



MATAWAN-ABERDEEN CONNECTIONS

CLIFFWOOD NEWSLETTER

September 14, 2025

Important Links

[District School Calendar](#), [School Hours](#), [Cliffwood Morning Music Requests](#), [Breakfast & Lunch Menu](#), [PreK, K & New Student Orientation](#), [Welcome Cliffwood Students & Families 25-26](#)
Cliffwood Family Connections [8/6](#), [8/31](#), [9/7](#)

Message from Mrs. Cherence, Principal

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

Dear Cliffwood Families,
We had such a wonderful first week of school here at Cliffwood! Our students are already walking confidently to their classrooms, learning their schedules, and settling into their routines. A special highlight, our third graders began reciting the Pledge of Allegiance over the loudspeaker, and they are doing an amazing job!

We are also excited to welcome you to **Cliffwood's Back to School Night tomorrow, Monday, September 15th!** Doors open at **6:15 PM**, and our first session begins at **6:30 PM**. Please [Cliffwood Back to School Night](#) for more information.

Our amazing PTO has arranged for a **coffee cart** to be on-site, a little caffeine to get you through the night, with proceeds supporting Cliffwood School.

In addition, be sure to visit the many community organizations that will have tables in the cafeteria, including the **Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Maschio's Breakfast and Lunch Services, SEPAG, MAEF, the Matawan Library**, and more. Free & Reduced Meal Packet forms will also be available.

We look forward to seeing everyone tomorrow night and continuing this great start to the school year together!

We Are Cliffwood Proud! ❤️ 🌐 📧



WELCOME TO CLIFFWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Where Adventure Awaits!



Stay Cliffwood Connected

- [Cliffwood School Website](#)
- Instagram: [@cliffwood_elementary](#)
- Facebook: [Cliffwood School PTO Parent Page](#)

Week of Respect- October 6-10

The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act requires that the week beginning with the first Monday in October of each year be recognized as the Week of Respect in the state of NJ. Students and staff are encouraged to participate in the Week of Respect!

Monday 10/6	Tuesday 10/7	Wednesday 10/8	Thursday 10/9	Friday 10/10
<p>We respect each other's uniqueness!</p> <p>Wear your favorite color</p> 	<p>No Drama, Pajama Day!</p> <p>Wear your favorite <u>school appropriate pajamas to commit to making a comfortable environment for all!</u></p> 	<p>Respect is no sweat!</p> <p>Wear sweatpants and/or sweatshirts</p> 	<p>Team up against bullying!</p> <p>Wear your favorite team jersey or shirt to show that we are all on the same team and we team up against Bullying!</p> 	<p>We show respect to our school!</p> <p>Wear School colors to show unity for our school</p> 

Free & Reduced Breakfast and Lunch Form

The 2025-2026 Meal Applications are to be completed electronically this year. This will be done through Genesis link: [Parent Portal](#).

Families who wish to complete paper applications can request a copy of the application packet. They will also be available at Back To School Night.

Maschio's is our Food Service Company this school year. Below are POC's for your use as needed.

Lauren Dyer, On-Site Director, ldyer@maschiofood.com, 732-705-5326

Sarah Engst, Area Supervisor, sengst@maschiofood.com

Governor's Educator of the Year Program

The Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District is excited to continue our participation in the New Jersey Department of Education's Governor's Educator of the Year (GEOY) Program. This program celebrates outstanding Teachers of the Year and Educational Services Professionals who make a lasting impact on students, families, and our community.

At Cliffwood, we are fortunate to have so many amazing educators who go above and beyond every day. This is your opportunity to nominate and highlight a teacher or educational services professional who has made a difference in your child's life or supported your family.

Nominations are due by **November 28th**. [GEOY Nomination Form](#)

Thank you for helping us recognize the incredible work of our Cliffwood team!



PreK, Kindergarten, & New Student Orientation

Here is the link to the [PreK, K & New Student Orientation](#) Presentation

Welcome Cliffwood Students & Families

[Welcome Cliffwood Students & Families 25-26](#)

Social Worker at the Matawan Public Library

The Matawan Aberdeen Public Library has hired a Social Worker to supplement its already robust services provided to the residents of Matawan, Aberdeen, and surrounding communities.

James DiLorenzo, a licensed social worker and Monmouth County resident, has 10 years of social work experience assisting individuals of all ages and circumstances. Specifically, James has a background in school-based social work and recognizes that families and students have non-academic-related needs that impact students' overall functioning at school, which may fall outside the scope of the school staff to address. While he does not offer direct mental health therapy, James is available to connect families with various community-based organizations and can support them in following up to ensure their needs are met.

James' hours are Mondays and Wednesdays, 4-8pm (walk-ins are welcome), Thursdays, 4-8pm (by appointment), and two Saturdays a month from 10am-2pm. More information regarding the library's

social work services can be found at www.mapl.org/socialwork or by calling the library at 732-583-9100.

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.

MOST Program- Free tutoring/mentoring program for students Grades 2-12

MOST Program Registration Link

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EOqD6eBioUGeRaY4BtJEdJgk6jIUxFk6o4TxGkZIVg/edit?usp=sharing>

M.O.S.T.

Mentoring Our Students Together



The Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District is proud to announce the return of the M.O.S.T. program to the Matawan-Aberdeen Middle School.

