

TYNOTES

A PUBLICATION OF THE TYRONE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



HOME OF THE GOLDEN EAGLES

TYRONE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT HONORS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI CLASS OF 2023



On an early autumn weekend in September, the Tyrone Area School District resumed its tradition of recognizing exceptional TAHS graduates. Pictured above, the Distinguished Alumni Class of 2023 includes Mr. John Pavone, TAHS Class of 1957; Mrs. Kelly (Crain) Wike, TAHS Class of 1969; and Mr. William “Walter” Neil, TAHS Class of 1962.

Weekend festivities included a Friday visit to Tyrone Area High School, where the honorees learned more about today’s TASD, engaged with staff and students, and toured the facilities. They were also recognized during the “Backyard Brawl” football game between Tyrone and Bellwood. The weekend culminated with a Saturday evening dinner at The Bull Pen Restaurant, where the honorees were formally inducted as Distinguished Alumni. Plaques honoring the three now hang in the main lobby of Tyrone Area High School alongside previous honorees.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

November presents an opportunity to spend some extra time showing gratitude. We are grateful for a smooth start to the 2023-24 school year and the staff and students who are responsible for that. We continue to try to provide a variety of activities for our students so that they can become involved and engaged in the school community. Our goal for them is to, one day, be grateful for the community in which they were raised.

The latest edition of TyNotes showcases the 2023 Distinguished Alumni honorees, which is the main highlight of this issue. After a brief hiatus, we were delighted to reinvigorate this program, last held in 2017, and recognize alumni who have made significant contributions to society. Over the years, we have honored medical doctors, school administrators, judges, college professors, politicians and public servants, researchers, clergy, businessmen and women, morticians, and many others. Among the 36 individuals who have been honored over the last two decades, some have lived and worked across the country and the world, while others have made a lasting impact right here in our local community. The contributions of the Class of 2023 span the disciplines of science, the arts, and community service and each of them share the honor of having graduated from the Tyrone Area High School.

Also contained in this issue are the photos of all the new staff members who have joined us over the past few months. We are grateful to them for choosing the Tyrone Area School District in which to work. As staff members retire or move on to other positions, we will continue to welcome new staff into our ranks throughout the year.

I hope that you find the contents of this publication interesting and informative. If you have comments or questions regarding any of this material or suggestions for future articles, please contact the Superintendent's Office at 814-684-0710, extension 4137 or email sjwoomer@tyrone.k12.pa.us.



Leslie Estep
Superintendent of Schools

We wish to express our gratitude to the following individuals who, in December, will be concluding their service to the community as members of the Tyrone Area School Board:

Mollie Bakhsheshe — 8 Years of Service
Randy Miles, Sr. — 8 Years of Service
James Raabe — 12 Years of Service

The following TASD employees celebrated service milestones and were recognized at the 2023-2024 opening staff meeting in August:

5 Years: Alex Bartlett, Karissa Budny, Jane Bugden, Forrest Crilly, Rusty Davis, Kaytee Eckley, Staci Greenleaf, Tracy Miller, David Rodland, Stephen Sharer, Tammy Wills

10 Years: Kelsie Bumbarger, Lauren Closson, Jenna Enck, David Hock, Kaylee Kenepp, Sarah Latchford, Jeri Patterson, Denise Paul, Barry Shaffer, Doreen Walls

15 Years: Jessica Ellenberger, Amanda Golden, Sandra Harpster, Brittany Hall, Shana Smith, Sally Woomer

20 Years: Carol Blaska, Shelly Carper, Glen Drager, Rob Drager, Rhonda Hocutt, Mike McKee, Tracy Redinger, Tim Walk, Rachel Walk

25 Years: Todd Cammarata, Ken Grady, Jennifer Grieco, Karen Raling

30 Years: Michele Marasco, Dan Plummer

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TYRONE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT Board of Education

- Rose A. Black, President William D. Lash, Vice President
- Mollie K. Bakhsheshe, Brian L. Bressler
- Kris E. Laird, Jeffery S. Long
- Randy L. Miles Sr., James E. Raabe, Gunter Volders

