

TYNOTES

A PUBLICATION OF THE TYRONE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



HOME OF THE GOLDEN EAGLES



Tyrone Area School District Board of Directors

Front row: Heidi Howard—new member; Cathy Harlow—new member; Kris Laird—2 years of service; Leslie Estep, Superintendent

Back row: James Brokenshire—new member; Rose Black, President—10 years of service; Gunter Volders—2 years of service; Jeffery Long—4 years of service

Inset left: Brian Bressler—27.5 years of service; **Inset right:** William Lash, Vice President—6 years of service

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

While the winter can sometimes be a slower time of year, schools are typically busy all year long. Tyrone Area School District is no exception. Our students continue to be active in academics, athletics, and extra curriculars. They are now preparing for playoffs, a musical, and gearing up for everything that spring has to offer. Thank you to the teachers, advisors, and coaches who take their time to supervise these activities for our students!

This issue of *TyNotes* features our current School Board of Directors. While January is officially School Director Recognition Month, we are grateful every day for the volunteer service to our school district that is offered by our Board. School Boards are often asked to make very difficult decisions that can have far-reaching effects. I know that our Board considers each of these decisions very seriously, knowing what is at stake. Each school year brings about new challenges and our School Board has the task of collaborating with the administration and the community to lead the district into a future full of exciting possibilities. Please join me in thanking both past and present Board members for their commitment to TASD!

Also highlighted in this issue are several public events in which all members of the community can take part. The spring musical, *Grease*, is sure to be a good one, and the Color Blast has become a traditional way to partner with the Tyrone Race Series and raise funds for the students while providing a fun environment for people of all ages.

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

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TYRONE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT Board of Education

Rose A. Black, President William D. Lash, Vice President
 Brian L. Bressler, James R. Brokenshire
 Cathy L. Harlow, Heidi J. Howard
 Kris E. Laird, Jeffery S. Long, 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

Find us on Facebook & Twitter!



<https://www.facebook.com/TyroneASD>



<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.

www.tyrone.k12.pa.us

TASD SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

January was designated as School Director Recognition Month in Pennsylvania, a time to acknowledge the dedication of school board directors and their commitment to achieving excellence in public education.

Over 85% of students in the commonwealth attend public schools, including the approximately 1,800 students enrolled in the Tyrone Area School District. Working alongside district administration, the nine members of each local school board play a crucial role in making complex decisions that shape the direction of public schools and create an educational environment where every student can thrive.

School board directors willingly devote their time and effort to the demanding responsibilities of board business. This includes voting on budgets, implementing policies, and engaging in comprehensive planning. Their role has become even more challenging due to issues such as education funding, pandemic recovery, and other factors that directly impact the students and families within our community.

To further demonstrate their commitment, the Tyrone Area School Board has adopted the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) Principles for Governance and Leadership. These principles were developed from a study conducted by the Iowa Association of School Boards on how school boards make a difference in student outcomes, along with other resources, to provide PSBA members with a framework that reinforces the direct impact of boardroom decisions on the classroom. The framework provides actionable steps aimed at enhancing the board's effectiveness.

Pennsylvania school boards are committed to providing every student the opportunity to grow and achieve. Therefore, as outlined in Board Policy 011, the Tyrone Area School District Board of Directors pledge to:

PRINCIPLES FOR GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

LEAD RESPONSIBLY

- ☑ *Prepare for, attend, and actively participate in board meetings*
- ☑ *Work together with civility and cooperation, respecting that individuals hold differing opinions and ideas*
- ☑ *Participate in professional development, training, and board retreats*
- ☑ *Collaborate with the superintendent, acknowledging their role as the 10th member of the board and commissioned officer of the commonwealth*

ACT ETHICALLY

- ☑ *Never use the position for improper benefit to self or others*
- ☑ *Avoid actual or perceived conflicts of interest*
- ☑ *Recognize school directors do not possess any authority outside of the collective board*
- ☑ *Accept that when a board has made a decision, it is time to move forward collectively and constructively*

