



Matawan Regional High School

"Home of the Huskies"

Weekly Newsletter 2025-2026

MRHS Weekly Updates

December 8, 2025

Greetings Huskies:

I wanted to take a moment to thank everyone that came out to support our incredibly talented Thespians this past weekend at the Fall Drama. Our students and staff go above and beyond for each production but none of this would be possible without our Director, Ms. Linda Walling. Ms. Walling is a lifetime Husky from the MRHS Class of 1970. Ms. Walling began working at the high school in 1976 and has been a fixture in the hallways for over 50 years. This weekend I had the distinct honor of recognizing Ms. Walling for her service and dedication to the students of Matawan Regional High School by announcing that, effective immediately, the 100 wing of our building will now be known as ***"The Walling Wing for Performing Arts."*** Please join me in congratulating this true Matawan Husky. Thank you Linda for all that you do!!!

We are looking forward to our [Parent-Teacher Conferences](#) this week!!! Conferences will take place on Thursday, December 11th from 5:30pm-8:30pm and Friday, December 12th from 12:15pm-2:04pm. The portal will close for scheduling on Wednesday, December 10th. If you are unable to schedule an appointment, please reach out to your child's teacher or school counselor/case manager to make alternate arrangements.

The December [Weekly Tutorial Schedule](#) for students has been posted. Students participating in our tutorial program are eligible for the late bus. Students should get a pass from their teacher and head to the main lobby following the tutorial session. The last bus will depart campus at approximately 4:15pm.

Don't forget to check out the [MRHS HuskyTV YouTube Channel](#) for our daily/ weekly announcements in The Scoop and The Spork.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Wells
Principal





Distracted Driving Awareness Week

The week of December 8th will be dedicated to distracted driving awareness week. In order to draw attention to this very important topic, the MRHS Civic Leaders and SADD members will be displaying 19 posters around the school, due to the 19 lost lives from Monmouth County, during 2025. They will also be encouraging students to sign their "Who Do You Drive Safe For?" banner during their cafeteria periods. Each morning, there will be a Scoop/Spork segment featuring a total of 19 reasons why we should drive distraction free. Finally, there will be a week long spirit week to help start discussions about the importance of driving distracted free.

- **Monday - Wear Red: Show Honor for the Lives Lost**
- **Tuesday - Neon Day: Be Seen / Be Safe**
- **Wednesday - Blackout vs Bright Colors: Underclassman - Black (Danger), Upperclassman - Bright (Safety)**
- **Thursday - Jersey Day: Team Up for Safety**
- **Friday - Decades Day: Safe Driving Doesn't Go Out of Style**

Celebrating Alumni Success

Congratulations to MRHS Graduate and Newly Published Author

Matawan Regional High School is proud to celebrate the accomplishments of Class of 2014 graduate Zoe Pantelas, who has officially published her debut novel—a milestone years in the making and rooted in a love of storytelling nurtured right here at MRHS.

In a heartfelt message shared on social media, she credited one of our own, English teacher Maria Ciaravino, for the unwavering guidance that helped turn a passion into a profession:

“Teachers are among God's greatest gifts. Yesterday I got the chance to see and thank the teacher that made all this possible. I'd never be able to say I'm a published author without the love, support, and encouragement of Maria Ciaravino. You never for one second let me wonder if my writing hobby was worth pursuing... Getting to celebrate this triumph with you yesterday was something I'll never forget. Cheers to all the books still to come!”

We are thrilled to see our graduates continue to dream boldly, work hard, and make their mark on the world. Her novel is now available on [Amazon](#).

Please join us in congratulating her on this exciting achievement. We cannot wait to see what stories she brings to life next.

Once a Husky, always a Husky!



Youth Art Showcase - Last Call!!!

Celebrate Young Creativity in Monmouth County

Unframed, a dynamic youth-led arts organization, is partnering with the **Long Branch Arts & Cultural Center** to host its upcoming annual showcase in January 2026. This is an exciting opportunity to celebrate and exhibit the talent and unique voices of young artists across Monmouth County!

JANUARY YOUTH ART EXHIBIT

This youth-led exhibit, organized by Monmouth County high school students, celebrates the creativity and voices of young artists across the county. It welcomes submissions in all visual and creative mediums, including (but not limited to) painting, drawing, graphic design, photography, film, poetry, and other written works.

HOW TO SUBMIT

All submissions must include the following:

- **Images of the Work**
- **Title of Work**
- **Dimensions**
- **Artist Statement** (a brief reflection on your piece)
- **Artist Bio** (a short paragraph about yourself)

Submit all materials via email to:

mfischer@longbranch.org &
charlotterosemathias@gmail.com

Submissions due

December 10th, 2025

All accepted works must be delivered to
the Long Branch Arts & Cultural Center by
December 19th.