Administration

- Leslie A. Estep, **Superintendent of Schools**
- Kristen N. Pinter, **Director of Curriculum & Instruction PreK-12**
- Faith M. Swanson, **Business Administrator**
- Jordan H. Good, **Director of Physical Plant/Transportation**
- Jessica L. Anderson, **Director of Special Education**
- Kourtney L. Klock, **School Psychologist**
- Chad E. Packer, **High School Principal**
- Shane M. Cowher, **Middle School Principal**
- Kristin N. Musselman, **Elementary School Principal**
- Ashton E. Shultz, **Assistant Elementary School Principal**
- Glen R. Drager, **Director of Technology**

Deans of Students

- Christopher B. Perry-ES, Amy N. Fleck-MS, Lucas D. Rhoades-HS

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<https://twitter.com/TyroneASD>

It is the policy of the Tyrone Area School District not to discriminate on the basis of sex, handicap, race and national origin in its educational and vocational programs, activities, or employment as required by Title IX, Section 504, and Title VI. Please direct questions about this policy to Leslie Estep, Superintendent of Schools, at 814.684.0710, Extension 4123.

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(Distinguished Alumni continued from cover)**Kelly Wike**

Kelly (Crain) Wike, a member of the TAHS Class of 1969, was raised in Tyrone by her parents, Fred and Norma Crain. Upon graduating as valedictorian from TAHS in 1969, Kelly pursued her academic aspirations at Juniata College. In 1973, she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics, along with teaching credentials. It was during this time that she also married Jeffrey (Jeff) Wike on February 3, 1973.

Following college graduation, Kelly taught at Bellwood-Antis School District for a short time before returning to her hometown to teach mathematics for the next 12 years at Tyrone Area Jr./Sr. High School. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Kelly took on various extracurricular roles, such as organizing class parties, managing magazine fundraising sales, assisting the music department, and even coaching junior high girls' basketball. She even went the extra mile by obtaining a school bus driver's license.

In 1985, Kelly made the decision to transition from her career in teaching and pursue a career as a State Farm Insurance Agent. Over the course of the past 38 years, she has proudly held this position, finding great fulfillment in assisting her clients in safeguarding what is important to them.

Rotary International, a prominent global service organization, has played a significant role in Kelly's life since 1987. Alongside her husband, she has hosted ten Rotary Exchange Students from various parts of the world. Kelly takes pride in the fact that two of her exchange students have become American citizens, one of whom is Gunter Volders, a current member of the Tyrone Area School Board.

From July 1, 2004, to June 30, 2005, Kelly served as the District Governor of Rotary District 7350. Throughout her tenure, she has held numerous district positions, including District Trainer, ShelterBox Chair, Paul Harris Society Chair, and Aide to the District Governor. Presently, Kelly serves as the Co-Chair of the District Foundation Committee.

Among Kelly's most impactful Rotary experiences are her six trips to India, where she participated in immunizing children against Polio. This experience was transformative for her, as she realized that by administering two small drops of vaccine, she could save children from the debilitating and sometimes fatal disease. During her time in India, Kelly and her group also contributed to the construction of dams to hold the monsoon waters for irrigation purposes.

Kelly has been an active member of the Rotary Leadership Institute for over two decades, serving as a facilitator, facilitator trainer, and division chair. She has also been a dedicated Ambassador for ShelterBox, Rotary International's official project partner in disaster relief, which provides shelter and essential household items to families displaced by natural disasters or conflicts. Kelly's efforts have raised over \$100,000, and she is a member of the ShelterBox Hall of Fame.

Rotary International has bestowed upon her several accolades, including the Citation for Meritorious Service, the Regional Service Award for a Polio-Free World, and the Rotary Service Above Self Award.

In recognition of her exceptional humanitarian efforts, Juniata College honored Kelly with the esteemed William E. Swigart Jr. Award for Humanitarian Service in 2016.

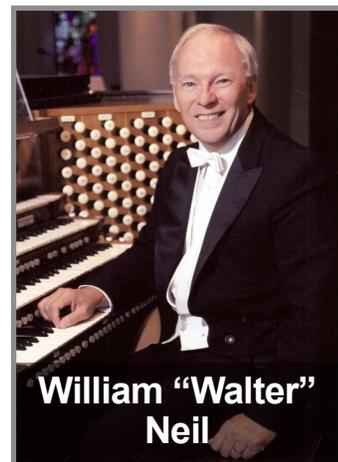
Kelly's commitment to service extends beyond Rotary. She served on the Board of Directors for Tyrone Hospital for 13 years, including 11 years as President. Following the hospital's merger with Penn Highlands, she continued to serve on the Home Board of the system for two years.