PLAN THOUGHTFULLY

- ☑ *Implement a collaborative strategic planning process*
- ☑ *Set annual goals that are aligned with comprehensive plans, recognizing the need to adapt as situations change*
- ☑ *Develop a comprehensive financial plan and master facilities plan that anticipates short and long-term needs*
- ☑ *Allocate resources to effectively impact student success*

EVALUATE CONTINUOUSLY

- ☑ *Make data-informed decisions*
- ☑ *Evaluate the superintendent annually*

- ☑ *Conduct a board self-assessment on a recurring basis*

- ☑ *Focus on student growth and achievement*
- ☑ *Review effectiveness of all comprehensive and strategic plans*

COMMUNICATE CLEARLY

- ☑ *Promote open, honest and respectful dialogue among the board, staff, and community*
- ☑ *Acknowledge and listen to varied input from all stakeholders*
- ☑ *Promote transparency while protecting necessary confidential matters*
- ☑ *Set expectations and guidelines for individual board member communication*

ADVOCATE EARNESTLY

- ☑ *Promote public education as a keystone of our commonwealth*
- ☑ *Engage the community by seeking input, building support networks, and generating action*
- ☑ *Champion public education by engaging local, state, and federal officials*

GOVERN EFFECTIVELY

- ☑ *Establish and adhere to rules and procedures for board operations*
- ☑ *Develop, adopt, revise, and review policy routinely*
- ☑ *Align board decisions to policy ensuring compliance with the PA School Code and other local, state, and federal laws*
- ☑ *Remain focused on the role of governance, effectively delegating management tasks to the administration*

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES



Student Board Representatives
Alivia Anderson, Junior Class Representative and
Austin White, Senior Class Representative

By Elexis Hess, TAHS 11th Grade Student/*Tyrone Eagle Eye News*

Senior Austin White and Junior Alivia Anderson are the Tyrone Area School Board Student Representatives for the 2023-2024 school year. Student board representatives attend each school board meeting and represent students' voices to the board. They provide the board information by reporting on things going on at the high school from the students' first-hand experiences. This gives the board an insight into how high school students feel and what they experience. Even though White and Anderson's roles are similar, they work independently as White focuses on the senior class and Anderson on the junior class. "I chose to be a student representative to have the ability to voice the opinions of my peers," said Student Representative Austin White.

"I think it is very informative information and enthusiasm we receive from the students. We hear updates from administration but the students go into more detail at times and I love seeing their expressions," said School Board Member Rose Black.

The student representatives do not get to vote on issues discussed in the board meetings; however, they provide a student perspective for the board when making decisions that impact the students. TASD School Board Member Cathy Harlow appreciates getting the students' perspective on issues and feels it's beneficial for the board. "They provide insight into how decisions made by the school board may impact students either directly or indirectly," said Harlow.

Students who have questions or concerns about issues in the school can speak to either student board representative, who in turn can bring that issue up at a board meeting. "The school board likes to hear updates within the school and remain informed on the students and activities. I think it means a lot to them to hear directly from the students because they get to hear everything from our point of view," said Student Representative Alivia Anderson.

Any student entering Grade 11 interested in serving as student board representative next year should contact High School Principal Chad Packer. "The position is a great opportunity for any student looking to have their voice and the voice of their peers heard in a productive and professional setting. It is also an incredible leadership opportunity and an excellent addition to a resume for students looking to begin their professional work career, join the military, or continue their education in college or trade school," said School Board Member Kris Laird.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

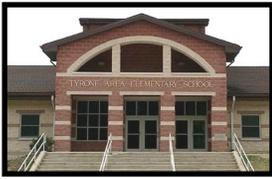
Online registration for children who will attend Kindergarten during the 2024-2025 school year will open on April 1, 2024. To be eligible for Kindergarten, children must be five years old before September 1, 2024. Parents should register online at tyrone.k12.pa.us/registration. To prepare for online registration, families should ensure they have a copy of their child's birth certificate and proof of residency. Examples of proof of residency include a driver's license, rental contract, deed to property, or a current utility bill.