UN FRAMED

YOUTH ARTS COLLECTIVE



Civic Leadership - Cookies with Santa

Ready to celebrate the holidays and spread some holiday cheer?

Join the [MRHS Civic Leaders](#) on December 9th at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria of Matawan Regional High School. There will be a variety of baked goods, arts and crafts, and pictures with Santa for everyone to enjoy and build their holiday spirit. It's \$2 to enjoy this experience and all donations are welcome. The money we raise with this event will be put towards gifts for children within the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation so they can experience a magical holiday like all other kids, no matter what they're going through.

YOU ARE INVITED TO

CIVIC LEADERSHIP

Cookies With Santa

* HOLIDAY PARTY FUNDRAISER *

BAKE SALE
PHOTOS WITH SANTA
ARTS & CRAFTS
FACE PAINT
AND MORE!

RAISING MONEY FOR GIFTS FOR
CHILDREN WITH OUR SHARED
SPONSORSHIP WITH THE EMMANUEL
CANCER FOUNDATION
<https://www.emmanuelcancer.org>
DONATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED

DEC 9TH \$2 ENTRY 6-8:30

Matawan Regional High School

SafeNJ App

We are proud to announce our partnership with [STOPit Solutions](#), a nationally recognized leader in school safety and wellness.

Through this partnership, everyone in our school community has access to the STOPit anonymous reporting app – a powerful tool designed to deter and promptly address instances of bullying, school violence, self-harm, and inappropriate behaviors.

With the STOPit app, users can anonymously submit tips, attach photo or video evidence, and privately message school leaders with the necessary information to help everyone involved. In addition, when a student or anyone in our school community needs immediate support, the STOPit app provides direct access to Crisis Text Line. Users can anonymously text with counselors (day or night) until they feel safe and calm.

We encourage everyone in our school community to download the STOPit app.

If you haven't already done so, we kindly urge parents and guardians to download the STOPit app and become familiar with its features. This will not only enable you to guide your children in using the app but will also demonstrate our collective commitment to the safety and wellbeing of our

whole school community. The STOPit app is available on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

The Interact Club's 2nd Annual Coat Drive

AASU/Student Government Community Food Drive

The Season of Giving

The African American Student Union and Student Government are hosting a holiday Food Drive to benefit the **United Methodist Church's local food pantry**.

Students are encouraged to bring in **non-perishable food items** between **November 10th and December 19th**. Drop-off boxes are located in the Main **Lobby**, and items are counted toward the **Battle of the Classes (BOTC)** points for each grade! Let's fill those boxes and support our community!

Monmouth County Shared Time Vocational Program

In-School Presentation – December 9th

On December 9th, representatives from the Monmouth County Shared Time Vocational Program will discuss program options, answer questions, and help students explore potential career paths with the Sophomore class. No registration required as all Sophomores will be invited to attend.

Shared-Time Career & Technical Education Programs

Shared-Time programs give high school students the opportunity to explore a career and technical education (CTE) field while continuing their regular studies at their home high school. Students spend half of their school day at the Career Center in hands-on, industry-focused classes and the other half at their home school completing academic coursework.

Programs span two years and are designed to help students build the skills needed for entry-level employment or further education in their chosen trade or profession. In addition to technical training, students gain valuable workplace readiness skills and may participate in clinical experiences, job shadowing, or structured work-based learning opportunities. Applications are online and will be available shortly. They will be tentatively due April 1st. For more information please visit MCVSD.org.

Program Offerings:

- Applied Mechanical Engineering
- Automotive Technology
- Carpentry
- Commercial Art

- Cosmetology
 - Culinary Arts
 - Dental Assistant
 - Diesel Mechanics
 - Electricity
 - Health Occupations & Nursing
 - HVAC
 - Plumbing & Pipefitting
 - Welding
 - Academy of Law and Public Safety
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Junior Prom - Ticket Sales

Ticket sales for Junior Prom are being held after school during the weeks of 12/8 and 12/15. Any students who completed the google form contract online can stop by room 402 directly after school Monday-Friday. Tickets are \$125.00, cash or checks made out to MHRS SAA. No tickets can be purchased without a completed contract. Please reach out to the Junior Class Advisor, Dr. Naimo, with any questions or concerns: mnaimo@marsd.org

Office of Emergency Management - Student Volunteers

The Aberdeen Township [Office of Emergency Management \(OEM\)](#) is looking for student volunteers. If you are learning more about opportunities please [Click Here](#) and a member from the OEM Team will reach out to you with more information.