The Wikes recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a cruise from Cape Town, South Africa to Dubai. Additionally, Kelly took on the role of co-chair for her 50th Reunion at Juniata College. During the summer months, they reside in Pennsylvania, enjoying their camper. As winter approaches, they become snowbirds and migrate to Port Orange, Florida. They are proud pet owners of three fur babies: Popeye, a white boxer; Olive Oyl, a mini golden doodle; and Nika, the cat.

William "Walter" Neil, a member of the TAHS Class of 1962, grew up in Tyrone, the son of Ralph and Mary Jane Neil. Following high school graduation, he went on to complete his bachelor's degree in organ performance at Penn State University in 1966. In 2009 and 2011, respectively, he received the Distinguished Alumni Award and Alumni Fellow Awards, granted by Penn State's College of Arts and Architecture and the PSU Alumni Association.

Bill has been a member of the faculties at Ithaca College, Catholic University of America, and George Mason University. Many of his former students now hold prominent academic and church positions in the United States and around the world.

Bill is currently organist and harpsichordist of the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) and is one of the busiest and most sought after keyboard artists in the nation's capital and throughout the United States. Prior to his 2001 appointment as Organist of the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., he served as Organist of Rockefeller Memorial Chapel at the University of Chicago, a position held by some of the world's most noted organists. Bill has appeared as soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra under batons of Gianandrea Noseda, Mstislav Rostropovich, Lorin Maazel and Leonard Slatkin. His discography includes recordings for Philips, SONY, Naxos, Newport Classic, and MSR Classics.

**William "Walter" Neil***(Continued on page 4)*

(Distinguished Alumni continued from page 3)



John Pavone, a member of the TAHS Class of 1957, grew up on Park Avenue, the son of John and Mary Irene Pavone, who instilled in him a strong work ethic and the importance of moral values.

Following his graduation from Tyrone High School, John earned a bachelor's degree in education from Lock Haven State College in 1962. He furthered his education by obtaining a Master of Science in Education from West Virginia University in 1963. However, his plans to become an educator were put on hold due to the outbreak of the Vietnam War. In order to avoid being drafted, John enlisted in the Air Force. After completing basic training in Texas, he was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in 1964 following his attendance at Officers Training School. John then pursued post-graduate work in Meteorology at Texas A&M University.

John began his professional journey at a Forecast Center located in Ramstein, Germany, where he was responsible for providing weather forecasts and warnings to U.S. bases situated in France and Germany. Upon returning to the United States in 1968, he ventured into the aviation industry as a flying weather officer, accumulating over 9,000 hours of flight time on the WC-135 and WC-130 aircraft. His primary role involved flying into hurricanes,

typhoons, and nuclear debris. Additionally, he contributed to fog dispersal efforts for the construction of the Alaskan pipeline, facilitated trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific aircraft movements, and provided takeoff and landing weather information for Apollo space missions. In recognition of his exceptional performance as a crew member in weather reconnaissance, he was bestowed with the Yates Award in 1970. John held several staff positions in both the Aircraft Weather Service and Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service Headquarters, including Chief of Standardization, Detachment Commander, and Director of Reconnaissance. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1985.

In 1988, following a three-year period of global exploration, Pavone was approached by his final Air Force general to assume the position of Chief, Aerial Reconnaissance Coordination, All Hurricanes (CARCAH) in Miami. In this role, he was responsible for tasking, coordinating, and quality-controlling aircraft missions in support of both the National Hurricane Center and the Central Pacific Hurricane Center in Hawaii. Under his leadership, the unit was able to increase the flow of aircraft data to forecasters and the public by thirty-fold. During the winter months, CARCAH provided support to the National Centers for Environmental Prediction by coordinating winter storm missions. The unit takes great pride in its ability to deploy aircraft to the necessary location and time, and has been credited with saving thousands of lives in the U.S., Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and Central Pacific. In recognition of his contributions to the U.S. hurricane program, Pavone was awarded the Richard Hagemeyer Award in 2014. Following his retirement in December 2017, he was also presented with a Distinguished Service Award from the National Hurricane Conference for his "half a century of outstanding aerial support to the nation's hurricane warning service."

