

TYNOTES

A PUBLICATION OF THE TYRONE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOME OF THE GOLDEN EAGLES



HOUSE PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION



2,708 square foot Cape Cod style home on .29 acre lot; central air; open concept floor plan; 3 bedrooms; 3.75 baths; kitchen features custom cherry cabinets, pantry, and stainless steel appliances; first floor laundry; covered deck; integral one car garage; walkout basement with covered concrete patio; family room; utility room.

U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Nothing in the world is worth having or worth doing unless it means effort, pain, difficulty." Tyrone Area School District's Career and Technology Education Instructor Dan Plummer and Program Assistant Bob Wilson have found this to be true as they continue to guide TAHS carpentry and design students on the arduous journey of completing TASD's tenth house construction project.

Work on the current project located at 1207 Hamilton Avenue, just yards from the high school, began during the 2014-15 school year and has required students to complete both rough and finish work, with minimal tasks subcontracted. Previous vocational house projects afforded

students the ability to focus on finish work, while most of the rough work was subcontracted.

Since early 2020, effects from the pandemic have played a significant role in delaying completion of the project by limiting the number of students available to work, the amount of time available to work, and by delaying the delivery of needed materials.

Despite the many challenges encountered over the course of the project, the end is finally in sight. When available, information regarding the sale of the house will be posted on the TASD website at www.tyrone.k12.pa.us and published in The Daily Herald.

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

According to George Bernard Shaw, “Progress is impossible without change and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.” This issue of TyNotes highlights many personnel changes that have occurred over the last few months in the Tyrone Area School District and we will continue to feature these new staff members in future publications. While we cannot replace those who have left us, either through retirement or the pursuit of other employment opportunities, we can use the situation to reexamine priorities, roles, and responsibilities to determine if it is necessary to move in a different direction.

The cover of this issue features the latest construction project about to be completed by the district’s Carpentry and Design program. The finalization of this project will mean that another family will be able to enjoy the hard work of our staff and students, as others have done in previously built homes. We are so proud of the work done by everyone involved!

The pandemic continues to reveal to us occasions to improve, and we have enjoyed a more traditional start to this school year. As we evaluate some of our current practices and make room for improvements, we know that time and patience will be needed to accomplish these tasks. It can be said that even the happy, positive transitions in life can generate stress! Hopefully, a sustained instructional model will continue to allow everyone to regain their footing as we head into 2022.

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 J. Lash, Vice President
- Mollie K. Bakhsheshe David J. Fusco
- Jeffery S. Long Randy L. Miles Sr.
- James E. Raabe Lori L. Walk
- Andrew D. Woomer

Administration

- Leslie A. Estep, **Superintendent of Schools**
- Kristen N. Pinter, **Director of Curriculum & Instruction PreK-12**
- Faith M. Swanson, **Business Administrator**
- Jordan H. Good, **Buildings and Grounds Administrator**
- Jessica L. Anderson, **Director of Special Education**
- Kourtney L. Klock, **School Psychologist**
- Thomas A. Yoder, **High School Principal**
- Shane M. Cowher, **Middle School Principal**
- Kristin N. Musselman, **Elementary School Principal**
- Chad E. Packer, **Assistant Elementary School Principal**
- Glen R. Drager, **Network Administrator**

Deans of Students

- David W. Rutter-ES, Lindsay N. Miksich-MS, Lucas D. Rhoades-HS

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

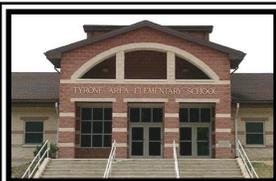


<https://twitter.com/TyroneASD>

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 the Superintendent of Schools at 814.684.0710, Extension 4123.