Members Needed!!!! Matawan & Aberdeen Fire Departments

The Matawan & Aberdeen Fire Departments are looking for volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a career firefighter or a volunteer please [Click Here](#) to complete the interest survey and a member of the department will reach out to you with additional information.

Any Questions can be directed to Tim Clifton, Department Chief - Borough of Matawan Fire Department

201 Broad Street Matawan, NJ 07747

C 732-522-2291 F 732-231-5300

timcliftonfirechief@gmail.com

Counselor's Corner

Colleges on Campus

The following colleges will be visiting the high school on the following dates and times. Please make sure you sign up to meet with a college representative through your [SchoolLinks](#) account.

- 12/9 New Jersey Institute of Technology 12:20-1:00
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Student Volunteer Opportunities

The Community Volunteer Opportunity Google Classroom has been set up for students looking for volunteer opportunities within the MARSD community. Whether you're looking to fulfill service hours, help our elementary schools, or simply give back, you'll find a variety of listings to sign up to give of your time. Stay connected, stay involved, and together we can make a difference!

- <https://classroom.google.com/c/NzI0MzgyMDU4NDAw>
 - Classroom code: **fcmj6wo**
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Attendance Matters!!!

Student Attendance Guidelines

Daily attendance is essential for the academic success and personal development of high school students. Consistent participation enhances understanding of the curriculum, fosters a sense of community, and develops important skills such as punctuality and responsibility.

Students who attend classes regularly are more likely to complete assignments, perform better academically, and build positive relationships with educators. These connections provide valuable support as students navigate their high school experience. Prioritizing daily attendance is crucial for ensuring that every student has the opportunity to thrive and succeed in their educational journey.

MRHS Attendance Policy

To receive full credit for a high school course, a student is limited to **18 total absences** for full year courses and **9 total absences** for half year/semester based courses.

Excused Absences Include...

- Religious observance ([N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3\(h\)](#))
- College visits (up to 3 days per school year for students in grades 11 and 12)
- "Take Our Children to Work Day"
- Participation in observance of Veterans Day (N.J.S.A. 18A: 36-13.2)
- The closure of a busing district that prevents a student from having transportation to the school
- Participation in district board of election membership activities.

When to Keep your Child Home From School...

- A child with heavy cold symptoms, deep or uncontrollable coughing or significant lack of energy.
- If your child has a fever, keep them home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone without the use of fever-reducing medicines.
- If your child has pain in their ears, throat, head or chest and can not comfortably participate in school activities.
- If your child is vomiting or has diarrhea, they must have neither for 24 hours before they can return to school.

To Report an Absence

Complete the [Attendance Reporting Form](#) or Contact our Attendance Office:
mrhsattendance@marsd.org 732-705-5200

Not sure how many days your child has missed this year?

1. Login to the Genesis Parent Portal using your username and password
2. Click Attendance

The M.O.S.T. Program (Mentoring Our Students Together)

The Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District is proud to announce the return of [The M.O.S.T. Program](#). 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**. **The M.O.S.T.** Program will be held on select Tuesday & Wednesday afternoons from 3:00pm to 6:00pm in the [Matawan Aberdeen Middle School Cafeteria](#).

- [Click Here to Register](#).

2025-2026 Yearbooks on Sale Now!!!

Yearbooks can be purchased now through this link ([Jostens.com](#)). The price will increase as the year progresses. Don't wait! The same link can be used to purchase Student Recognition Ads. Order an ad by 12/14/25 to ensure that it will be included in our yearbook.

Candid Photos for Yearbook

If you would like to send photos taken of activities you do with your students, trips, club activities, etc, to be included in the yearbook, please [use this form](#) to submit photos. Please, no hand gestures in the pics, otherwise they will not be used (even peace signs).

MRHS Athletics

The Winter Athletic Season is underway!!! Come on out to support your Huskies!!! Please check the [Athletics Schedule](#) for up to date information on the fall sports season. We are looking forward to a great fall season.

In order to provide a safe and orderly environment at all athletic events, we ask that you review and adhere to the [Spectator Code of Conduct](#). As a reminder, all guests are expected to:

- Be Respectful & Have Fun
- Signs/ Flags are not permitted in the stands, unless approved by administration
- Artificial noise makers are not permitted - (air horns, cow bells, whistles, etc.)
- Baby powder is NOT permitted as it causes significant health concerns
- Bags & Backpacks are not permitted and are subject to being searched
- There will be no admission after the third quarter. Re-entry will not be permitted.
- Students under the age of 13 should be accompanied by an adult.
- Please keep all the cheers positive, As always, profanity is NOT permitted
 - ***No Names, No Numbers, No Negativity!!!!***



Michael Wells

Michael is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