(William Neil continued from page 3)

A champion of new music, Bill was organ soloist at the Kennedy Center in the world-premiere concerts of Samuel Adler's *A Festive Proclamation*, one of 25 fanfares by American composers commissioned by the National Symphony to introduce each concert of the 1995 season. Performances with the Mendelssohn Chamber Orchestra in Chicago and the premiere of Jonathan Leshnoff's *Cosmic Echoes* with NSO Principal Trumpeter, Steven Hendrickson, are among his many credits.

Bill is often referred to as the "trumpeter's organist," having concertized and recorded with many of the world's noted brass musicians, including Pierre Thibault, Don Smithers, Mark Gould, Edward Carroll, and David Bilger. He is organist on the Grammy Award winning CD, *A War Requiem* by Benjamin Britten, recorded by National Public Radio commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. Bill was also the first Washington organist to perform on the Charles Fisk Organ at the Meyerson Center in Dallas, Texas. In 2001 he inaugurated the new Casavant organ at Robert Jacoby Hall, Jacksonville, Florida. In 2006 he joined members of the Philadelphia Orchestra Brass Section in a debut of the new Dobson Organ in Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center. His CD featuring masterworks of Bach, Handel, Franck, and world premieres of Adler and Ewazen celebrating the 40th anniversary of the John Jay Hopkins Memorial Organ at The National Presbyterian Church was released in 2005 by MSR Classics. Gramophone Magazine cited the disc as one of its 10 best recordings the following year.

The Washington Post once called Bill "an organist who has gone out of his way to play chamber music." Some of the greatest orchestral repertoire for the pipe organ is found in music by Strauss, Respighi, Elgar, Holst, Mendelssohn, Mahler and of course, Saint-Saens' Symphony No. 3, familiar to most listeners as the *Organ Symphony*. Bill's encounters with the Saint-Saens includes dozens of concerts over the years. In 2008 he performed the work at Philadelphia's Kimmel Center at Penn State's President's Concert, and at the Kennedy Center the same year with Lorin Maazel conducting the NSO in a series of concerts concluding the 37-year legacy of the Filene Memorial Organ.

Bill and his late wife, Charlotte, have two children, Christopher Neil and Margaret Hammer, and three grandchildren. His hobbies include reading, sports, swimming, travel, restoration of classic German vehicles, and standard poodles, especially Berlioz, who enjoys country life in Virginia's beautiful Blue Ridge as much as his owner.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS



TAES

The students at Tyrone Elementary have wrapped up the first marking period. We are pleased that our data shows our students are continuing to grow and develop academically, socially, and emotionally. We are fortunate to have wonderful teachers and staff members in the elementary school that continue to challenge our students in all aspects of their day. We were excited for parents to see and hear about the success of their children through the conferencing process in early November.

This year, we have included an intervention period in our schedule to better meet the academic needs of all of our students. During this block of time, our students are able to work on skills specific to their individual needs, as determined by on-going assessments. Although this process is new to us, we are happy to see that students are enjoying the block of time within their day and are progressing toward their mastery of skills. We are looking forward to the next few months and watching as our students continue to grow and achieve greatness!

Recently, the fourth grade teachers partnered with Mrs. Zupon, the technology teacher, and the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) announcement committee to begin recording and streaming virtual morning announcements to begin our day. Each fourth grader will have several opportunities throughout the year to take part in the recording process. It is wonderful to see our oldest students embrace the ability to host a morning show. We know it takes a lot of bravery to record yourself when you know the entire school will be watching you! Good job fourth graders!



TAMS

The 2023-2024 school year is off to a great start at Tyrone Area Middle School. We began the year in late August with our annual "Meet the Teacher Night." This event was extremely well-attended and provided an excellent opportunity for parents to get to know their children's teachers.

During the first few weeks of school, students had meetings with the Principal and Dean to discuss goals, rules, and expectations. Then, students were trained on the Safe 2 Say reporting system, so they could learn to report safety concerns. Finally, students took diagnostic exams so that teachers could determine their current academic levels. Teachers use this information to provide interventions and to tailor learning to the needs of the students.