Students in Grades 2-12 within the MARSD will have the opportunity to work with certified staff members and dedicated community members as we work to Mentor Our Students Together.

M.O.S.T. will be held on Tuesday & Wednesday afternoons from 3:00pm to 6:00pm in the Matawan Aberdeen Middle School Cafeteria

There will be a mandatory Parent Meeting during the first week of the program.

October	21, 22, 28, 29	November	4, 11, 12, 18, 19
December	2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17	January	6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28
February	3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25	March	10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25
April	7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29	May	5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20

[Click Here to Register](#)

Attention High School Students...

If you are interested in volunteering and serving as a mentor please complete the [2025-2026 Mentor Form](#)

For additional information please call the **MRHS Information Desk** at 732-705-5200 or via email at mrhsinfo@marsd.org or Daphne Ramcheran @ 732-567-0036

Breakfast & Lunch Menus

September 2025

Cliffwood ES

Breakfast

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1  Labor Day			4  • Cinnamon Oat Muffin Flat	5 • Bagel with Cream Cheese
8 • The Right Start Bento	9 • Mini Cinnamon Stuffed Bagel Stick	10 • Yogurt & Fruit Parfait	11 • Pancake Bites	12 • Assorted Small Muffin • Graham Crackers
15 • Mini Banana Loaf	16 • French Toast Bite Bento Box	17 • Bagel with Cream Cheese	18 • Assorted Small Muffin • Mozzarella String Cheese	19 • Apple Cinnamon Muffin Flat • Vanilla Yogurt
22 • Mini Banana Loaf	23  Rosh Hashanah	24  Rosh Hashanah	25 • Pancake Bites	26 • Mini Strawberry Stuffed Bagel Stick
29 • Mini Apple Bites	30 • Mini Cinnamon Crumb Loaf			

*Menu is Subject to Change



MASCHIO'S IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER.



QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?
Please call us at (973) 598-0005 to speak to one of Maschio's Registered Dietitian Nutritionists.

FOLLOW US:
@MASCHIOFOOD





Healthy meals grow

healthy kids!

Swap Outs-Elementary Breakfast: Assorted Cereal Bar with Graham Crackers , Assorted Cereal with Graham Crackers , Assorted Pop Tarts with Graham Crackers , Bagel with Cream Cheese

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 ★HAPPY★ LABOR DAY Labor Day	2	3	4 Welcome Back! • Seasoned Cheese Quesadilla • Local Street Corn	5 Pizza Day • NY Style Bella's Pizza • Freshly Prepared Maschio's House Salad
8 • Meatball Parm Hero • Panko Crusted Green Beans	9 • Twin Beef Tacos with Shredded Cheddar Cheese, Lettuce, Tomatoes and Onions • Fire Roasted Corn	10 • Grilled BBQ Chicken Sandwich • Maple Cinnamon Carrots	11 Breakfast for Lunch • Fluffy Buttermilk Pancakes • Juicy Breakfast Sausages • Breakfast Potatoes	12 Pizza Day • Personal Cheese Pizza • Freshly Prepared Cucumber and Tomato Salad
15 • Grilled Chicken Snack Wrap • Seasoned Sweet Potato Fries	16 Breakfast for Lunch • Sausage, Egg & Cheese on a Bagel • Crunchy Hash Browns	17 Pasta Day • Spaghetti with Meat Sauce • Fresh Dinner Roll • Roasted Garlic Broccoli	18 National Cheeseburger Day • Rodeo Burger on a Bun • BBQ Baked Beans	19 • Twisted Cheesy Breadsticks with Marinara Sauce • Freshly Prepared Caesar Salad
22 • Three Cheese Cavatappi • Freshly Prepared Maschio's House Salad • Parmesan Roasted Squash	23 Rosh Hashanah	24 Rosh Hashanah	25 • Fluffy French Toast Slices • Juicy Breakfast Sausage • Crunchy Hash Browns • Baked Cinnamon Apples	26 • Mini Mozzarella Cheese Calzones with Marinara Sauce • Freshly Prepared Maschio's House Salad
29 National Pretzel Day • Turkey Ham and Cheese Melt on a Pretzel Bun • Sweet Potato Waffle Fries	30 • Chicken Fajita Bowl • Seasoned Black Beans			

*Menu is Subject to Change

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Swap Outs-Elementary: Muffin Bag Meal , Bagel Bag with Cheese , Chicken Nuggets with Fresh Dinner Roll , WW Cheese Pizza 4x6, Nardones

Information about Excused/Unexcused Absences



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

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

Mum Pick-Up 9/25 4-6 PM

Dates to Keep in Mind

- 9/15- Back to School Night 6:30-7:30 PM (doors open 6:15)
- 9/17- PTO Meeting 4:00 PM Cliffwood Cafeteria
- 9/23-Rosh Hashanah School Closed
- 9/24- Rosh Hashanah School Closed
- 9/25- Mum Fundraiser Pick-Up 4-6 PM
- 9/30 Cliffwood Family Dinner at Texas Roadhouse 4-8 PM
- 10/6-10/10- Week of Respect Spirit Wear Week
- 10/15- Color Run



Matawan-Aberdeen Regional
School District



