



MATAWAN-ABERDEEN CONNECTIONS

CLIFFWOOD NEWSLETTER

August 31, 2025

Important Links

[District School Calendar](#), [School Hours](#), [Cliffwood Morning Music Requests](#)

Cliffwood Family Connections [8/6](#)

Message from Mrs. Cherence, Principal

Adventure Awaits! We are Curious. We are Kind. We are Cliffwood Proud!

Welcome back from summer break! I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful Labor Day weekend with family and friends. Here at Cliffwood, we are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our students and can't wait to see their smiling faces as they begin a brand-new school year with us.

We are excited to kick off a year filled with learning, kindness, and adventure. Let's also remember the importance of building strong habits now—regular attendance and arriving to school on time set the foundation for success and make a big difference in your child's learning journey. School Doors open at 9:10 AM and Close at 9:20 AM.

We cannot wait to see our Cliffwood Lions back in action on Thursday, September 4th and are looking forward to the amazing memories that will be made throughout the 2025–2026 school year.

We Are Cliffwood Proud! ❤️ 🗺️ 📧



Thank You, Teachers & Staff, Custodial Crew!

A big thank you to our amazing teachers, staff, and custodial crew for preparing our building for the school year! The classrooms look incredible thanks to their hard work.

✧ Exciting updates:

- Four **Pre-K classrooms** were freshly painted and fitted with new tile flooring.
- This winter, our **Library/Media Center** will get a makeover with fresh paint and new floors.
- Thanks to **Ms. Thiel, Library/Media Specialist**, and **PTO Book Fair** fundraising, a brand-new **STEAM Lab** is coming!
- Thank you to the **Cliffwood PTO** for planting flowers at our entrance and always making our school feel like a home away from home.



Supply Lists

Supply lists are posted on the [Cliffwood School Website](#) and are organized by grade level.

👉 [Click here to view the supply lists](#)

Important Dates

August 25 – Genesis Parent Portal is Open

- Homeroom teacher assignments are now available.
- Please log into Genesis to view your child's teacher and bus number (if applicable).

- Review this information with your child to help with a smooth first day.

September 3 – Orientation Day- Click [here](#) for letter about Orientation.

- Pre-K Orientation – 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM
- Kindergarten Orientation – 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM
- New Student Orientation (Grades 1–3) - 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (Meet Ms. Giacchi, School Counselor in the Cafeteria, Enter through Door #16)

September 4 – First Day of School

 First Day of School - 9:10 AM

 Early Dismissal at 1:20 PM

September 5 – Early Dismissal

 School dismisses at 1:20 PM

 **Reminder:** Both Thursday (9/4) and Friday (9/5) are early dismissal days. Please plan accordingly.

September 15 – Back to School Night

 6:30–7:30 PM (doors open at 6:15)

Arrival, Dismissal & Parking Procedures

Please read the important [Arrival/Dismissal and Parking Letter](#) to ensure the safety of all students and families.

- **Kiss & Go Line**
- Use designated doors for drop-off/pick-up. Teachers and staff will escort students to dismissal locations.
- **Bus Riders** – Please review your child’s bus number with them. Bus passes are available in Genesis (printing is encouraged).

Cliffwood Elementary School

Dismissal Locations for Pick Up

Dismissal Locations for Pick Up	
Homeroom Teacher (Grade)	Exterior Door Numbers
Oczkowski (PreK), Gilbert (PreK), Thorpe (PreK), Gomez (PreK), Walker (PreK), DaSilva (PreK), Acosta (PreK)	12
Anderson/Terry (K), Maiello (K), Walker (K), Santos, Whelan, Falciglia, Wyman, Royland	16
Petruccio/Jacobson (1), Bottone (1), Saviano (1), Somohano (1), Colaneri (2)	13
L. Pappas (2), Schultz (2), A. Pappas (3), Royston (3), Preiser (3)	14



Additional Parking available at Guisti Park



Summer Packets

Don't forget to hand in summer packets by **September 12th** for a prize! Students can give them to their homeroom teacher.

YMCA Before & After Care

The YMCA will again provide before and after school care at Cliffwood.

Program Information [here](#)

Contact: 732-566-9266

Register early—spots fill quickly, and processing can take time.

Immunization Reminders

Preschool Students: Up-to-date immunization records for ages 3 & 4 + influenza vaccine.

Kindergarten & New Students : Up-to-date vaccinations + updated physical.

Questions? Contact **Nurse Caldwell** at 📞 732-705-5632 or ✉ scaldwell@marsd.org.

Welcome New Staff!

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to our newest members of the Cliffwood family!

Ms. Gabrielle Giacchi- School Counselor

Ms. Nicole DaSilva- PreK Teacher
Ms. Brianna Walker- PreK Teacher
Ms. Amy Royland- Special Education Teacher
Ms. Kyle Terry- K Teacher (Covering Ms. Anderson)
Ms. Amanda Jacobson- First Grade Teacher (Covering Ms. Petruccio)
Ms. Jenn Bauer- Occupational Therapist
Mr. Mike McGowan- Phys Ed./Health Teacher
Mr. David Saraiva- Phys Ed./Health Teacher
Ms. Jillian Werner- Library/Media Specialist (Covering Ms. Thiel)
Ms. Lori Jobin- Instructional Assistant
Ms. Jessica Shornock- Instructional Assistant
Ms. Melanie Schueller- Instructional Assistant
Ms. Lisa Russo- Instructional Assistant
Ms. Laura Jacus- Instructional Assistant
Ms. Sara Soliman- Instructional Assistant

Information about Excused/Unexcused Absences

The New Jersey Department of Education recognizes only six allowable reasons for an "excused" absence; these reasons are listed below.

1. Religious holidays (Each year, the State Board of Education votes on a list of approved religious holidays for observance upon the written request signed by the parent.).
2. Participation in observance of Veterans Day.
3. Participation in district board of election membership activities.
4. Take Our Children to Work Day.
5. College visit(s), up to three days per school year for students in grades 11 and 12.
6. Closure of a busing school district that prevents a student from having transportation to the receiving school.

Being present and on-time to school each day is extremely important for students' success and well-being. School attendance is a powerful predictor of student outcomes; data shows that, when students are present daily, they learn better and are generally healthier. **Attendance matters and every school day counts!**

Cliffwood PTO NEWS

Dates to Keep in Mind

9/3- PreK Orientation 9:30 AM
9/3- Kindergarten Orientation 10:30 AM
9/4- First Day of School



9/4- Early Dismissal Day-School Dismisses at 1:20 PM

9/5- Early Dismissal Day- School Dismisses at 1:20 PM

9/15- Back to School Night 6:30-7:30 PM (doors open 6:15)

9/17- PTO Meeting 4:00 PM Cliffwood Cafeteria



Matawan-Aberdeen Regional

School District

