back together in the hallways with joy. With the new cell phone ban, students were seen, and still are, interacting with each other while walking to their next class, in the lunch line, and on the playground instead of checking for notifications. What a fabulous first day!

With students and staff getting back into the school routine during the months of September and October, we hope that the rest of the year is filled with many positive activities and events. We encourage all parents and guardians to download the ParentSquare app to always have an easy way to communicate with Tully CSD's staff and to be able to easily fill out forms and permission slips. You can also keep up with all things Black Knight-related through the District website, Facebook, X, and of course, the *Knight Insight*.



Principal's Message



It has been a great first month of school and the students have already learned so much! Fall brings a wide range of weather conditions and warmth; please 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. Parent-teacher conferences are on the horizon early next month, but if you have any lingering questions regarding the classroom and/or instruction, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher(s) through email or the ParentSquare portal.

REV Theatre has made their return to TES for the 2025-2026 school year. Their first visit was to third grade for a performance of *Alice in Wonderland*. They will perform *Amelia Earhart* this month to our fifth graders. Speaking of costumes... Halloween this year is on a Friday! This year, our annual event will take place on the afternoon of October 31st. More information will be sent home in backpacks and through ParentSquare. 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.



PreK students pose with Ms. Printup at the end of the school day.

2025-26 Board of Education 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 on an as needed basis. Check the school website for updates or call the District Office at (315) 696-6204. *Note time change below.

October 21, 2025

November 18, 2025

December 16, 2025

January 20, 2026

February 10, 2026

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
boe.sbrown@tullyschools.org

2027 Ms. Donna Doody
boe.ddoody@tullyschools.org

2026 Mr. Scott Haynes
boe.shaynes@tullyschools.org

2027 Mr. Jeffrey Phelps
boe.jphelps@tullyschools.org

2028 Mrs. Bettemae Russell
boe.brussell@tullyschools.org

2026 Ms. Cheryl Wayne
boe.cwayne@tullyschools.org

2027 Mr. Edward Wortley, II
boe.ewortley@tullyschools.org

Student Parking Lot Comes to Life

With the summer sun shining and music playing, seniors brought the student parking lot to life right before school began with bright colors, symbols, and animated characters. Painting the parking lot became a yearly tradition starting two years ago, giving seniors the opportunity to stake claim to a designated parking spot and make it their own. These spaces not only show their creativity but give others a glimpse into their personalities. For the year, those parking spaces will be their own piece of Tully JSHS until the next class of seniors move up and they start with a clean slate; but for now, seniors have a daily reminder of how they can bring their personal spaces to life with a little paint and some time among friends.



Principal's Message



A few weeks into the school year, and we are off and running! Our new sixth-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 for students to get involved in the school community. On September 18th, 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 by pointing them in the direction of a club or activity that best fits their interests.

As the days are getting shorter and the weather is beginning to change, we sometimes notice that some students have a decline in attendance. We want to highlight the importance of strong school attendance and take this opportunity to discuss with all families the importance of staying engaged, arriving at school on time, and attending school daily when well. Many studies have shown that students who are chronically absent from school (students who miss 10% of school days) are significantly more likely to have struggles in school and be less connected with the school community. During our first day of grade-level assemblies, the importance of good attendance and developing positive connections in school was emphasized with our students. It is our goal to have every student involved and feel part of our school community, and attendance is a critical factor in reaching this goal. Students who become chronically absent will receive notification from the school of this fact, and we will reach out to support those students and their families. Additionally, the school will require documentation (a doctor's note or other notice of legal excuse) for the absence to be considered legal. Students who arrive at school after 9:30 a.m. or who are chronically tardy (10% of school days) will also need documentation to participate in extracurricular activities on the days they are tardy. If at any time families need support with student attendance, please contact me in the main office at 315.696.6235 or the counseling and career center at 315.696.6240.

With that in mind, we are well aware that students get sick and families have extenuating circumstances where students are unable to come to school. We want everyone to know that it is important to stay home and rest when not feeling well. However, we encourage all students to be present as many school days as possible and to have a plan to make up work when they do need to miss school. We recommend that all students meet with their teachers upon returning to school after an absence to develop a plan or to schedule time for make-up work. Activity Period is designed for this. Not only can students seek out their teachers for make-up work, but they can also get help with their everyday classwork, ask questions, and review concepts with them. Our teachers are available and willing to work with students, so please encourage them to take advantage of this valuable time and to strengthen the relationships that they have with their teachers. We look forward to partnering with all of our families and students to ensure that each student is successful throughout their academic journey.