www.tyrone.k12.pa.us

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS



TAES

As all the leaves have nearly fallen from the trees and the holiday season is dashing our way, the Tyrone Elementary School concluded its fall celebration season with several PBIS activities. In October, the SOAR planning committees prepared a schoolwide assembly to stress the importance and values of the Tyrone SOAR program. Due to weather, the SOAR Assembly Committee changed the planned assembly to a “virtual assembly.” All classrooms were provided with a ZOOM link and participated in the schoolwide event from the comfort of their classrooms. Building principal, Kristin Musselman, alongside Dean of Students, David Rutter, kicked off the assembly by recognizing the many Golden SOAR ticket winners. Then, several committee members interviewed high school athletes who talked about the importance of elementary students incorporating the SOAR values during the school day. The varsity cheering squad even led the elementary classes through several SOAR cheers to showcase their school spirit. The elementary students loved that one faculty member could not hold the letters correctly during the cheer! The assembly concluded with a guessing game among classes as to which elementary school teacher was posing as the Tyrone Golden Eagle. Even though the weather would not allow the assembly to be outside, the spirit and excitement was not dampened inside the elementary school as cheers rang out through the hallways.

On November 1, the Elementary students and staff welcomed visiting Author Alan St. Jean into the school for a week of writing and fun! Mr. St. Jean spent time teaching the kindergarten through fourth grade students how to become good writers. During grade level assemblies, the students were able to learn about the author’s struggles and triumphs on his journey to becoming a published author. In addition, the second, third, and fourth grade classes worked individually with Mr. St. Jean to write and illustrate their own class story. To celebrate the end of the week, each class’s story was read aloud to a panel of guest judges who selected first, second, and third place winners during the Writing Olympics event.



TAMS

With the leaves changing and fall sports activities in full swing, Autumn is an exciting time of year in central Pennsylvania. At Tyrone Area Middle School, school is in session, and we are accentuating the positive. Our students and staff are doing great things to make our school a better place to learn and work.

SOAR, Project Step-Up, and Student of the Week are just three ways that we are building a positive school climate at the middle school. Schoolwide Positive Behavior Support is an idea that really took hold in schools about 20 years ago; wherein, schools teach and reinforce positive student behaviors. At Tyrone Middle School, our program is specifically called SOAR. SOAR is an acronym that stands for Strive for success, Observe safety, Act with integrity, and Respect all. These are the values we teach each and every day. Students are rewarded for displaying SOAR values by getting SOAR tickets, winning raffles for prizes, and attending exciting assemblies. In addition to SOAR, our counseling office sponsors project “Step Up,” where students are recognized for “stepping up” to help a peer or teacher. Students’ pictures and a brief vignette of what they did are posted on our “Step Up” bulletin board. Students are rewarded with a “Step Up” bracelet or dog tag, and parents are notified. Our Student of the Week is chosen by grade-level teachers in conjunction with middle school administrators. Beginning in October, two students are chosen from each grade level as students of the week. Students are recognized based on behavior, grades, and attendance, and each student receives a letter home and a special item from the cafeteria.

We are grateful to be back in school this fall, and we are focusing on the positive. Through the SOAR, Project Step-Up, and Student of the Week programs, our students and staff are working to create a positive school atmosphere at Tyrone Area Middle School. We hope all students are enjoying the start of the school year, and we look forward to the learning opportunities that await us throughout the remainder of the school year.



TAHS

It is so important to involve families and the community in the high school to ensure success for students and to bring about constant school improvement. Tyrone Area High School has been innovative in its effort to collaborate with these important partners.

A Parent/Community Advisory Council has been established. Before COVID-19, the group met with the high school principal about four times during the school year. Refreshments were served as the group discussed any concerns or recommendations that members might have. In addition, an agenda was presented with topics that have included career development, student scheduling, technical education programs, and school safety. The discussions are lively and often passionate.

(Continued on page 5)

SCHOOL BOARD WELCOMES NEW STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE



**2021-22 School Board Student Representatives
Senior Mason Swabick and Junior Lydia Seltzer**

By Gabriel Fasciano, TAHS 12th Grade Student/Eagle Eye News

Senior Mason Swabick and Junior Lydia Seltzer are the Tyrone Area School Board Student Representatives for the 2021-2022 school year.