In addition to classwork, students participated in a plethora of assemblies, field trips, and hands-on learning activities. Before the Bellwood football game, middle school students attended the high school pep rally; then, they had a pep rally of their own the following week to celebrate their own fall sports teams. On October 20, we kicked off our Safety Ownership Achievement Respect (SOAR) program by hosting a tailgate event at the track, where students had an opportunity to play games, eat snacks, and enjoy fellowship with each other.

And if that isn't enough, our eighth-grade classes hosted PSU engineering students in October to learn about careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM); our fifth graders visited Penns Cave; and our sixth graders visited the Grace Nature Trail for a field trip. We are very excited to be back in school for the 2023-2024 school year. As you can see, we have been very busy this fall.



TAHS

Our senior class has had a busy start to the school year preparing for the future. The agreement with the Pennsylvania College Advising Corps (PCAC) to provide a counseling advisor for the Tyrone Area High School has been very beneficial to our students. This evidence-based, data-driven, high-impact program seeks to bring talented, enthusiastic advisers to every community that wants them and to every student who needs them. The PCAC, an AmeriCorps program, is a branch of the national division of the College Advising Corps and is a consortium that includes Franklin & Marshall College, Gettysburg College, and Millersville University. The PCAC is an organization that seeks to increase the number of low-income, first-generation college, and under-represented students entering higher education by training recent college graduates as advisors. These advisors assist both students and parents with the completion of necessary financial aid forms, college applications, essays, letters of recommendation, and they offer support and guidance during the admissions process. Our advisor is available to meet one-on-one with students, for group presentations, and for parent meetings. She offers SAT, financial aid, career, and college help. Our students have benefited greatly from the college and career informational sessions that were held in September and October.

Tyrone Area School District's Arts Elevate was one of twenty-four programs awarded grants from Operation Our Town. They received \$2,000 to buy an additional potter's wheel for the after-school program aimed at creating an environment to support disenfranchised and disconnected students through mentorship and art. The students in the program dedicate their time not only to creative artistic endeavors but to volunteering in the community and participating in local networking events. This club meets several times a week (and in the summer). The students continue to create art pieces that are sold at craft shows, and they have given presentations for therapeutic support groups in the county.

BEST WISHES TO TASD RETIREE

Donna Glunt retired on June 1, 2023, after 14.5 years of service at Tyrone Area School District. "Miss Donna" had a variety of assignments throughout her tenure at TASD, and they almost always included working with students who have the highest needs. Donna has served as a personal care aide and a paraprofessional, supporting both school-aged special education students and the youngest learners in the PreK classrooms.

Not only did Donna work with students during the regular school year, she also served some of them during their summer sessions as well. She even worked in the daycare, providing support throughout the year and during the summer months. Donna accompanied the daycare students on many field trip adventures and enjoyed fun-filled "pool days" with them.

Donna's commitment to helping others, often in ways that went unnoticed by many, has left a lasting impression on both the staff and students with whom she worked. Alongside her husband, Pastor William Glunt, Donna has dedicated her life to serving others.

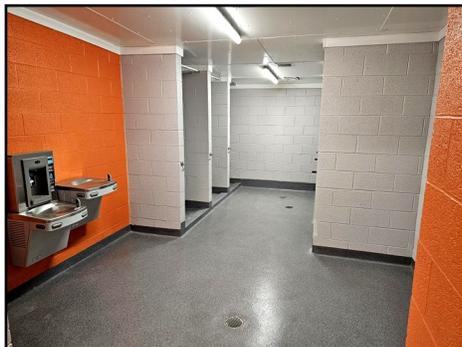
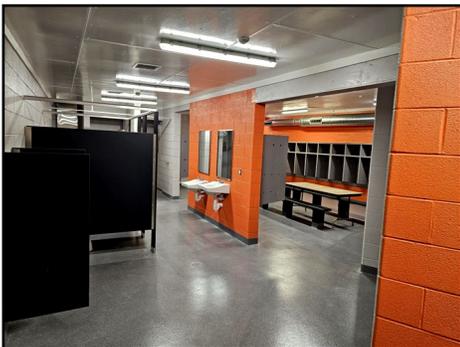
Best wishes to Donna as she begins a new chapter in her life!