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



Friday Morning Lights

On an early Friday morning in September, students from Tully and LaFayette showed up to the football field while it was still dark out for their chance to be on WSYR's Channel 9 broadcast, Friday Morning Lights. Way before the sunrise, the team spirit could be heard on campus while broadcasters reported the news and weather. Students from LaFayette spoke about Morgan's Message, an endeavor to share an important message regarding mental health; Tully soccer students spoke about the upcoming Kickin' Cancer game; and Coach Donald helped answer the Question of the Day. As the sun rose, Tully mascots led the newscasters through a chant and the Storm cheerleaders led a cheer. One student even kicked a field goal with a newscaster holding the football.

While the broadcast successfully brought our Storm players and Tully teams together and showcased student support for one another, a special highlight for some students was the chance to see the news production process firsthand. Students got to see how many people were involved, the different tasks at hand to make a successful broadcast, the technology used, and the process of different sound bites, which were all a great real-world experience for those interested in media. Parents were able to watch the broadcast live from home, but for those who may have missed the broadcast, a quick search will bring up the clips.



Andy Barnes



My name is Andy Barnes. I was born and raised in the village of Tully, and also attended and graduated from Tully Schools. I currently live in Liverpool with my wife of twenty six years and my daughter, while my adult son lives close by. I just recently retired from the Syracuse Police Department in May of 2025 after working a total of twenty six years, with the last twelve as a Detective for the City of Syracuse. I was lucky enough to take the position as the new SRO at the Tully Elementary School and I look forward to working with the kids and staff!

Caitlin Buglione



Hey Tully! I migrated north from Long Island to earn a master's degree from SUNY Cortland. After graduation, I decided to stay and build a life here. I love fishing, boats, and beaches, but in my opinion, nothing beats forests, rivers, and cows. Eventually, I moved to Tully and worked in various roles before being offered the Executive Secretary position. That's just a fancy way to say I'm the principal's secretary. I'm not that fancy, though. You can call me Cait. Unfortunately, I don't have any children, but I've worked in child-care and education for half of my career. The other half of my career has been filled with clerical positions. I spent eleven years running the office of my father's truck shop, which specialized in emergency response vehicles and diesel trucks. I've spent just as much time scrubbing the back of a newly remounted ambulance as I have behind a keyboard or phone. I was a Jill-of-all-trades for the family business!

I'm grateful to be in this role and happy to be part of the Tully community. Thank you for your patience as I learn the nuances of this position. I'm excited to see where the year takes us!

Bridget Hart



Hi, my name is Bridget Hart. I am excited to introduce myself as the new fourth grade teacher at Tully Elementary School. I am a proud graduate of Tully JSHS and received my master's degree in Teaching Students with Disabilities from SUNY Cortland. I live in the community and share my home with my husband, our two children, two dogs, and our cat. Outside the classroom, I enjoy spending time outdoors, reading, crafting with my children, and watching them play sports. This will be my eighth year teaching and I'm grateful to be able to fulfill my dream of teaching at Tully. I look forward to building strong relationships with my students and fostering their love for learning.

Katie Mikitiuk



Hello! My name is Katie Mikitiuk and I am the new Speech Therapist and CPSE Chair for the Tully School District. I am from Cortland, NY and completed my undergraduate and graduate studies at SUNY Cortland. During my time in graduate school, I completed my internship here at Tully Elementary School with Jen Adams and continued providing preschool services through a local agency the last few years. I have a long-haired dachshund named Goose, whom I share many pictures of daily! I enjoy hiking with my boyfriend and our dogs, attending local events, crocheting, and crafting. I am excited to continue my time at Tully helping children with speech and language as an official employee!

Victoria Monico



Hello! My name is Victoria Monico and I am so excited to be the Kindergarten long term substitute for Tully Elementary School. I am originally from Johnson City, NY and graduated from Johnson City High School in 2021. I received my teaching degree from SUNY Cortland this past May. In my free time, I enjoy reading, watching movies, and trying new foods! I am so fortunate to be welcomed into this wonderful community and am ready to create connections and relationships with my fellow staff and the students!