The Tyrone Area Elementary School is looking forward to welcoming the Class of 2037. Families will be informed over the summer of a Meet the Teacher event that will occur in late August. If you have questions about the Kindergarten program, please call Elementary Principal Kristin Musselman at 684-1342, extension 2703.



Kindergarten students in Mrs. Shana Smith's class celebrate 100 days of school.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS



TAES

The middle of the year brings about a time of evaluating and analyzing the growth of the elementary students. After returning in January, the PreK through fourth grade students began completing assessments in the areas of reading and mathematics. After collecting the test scores, our teachers and administrators worked to analyze and understand how the students are progressing. The final step was to organize small groups and interventions that allow our teachers to provide instruction at the individual student level. While this process takes time, it is essential so we can better meet the needs of all of our students.

In addition to academics, the middle of the year is also a time to review and celebrate the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system expectations: Safety, Ownership, Achievement, and Respect (SOAR). In January, the students were able to shop at the SOAR store and in February, they will review the expectations within the school setting. The students will also play games and complete special activities during the monthly celebration. If they want, the students will also be able to use their SOAR tickets to purchase an ice cream sundae with toppings of their choice.

Like the cold winter days will begin to transition into warmer spring weather, the elementary students will continue to grow and learn as they move into the second half of the school year. In the spring, we are looking forward to field trips, PBIS events and assemblies, a visiting author and other special events.



TAMS

Wintertime is an opportunity to get a lot done in our schools because we have few interruptions in the school calendar. On the flip side, winter is characterized by many cold dark nights and some long weeks. At the middle school level, we strike a balance between getting down to business but also making school fun.

Upon their return from winter break, our students take middle of the year benchmark assessments. This allows our teachers to see how much our students have grown during the first half of the year. What's more, it allows us to see if students are hitting their learning targets or if there are any areas where we need to beef up our instruction. Winter is the time when many teachers assign larger projects, and we get down to business prepping for our state tests in the spring.

In addition to academics, we offer many activities that help keep our students engaged. In January, Hollidaysburg native and former Mixed Martial Arts Athlete, Charlie "The Spaniard" Brenneman, came to speak with our students about resiliency and how small-town people can accomplish big things. In February, our students participated in the "Soup"er Bowl soup collection, Winter Jam, as well as grade level specific fun events. Fifth grade held a neon dance party, while sixth grade students had a party in honor of Valentines Day. Seventh and eighth-grade students held a Hawaiian dance at the end of February. All students participated in Winter Jam, where they could choose from many different activities like cornhole, pin guard, or an art activity, just to name a few. We are enjoying our time in school, and we are looking forward to spring!



TAHS

The 2023-2024 Agriculture and Youth Direct Grant application was selected for funding in January. A total of \$7,468 for the project titled, "Apparatuses for Agricultural Education" was awarded to the TAHS Future Farmers of America (FFA) Chapter. This grant is to replace all the hand tools or lack of hand tools and storage in the Ag shop, along with a few power tools to help with getting more students involved in projects. The Learning by Doing Grant for the Tyrone Area FFA Chapter in the amount of \$637 was also awarded for a Cricut Maker 3. The students had a great run at the Pennsylvania Farm Show as well in January. Livestock and Agriscience projects did better than predicted with one student being awarded Reserve Grand Champion Youth Goat Showman, along with five first place

Agriscience Fair projects. Students had photography and floral design entries for the first time, and the group came home with a lot of top five place winners. In all, 16 students received their FFA jackets, four Keystone State FFA Degrees were awarded to seniors, and Paige Hoy received a full scholarship to attend the Washington Leadership Conference for a week this summer.