TAHS FIELD HOUSE RENOVATION COMPLETE

The field house adjacent to the TAHS track/practice field recently underwent a comprehensive renovation, with TASD investing \$900,000 in the project. The exterior of the building was given a fresh look with a new roof, soffit and fascia, spouting, siding, and a fresh coat of paint. Inside, the renovation included the installation of new floors, ceilings, doors, bathroom fixtures, showers, lighting, lockers, benches, and HVAC. Additionally, two public restrooms and laundry equipment were added to enhance the facilities.

The original cement block building, measuring 40x80, was constructed in the summer of 1963 by John C. Yenter at a cost of around \$3,300. The Golden Eagle Club, a local sports booster organization at the time, funded the initial structure and volunteers from the club assisted in completing the roof, with materials provided by the school district. In 1966, a 40-foot extension was added to the building at an approximate cost of \$1,500. High school vocational students, employed through a work-study program under the Vocational Education Act of 1963, provided labor for the extension.



MEET OUR NEW STAFF



Angel Bartel
Daycare
Paraprofessional



Jenna Bartlett
TAMS
Gr. 5 Teacher



Logan Black
TAES
Gr. 3 Teacher



Jennifer Bryan
TAMS
Special Education Teacher



Maddison Butler
TAES Long-Term Substitute
Special Education Teacher



Piper Christine
TAMS Special Education
Paraprofessional



Montana Cole
Daycare
Paraprofessional



John Coltaugh
TAHS
Social Studies Teacher



Sherry Fink-Lockard
Daycare
Paraprofessional



Ava Focht
TAES
Gr. 1 Teacher



Alexis Frye
TAES Long-Term Substitute
Gr. 4 Teacher



Kerri Geesey
TAMS
Gr. 5 Teacher



Allison Grieco
TAHS
Custodian



Jay Hurley
TAMS
Gr. 8 ELA Teacher



Joe Laukaitis
TAHS
Business Education Teacher



Tina Lewis
TAMS
Special Education Teacher



Hannah Long
TAES
Paraprofessional



Amanda Malizia-Hicks
TASD
Human Resources Specialist



Lesley Miller
TAES
Special Education Teacher



Krista Morrison
TAMS Special Education
Paraprofessional



Breanna Nelson
Early Intervention
Paraprofessional



Lindsey Nelson
Daycare
Paraprofessional



Samantha Raabe
TAMS
Gr. 6 Teacher



Jessica Rhoades
TAES
Paraprofessional



Lisa Rivard
TAMS
Gr. 7 ELA Teacher



Erica Schopp
TAES Long-Term Substitute
Gr. 2 Teacher



Jessica Seidel
TAES
Reading Specialist



Jenna Weaver
TAES
Paraprofessional



Sarah Wendle
TAES Long-Term Substitute
Kindergarten Teacher



Michael Whitting
TAMS
Gr. 7 Science Teacher



Lisa Williams
Daycare
Paraprofessional



Corey Zupon
TAES
Technology Teacher

Other:

Bailey Christine—Varsity Boys Assistant Soccer Coach
 Piper Christine—Jr. High Assistant Volleyball Coach
 Donald Coffey—Jr. High Boys Head Soccer Coach
 Rusty Davis—Jr. High Boys Assistant Soccer Coach
 Courtney Finney—Jr. High Girls Head Soccer Coach
 Courtney Harris—TAHS Special Education Paraprofessional
 Lindsey Parks—Jr. High Girls Assistant Soccer Coach

Steve Ramsey—Varsity Boys Assistant Basketball Coach
 Lucas Rhoades—Varsity Boys Head Basketball Coach
 Caroline Showalter—Varsity Girls Assistant Basketball Coach
 Zach Soellner—Head Unified Bocce Ball Coach
 Doug Sweitzer—Varsity Assistant Golf Coach
 Mike Whitting—Varsity Girls Head Basketball Coach
 Sean Williams—Crew Custodian

EAGLE PRIDE NEVER GRADUATES

Thank you to the individuals who submitted the following Summer of 2023 TAHS class reunion photos. If you have a TAHS class reunion or class birthday party photo that you would like to share, please email it to sjwoomer@tyrone.k12.pa.us. We would be happy to include it in TyNotes.



TAHS Class of 1973—50th Reunion



TAHS Class of 1978—45th Reunion



TAHS Class of 1983—40th Reunion