Student board representatives attend each month's school board meeting and represent students' voices to the board. They provide insight for the board by reporting on things going on at the high school from the firsthand experiences of the students. "We do our jobs for the students and feedback and perspective from them is vital," said Tyrone Superintendent Leslie Estep.

Swabick is returning for his second year as a student representative with a stronger understanding of what it means to be a voice for his fellow classmates and peers. "It means a lot to me to be able to serve as the voice for my peers, especially in my senior year," said Swabick.

Seltzer looks forward to serving as the junior representative. "I want to be the voice of the students and speak in agreement with my peers. I hope I am approachable enough for other students to bring their concerns to me so that I can explain them to the board and bring to light unseen problems in our school," said Seltzer.

The student representatives do not get to vote on issues discussed in the board meetings. However, they can still bring up issues that are important to the student body.

Students who have questions or concerns about issues in the school are encouraged to contact either student board representative.

REMEMBERING LATE BOARD MEMBERS

Throughout its history, the Tyrone Area School District has been blessed with many dedicated school board members. Sadly, in recent years, we have lost several individuals, who collectively served on the board for more than 44 years during the 1960s, '70s, and '80s.

John Dearing most recently passed away in September of 2021. He served on the school board for more than 20 years, from 1967 to 1987.

John Ferner passed away in June of 2021. He was a school board member for 10 years, from 1977 to 1987.

Ed Lehman passed away two years ago in December of 2019. He served on the board for more than 13 years, from 1976 to 1990.



This final school board photo that pictures John Dearing, John Ferner, and Ed Lehman together as members, appeared in the 1988 Eagle Yearbook.

Seated: Dr. William Miller, Superintendent; John Ferner (deceased); George "Ed" Lehman (deceased); Marjorie Barr, Board Secretary (deceased). **Standing:** Samuel Hayes Sr. (deceased); Lynne Rice (deceased); John Dearing (deceased); James Crawford Jr.; Roberta Ramsay; Larrie Derman; Pamela Shanafelt.

"Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago." ~Warren Buffett

TASD WELCOMES NEW BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR



**Business Administrator
Faith Swanson**

By Kairigan Sible, TAHS 11th Grade Student/Eagle Eye News

Bellwood native and current Tyrone resident Faith Swanson joined the Tyrone Area School District Administrative Team this summer as the District's new business manager.

Even though Swanson is a Bellwood native and graduate, she has Tyrone roots and taking a job at TASD is like a homecoming for her. "My mother grew up in Tyrone, and it was a second home to me growing up. Nothing like having grandma's spaghetti after church and then getting 25 cents to go get penny candy at Gardner's on Sundays," said Swanson.

Swanson's children, Eli and Aliyah, are currently students at TASD. Swanson says that she's always been proud of the District and all the programs it has to offer. "I am excited to become a part of the place that has helped shape my children through their education," said Swanson. "I love the staff here; they are dedicated and kind. I have been welcomed from day one. Anytime I have the opportunity to help a fellow staff member and make their day a little easier, that is what I enjoy the most."

Swanson received her bachelor's degree in business administration from Penn State University and her masters of education in school business leadership from Wilkes University. She began her career at Bellwood-Antis School District from 2000 to 2014, first as the district's payroll clerk, then as the earned income tax collector, and finally as the administrative assistant for business and human resources. During her time with BASD, she and her husband Ken opened a tax business on Pennsylvania Avenue. As the business grew, Swanson resigned from BASD to work at the tax office while also serving as business manager for the Central Pennsylvania Digital Learning Foundation.