A new varsity sport for the Tyrone Area School District made its debut in January. The Tyrone Unified Bocce Team played its first match at Central Cambria High School in Ebensburg. The Unified Bocce League is co-sponsored by Special Olympics Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA). Members of the 2024 Tyrone Unified Bocce Team include Collin Lewis, Malakai Wicker, Aliyah Riling, Piper Myers, Caleb LaVanish, and Mike Mingle. The team had a five-match schedule this season with Bellwood, Hollidaysburg, Penn Cambria, Altoona, and Central Cambria as opponents. Just like every Tyrone varsity sport, the athletes hope that students and fans will come out and support the team.

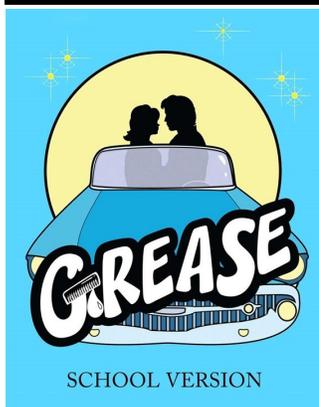
The Tyrone Area High School Drama Department is making a return to the newly renovated TAHS Auditorium stage to present *Grease* as its 2024 spring musical. Please come and support our students as they perform this iconic show on Friday, April 5 and Saturday, April 6.

TAES RECEIVES PLAYGROUND UPGRADES



Almost two years ago, in April 2022, the TASD School Board gave their approval for the acquisition and installation of additional playground equipment at Tyrone Area Elementary School. The all-inclusive Americans with Disabilities Act accessible equipment and poured-in-place rubber playground surface was installed by Sports and Recreation Associates of Apollo, Pennsylvania, during the Summer of 2023 at a total cost of \$161,300. As depicted in the photo above, it was a worthwhile investment.

SPRING MUSICAL SET FOR APRIL



The cast is set, and the excitement is building as members of the TAHS Choral Department and Drama Club rehearse for this year's spring musical *Grease*.

Auditions for the musical were held in early January and a cast of performers from grades eight through twelve were selected to be a part of this year's production. *Grease* will be presented on Friday, April 5

and Saturday, April 6 at 7:00 pm in the TAHS auditorium. Tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased in the High School Main Office each weekday between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. beginning Monday, March 4. (Children five and under are free.)

COLOR BLAST 2024

On Saturday, April 20, 2024, TASD, in partnership with the Tyrone Race Series, will hold the Color Blast Fun Run to benefit Positive Behavior Support Programs.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

- 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Vendor Fair/Basket Raffle**
TAHS Cafeteria
- 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Food Truck Fair**
TAHS Parking Lot
- 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Day of Race Registration**
TAHS Parking Lot

For additional information, including early registration, visit runsignup.com/Race/PA/Tyrone/ColorBlastRace.

TASD HOSTS PARENT AWARENESS SERIES

As our students continue to combat mental health issues, substance abuse, and other societal concerns, it is important that we do our part to involve parents as part of the solution. This winter, the TASD has offered a slate of presentations aimed at bringing awareness and resources to parents around some of these topics. It is our hope that bringing information to parents will help raise awareness for how these issues are impacting our students and how to seek out strategies and support.

The first three sessions, described below, took place in January and February. Additional sessions are currently being scheduled for March and April.



Hard Hitting Skills for Life

Charlie "The Spaniard" Brenneman

A graduate of Hollidaysburg Area School District, the former Spanish Teacher and MMA Athlete is now a speaker, author, and podcaster who engages students and parents with lessons of perseverance, resilience, adversity, choices, and kindness. Charlie spoke with TASD Middle and High School students as well, sharing his advice about facing obstacles and overcoming adversity.