Sarah Redington



Hello! My name is Sarah Redington and I am a Special Education teacher working with fourth and fifth graders. I have lived in Tully for ten years with my husband Rob and my 6-year old son, Welles. I graduated from Jordan-Elbridge and then completed my bachelors and masters at SUNY Cortland. In my free time I enjoy reading, playing many different sports, and snowboarding in the winter. Before this, I worked for eleven years at Cortland City Schools. It has been an amazing experience having my son in the Tully School District and I am looking forward to getting to know and working with the amazing staff and students here!

New Staff Extra Info

Teacher's aide, Jennifer Perrello, has moved to the JSHS.

Welcome New Staff continues on the next page...

Ariana Robbins

Hello! I am Ariana Robbins and I am the new elementary band teacher. I am a native Western New Yorker, having attended SUNY Fredonia for Music Education as a bassoonist. In addition to loving music, I enjoy baking, soccer, movies, and video games.

Overall though, I love to learn and I hope to be able to pass a love of learning, specifically music, onto students.

I look forward to making music with the students and community of Tully!

Abby Meade Young

Hi! I am Abby Meade Young and I am excited to be joining the Tully School District as the Jr-Sr High School Choir Director. I graduated from Fabius-Pompey, then got my Bachelors in music from Messiah University in PA and my Masters in Music Education from Syracuse University. I live in Tully with my husband, my son, and our dog. In my free time I enjoy reading, taking walks, and making music with my

family. I am excited to share my love of choral music with students and with the community! I hope to see you at a concert soon!

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	
_____	_____	_____	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 invention services
_____	_____	_____	_____	Male / Female _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	_____	Male / Female _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	_____	Male / Female _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	_____	Male /Female _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

ATHLETIC NEWS

Participation in interscholastic athletics/extracurricular activities at Tully Central School 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.

From the Superintendent



The first few weeks of the school year is off to a fast start; a tribute to the work put in during the summer months and an outstanding group of educators that create environments where our students can be their best selves.

If you have not done so already, please sign up with ParentSquare as that is a primary source of communication from both buildings. Teachers, coaches, and advisors also use this platform to connect with students and parents as well.

Tully staff have been working on a proposed 2025 Capital Improvement Project that focuses on addressing aging infrastructure, improving safety, and modernizing learning spaces across district facilities. Planned upgrades include window and door replacements, masonry restoration, elevator modernization, and significant HVAC, plumbing, and electrical improvements. The project also enhances student and community spaces through elementary library renovations, gymnasium and classroom upgrades, new lighting, wayfinding, and playground replacements. Together, these investments will create safer, more accessible, and more functional environments for students, staff, and the broader community. A newsletter outlining the proposed work will be sent in the coming weeks. We will then host a community forum in November to outline the scope of the project and to answer any questions from members of the community.

Our great weather has allowed our athletes to compete and I have enjoyed getting to see them compete. It seems that every day, we are hosting one of our neighboring districts and I would like to applaud the sportsmanship on display from our Tully athletes as well as our spectators. This is clearly a point of pride for our Black Knights!

Todd M. Freeman, Interim Superintendent
Email: todd.freeman@tullyschools.org
Phone: 315-696-6204

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). 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 or 315-696-6236.

TULLY PARKS & RECREATION
 INVITES YOU TO JOIN US!
 2ND ANNUAL
**HALLOWEEN
 TRUNK OR TREAT**
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24th
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
 IF YOU'D LIKE TO PARTICIPATE
 WITH A DECORATED TRUNK AND
 BRING TREATS TO HAND OUT.

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

Tully Free Library
tullyfreelibrary.org • 12 State Street • 315-696-8606

Doug's Fish Fry will be in the Kinneys parking lot on **Tuesday, October 14** and proceeds from sales that day will go to support the library!

Take our Community Survey! Your input will help us serve you better in the future. Type in the link <https://shorturl.at/ABXzz> or get a paper copy at the library.

There's lots of fun this fall at Tully Free Library! Check our website for all the details on programs for kids, teens, and adults.

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

- 4 SAT – Off-site
- 7 PSAT @ JSHS
- 10 Superintendent Conference Day
No School for Students**
- 13 Columbus Day - No School**
- 18 ACT – Off-site
- 21 BOE Meeting, 6:00pm
- 24 JH Dance, 6:30pm
- 26 FFA National Convention Begins
ACT – off-site
- 27 JH/Mod Winter 1 Sports Begin
- 28 Pre-ACT @ JSHS

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