In August of 2014, she became the interim business manager at Northern Cambria School District. Then in 2015, Swanson was hired at Huntingdon Area School District. This summer she accepted the position at Tyrone following the retirement of former business manager John Clark. "My goals [at Tyrone are] to continue to work on streamlining processes, work with administrators on budgeting, and enhance transparency district-wide," said Swanson. "Also, as we work through [funds allocated to schools for COVID relief], making sure that we responsibly allocate the funds to respond, react to, and plan for our continued COVID response."

When she's not at work crunching numbers, Swanson enjoys watching Penn State football, attending concerts and Broadway shows. This winter she plans to see the musical Hamilton for the first time. She and her husband Ken also like to hike, garden, and spend time by the pool together whenever they can. Swanson can also be seen regularly at TAHS sporting events cheering on her children. "I enjoy watching my daughter Aliyah [cross country and track] and my son Eli [football, wrestling and baseball] at their athletic events, especially now as an official Golden Eagle," said Swanson.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS *(Continued from page 3)*

Meet-the-Teacher Night is an opportunity for the community to visit the high school and experience what a typical day in the life of a student is all about. Visitors collaborate with teachers and explore the curriculum that students are engaged in each day. It's a chance for parents to get to know teachers and to build positive connections that create a culture for learning.

In October, the high school community came together to offer a trick or treat night for young students and their families. High school students dressed in costume and together with the faculty offered amazing treats, activities, and even family photographs for the holiday. Over five hundred people visited the high school that evening. The camaraderie and positive community enthusiasm brought out the best in everyone involved.

Athletics are and have always been an important connector with the Tyrone community. Sporting events bring out Golden Eagle fans by the hundreds. Friday evening football games at Gray Field are true community events. Young and old alike are there to cheer for their alma mater, the students, and the school that they admire and love.

The Eagle Eye, the high school online newspaper, interviews individuals in the community about local history and landmarks to include in its award winning publication. Historical photographs of Tyrone Borough and the School District are on display in the auditorium lobby as we make connections between the past and the present.

Tyrone Area High School is committed to continuing its endeavor to search for innovative ways to come together with families and the community.

MEET OUR NEW STAFF



Steve Bock
High School
Crew Custodian



Kayla Corle
High School
Attendance/Guidance
Office Secretary



Amber Creamer
Early Intervention Teacher



Travis Crowell
District Maintenance
Technician



Leah Dreibelbis
Middle School
Grade 7 ELA Teacher



Abby Ettinger
Elementary School
Special Education/
Reading Teacher



Shannon Flanagan
District Social Worker



Lindsey Kanuch
Middle School
Long Term Substitute
Physical Education Teacher
Assistant Jr. High Girls
Soccer Coach



Jessica Koeck
High School
Guidance Counselor



Kristen Miller
Elementary School
Special Education Teacher



Curtis Neff
Middle School
Math Teacher



Chad Packer
Elementary School
Assistant Principal

MEET OUR NEW STAFF (Continued from page 6)



Christopher Perry
Middle School
Grade 5 Teacher



Philip Rossi
Middle School
Special Education Teacher



Jessica Savino
Elementary School
Grade 4 Teacher



Derrick Soellner
High School
Long Term Substitute
Business Education Teacher



Sean Stringer
High School
Crew Custodian



Tiffanie Walk
Elementary School
Grade 4 Teacher



Theresa Wilkinson
Elementary School
PreK-4 Teacher

No Photo Available

Bailey Christine—Jr. High Boys Head Soccer Coach
Murray Fetzer—Varsity Boys Assistant Basketball Coach
Louis Gambardella—Jr. High Boys Head Basketball Coach
Steve Guttoff—Assistant Varsity Football Coach
Adria Jeffery—Head Jr. High Girls Soccer Coach
Jim Klesius—Assistant Girls Tennis Coach
Jacob Krupa—Assistant Jr. High Wrestling Coach