Human Trafficking

Attorney Ashley Owens

Ashley Owens is the former Director of Blair County's Child Advocacy Center (CAC), an Altoona-based safe space where child victims of abuse are brought to be interviewed and examined. During her time at the Child Advocacy Center, Attorney Owens was directly involved with the children and has firsthand knowledge of child trafficking cases that have occurred in Blair County. Attorney Owens currently serves as the Director of Student Accountability and Conflict Response at Penn State Altoona and continues to support the CAC by speaking with community groups about this important topic.



Destigmatizing Mental Health: Suicide Prevention Awareness

Hayden Zook, Adam Zook Memorial Fund

Hayden Zook and volunteers for the Adam Zook Memorial Fund, along with various local agencies, discussed the topic of suicide prevention awareness with an emphasis on awareness, signs, and knowing where to get help. Presenters and agencies were also available for questions and answers, as well as providing information on resources available to the community.

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

No matter where you live in the U.S., you can easily access 24/7 emotional support.

Call or text 988 or visit 988lifeline.org/chat/ to chat with a caring counselor.

MEET OUR NEW STAFF

Rilee Barndt—Paraprofessional

Lindsey Feath—Speech/Language Pathologist

Kris Guidry—Special Education Teacher

Ashley Hawkins—Daycare Group Supervisor

Charles Hawkins—Varsity Assistant Track Coach

Alissa Heverly—Paraprofessional

Jim Lang—Junior High Head Baseball Coach

Joseph Laukaitis—Varsity Boys Assistant Boys Basketball Coach

Holly Long—Paraprofessional

Nicholas McElhinney—Daycare Group Supervisor

Kristin Nardelli—Paraprofessional

Beth Parker—Varsity Girls Assistant Basketball Coach

Faith Patton—Unified Bocce Ball Assistant Coach

Julie Rishel—School Counselor

Courtney Robenolt—Paraprofessional

Brittany Russell—Daycare Director

Hunter Walk—Junior High Assistant Wrestling Coach

If you would like to learn more about the career opportunities at Tyrone Area School District, please check out our website at www.tyrone.k12.pa.us. Just select the "Departments" tab, then go to "Human Resources," and lastly, click on "Opportunities."

TASD 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

July 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

4 Independence Day

August 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

S=6 T=10

19 In-Service Day; no classes
 20 In-Service Day; no classes
 21 In-Service Exchange Day; no classes
 22 PreK-12 First Day of School
 30 In-Service Day; no classes (Act 80 Day)

September 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

S=19 T=20

2 Labor Day; no classes
 27 In-Service Day; no classes (Act 80 Day)

October 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

S=23 T=23

25 End of Marking Period 1

November 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

S=15 T=18

1 In-Service Day; no classes (Act 80 Day)
 5 In-Service Day; no classes (Act 80 Day)
 11 Veterans Day; no classes
 27 In-Service Exchange Day; no classes
 28-29 Thanksgiving Vacation

December 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

S=14 T=14

2 Thanksgiving Vacation
 4-18 Winter Wave 1 Keystone Exams
 23-31 Christmas Vacation
 23 If needed, weather make-up day

January 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

S=21 T=21

1 New Year's Vacation
 6-17 Winter Wave 2 Keystone Exams
 16 End of Marking Period 2
 20 Martin Luther King Day; no classes

February 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

S=18 T=19

14 In-Service Day; no classes
 14 If needed, weather make-up day
 17 Mid-Winter Vacation

March 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

S=21 T=21

24 End of Marking Period 3

April 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

S=19 T=20

17 In-Service Day; no classes
 18-21 Easter Vacation
 22-25 PSSA English Language Arts Tests
 28-30 PSSA Math, Science & Make-up Tests

May 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30*	31

S=20 T=21

1-9 PSSA Math, Science & Make-up Tests
 12-23 Spring Keystone Exams
 20 In-Service Day; no classes
 20 If needed, weather make-up day
 26 Memorial Day; no classes
 30 Last Day of School
 30 1/2 Day Early Dismissal - Students
 30 Commencement

June 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Note: If needed, additional weather and/or in-service make-up days will be added after May 30.