Jim Lang—Assistant Varsity Boys Basketball Coach
Brooke McCreedy—Daycare Paraprofessional
Steve Miksich—Assistant Boys Golf Coach
Heather Waite—Elementary School Crew Custodian
Alan Walls—Assistant Varsity Girls Soccer Coach
Jennifer Woodring—Daycare Paraprofessional

RETIREMENTS

Congratulations and Best Wishes to the following June 2021 retirees:

- James Golden**, TAES Custodian—13.68 Years of Service
- Molly Rivera**, T ASD Social Worker—18 Years of Service
- Donald Stitt**, T ASD Maintenance Technician—21 Years of Service

ADDENDUM: In the Spring 2021 Edition of TyNotes, the retirement of TAES Paraprofessional **Vicki Beckwith** was unintentionally omitted. Vicki retired in August of 2020, with 27 years of service. We sincerely apologize for the omission and wish Vicki a long, happy, and healthy retirement!

SERVICE MILESTONES RECOGNIZED

TASD boasts a hard-working, dedicated staff. At the opening meeting of the 2021-22 school year in August, employees celebrating service milestones were recognized and received pins reflecting their years of service.

5 YEARS OF SERVICE

Peggy Cox
Jill Dale
Dawn Davis
Shannon Davis
Ronda Dodson
Niki Goodwin
Alysia Hommer
Mike Kraft
Brian Leech
Erin McGlynn
Eliza Shoemaker

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Brittany Baker
Barb Snyder

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Kathy Beigle
Carol Fetters
Mike Funicelli
Lauren Garda
Lindsay Miksich
David Persing
David Rutter
Frosty Voyzey

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Joan Bilotto
Robyn Chamberlain
Barb Elder
Wendy Miller
Emily Oakes
Becky Ray
Luke Rhoades
Susan Schultz
Chris Shue

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Shannon Lewis

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Brooke Bock
Heidi Howard



TASD 2021-22 PHONE DIRECTORY

Administrative Offices

701 Clay Avenue / Tyrone, PA 16686

Phone: (814) 684-0710 Fax: (814) 684-8408

Superintendent of Schools Ext. 4123
Dir. of Curriculum & Instruction..... Ext. 4137
Business Administrator..... Ext. 4144
School Psychologist/
Dir. of Special Education Ext. 4120
Buildings & Grounds Administrator... Ext. 4140
Registrar..... Ext. 4138
Tax Office..... Ext. 4128
Transportation Ext. 2702
Food Service Manager Ext. 3727

Tyrone Area Elementary School

601 Clay Avenue / Tyrone, PA 16686

Phone: (814) 684-1342 Fax: (814) 684-2149

Principal Ext. 2701
Assistant Principal Ext. 2701
Dean of Students..... Ext. 2701
School Counselors Ext. 2716/2717
Nurse Ext. 2708
Daycare..... Ext. 2704

Tyrone Area Middle School

1001 Clay Avenue / Tyrone, PA 16686

Phone: (814) 684-4240 Fax: (814) 682-1013

Principal Ext. 3712
Dean of Students..... Ext. 3712
School Counselors Ext. 5226
Nurse Ext. 3710

Tyrone Area High School

1001 Clay Avenue / Tyrone, PA 16686

Phone: (814) 684-4240 Fax: (814) 684-4245

Principal Ext. 3701
Dean of Students/Athletic Director.... Ext. 3708
School Counselors Ext. 3704
Nurse Ext. 3710

DISTRICT SNAPSHOT

District Population—12,437
Current District Enrollment
(PreK-12th Grades)—1,842
Current Kindergarten Class Enrollment—102
Current Senior Class Enrollment—132
Special Education Population—14.32%
Free/Reduced Lunch Participation—48.45%
Teachers Employed—142
Support Staff Employed—97

Administration Employed—11
Budget—\$27,550,210
Budgeted Per Pupil
Expenditure (K-12)—\$14,678
Millage—
6.85 mills (Blair)
46.89 mills (Centre)
25.52 mills (Huntingdon)