



Matawan Regional High School

*"Home of the Huskies"*

Weekly Newsletter 2025-2026

## MRHS Weekly Updates

**March 16, 2026**

Greetings Huskies,

I want to first thank all of our students and staff that responded appropriately during a security event last week. This is why we practice our security drills each month. Unfortunately, there were a number of students that did not follow the expectations outlined for them during this event. We have already begun to address individual students regarding their behavior during this event, and I ask that all parents please reiterate the importance of following staff directions immediately and without question during an emergency. Compliance isn't just about school rules, it is a matter of collective safety.

While we never want to imagine a crisis on our campus, our monthly drills are designed to make our response second nature. When expectations are not met, it compromises the safety of every person in the building. Moving forward, we ask for your partnership in the following ways:

- Remind your student that silence and following protocol allow first responders and staff to manage the situation effectively.
- Reinforce that spreading unverified information or using devices during a security event can create unnecessary panic.

Finally, if your student is feeling anxious following last week's event, our school counselors and support staff are available to speak with them. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school a safe environment for learning.

Sincerely,

**Michael C. Wells**

*Principal*

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# NJGPA

Welcome to **State Testing Season!!!** We will begin with the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment which will be administered to all 11th Grade students this week. Please review the following information if you have not done so already. We will be operating on a 2.5 hour delayed schedule for 9th, 10th and 12th graders from Tuesday-Thursday this week.

- **[Important: NJGPA Testing Schedule \(March 17–19\)](#)**
  - From **Tuesday, March 17, through Thursday, March 19**, all 11th-grade students will participate in the **New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA)**. This state-mandated exam measures graduation readiness in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics and is a critical requirement for the Class of 2027.

To ensure a quiet and focused testing environment for our juniors, the school will operate on a **Delayed Opening schedule** for students in **Grades 9, 10, and 12**.

To accommodate this change, transportation will offer two separate bus runs:

- **Regular AM Run:** For **Grade 11** students only (normal pickup times).
- **Second Run:** For **Grades 9, 10, and 12** will start at approximately **9:45 AM**.

It is essential that all juniors arrive on time and prepared to do their best. We appreciate the cooperation of our families and the support of our underclassmen and seniors in helping our juniors succeed during this important week.

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## Parent-Teacher Conferences

The Parent Portal is opened for conference scheduling and will close on **Tuesday, March 24th**. Please note that on conference days, students will follow the half-day bell schedule and will be dismissed at 11:15am: The [2025-2026 Spring "Parent-Teacher Conferences"](#) are scheduled for:

- **Wednesday, March 25, 2026 - 12:15-2:04pm**
- **Thursday, March 26, 2026 - 5:30pm-8:30pm**

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## MRHS - Spring Musical

Join us as the **Matawan Regional High School Thespians** present **[Leap of Faith](#)**:

- *Thursday, March 19th - 7pm*
- *Friday, March 20th - 7pm*
- *Saturday, March 21st - 7pm*
- *Sunday, March 22nd - 2pm*

Tickets on Sale Now!!!! Please contact Ms. Mackey at [lmackey@marsd.org](mailto:lmackey@marsd.org) for advanced ticket sales. Tickets will also be available at the door. Hope to see you there!!!

**MATAWAN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**  
**PRESENTS**


Director/Producer  
Linda Walling

★

Vocal Director  
Remoh  
Mosley-Aviles

Music Director  
Gerard Wells

★



★

Music by  
Alan Menken

Lyrics by  
Glenn Slater

★

★ Book by Janus Cercone and Warren Leight

LEAP OF FAITH  
Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).  
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

Choreographer  
Njelama Dacas Johnson

Technical Director  
Michael W. Wells II

Costume Designer  
Sandi Prusarczyk

★


Anne Hannah Auditorium  
Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 7:00 PM  
Friday, March 20, 2026 at 7:00 PM  
Saturday March 21, 2026 at 7:00 PM  
Sunday, March 22, 2026 at 2:00 PM  
Advance tickets can be held at door by emailing Ms. Mackey at [lmackey@marsd.org](mailto:lmackey@marsd.org).

Tickets can also be purchased at the door.  
Tickets are \$12.00 for evening performances and \$6.00 for the 2 pm performance.

Scenic Design  
Michael W. Wells II

Lighting Design  
Jessica Amorino

Production Assistant  
Latieffa Mackey



## Clubs & Activities

### ATTENTION FRESHMEN:

We are doing a Class of 2029 apparel fundraiser. [Click here](#) to order- store closes on 3/20. Reach out to [mshalhoub@marsd.org](mailto:mshalhoub@marsd.org) with any questions.

### UNICEF

UNICEF is hosting a "Fun Drive" for local children in need. Please bring any new or gently used books, toys or games to donate to our cause. Donations can be placed in the boxes in the main lobby. The grade with the most donations will earn points for BOTC. The drive ends on 3/20. Thank you for your support!

### Women's Empowerment

Students are invited to attend **The Accomplished Women's Panel** on **March 24th from 8:00–9:30 AM in the auditorium**, sponsored by the **Women's Empowerment Club**. We are excited to once again welcome a group of wonderful speakers and look forward to hearing about their unique journeys and accomplishments. Students who would like to attend should email **Ms. Longo** ([amandalongo@marsd.org](mailto:amandalongo@marsd.org)) to request a pass.

### Yearbooks

There are less than 90 yearbooks left to purchase! Buy your yearbook today while supplies last. Please use [this link](#) to purchase a yearbook.

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## Remember.... Attendance Matters!!!

As a reminder...Students that exceed **18 absences** in a full year course or **9 absences** in a semester class are placed in **Loss of Credit Status** and may be removed from the class, repeat the course over the summer or next school year. Please be sure to check the Parent Portal and reach out to your school counselor or case manager to see if you are eligible for our [Credit Recovery Program](#).

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## MRHS Class of 2026

### Action Required: Graduation Cap & Gown Orders for the Class of 2026

Dear Senior Parents and Guardians,

It is hard to believe, but we are officially entering the home stretch for the Class of 2026! To ensure a smooth path toward the finish line, we are opening the window for graduation regalia orders. This year, Matawan Regional High School has moved to a new online ordering system to streamline the process for our families.

#### Important Order Details

In order to participate in the Commencement Ceremony at the end of the year, all students must have an official cap and gown.

- Deadline: All orders must be submitted by Monday, April 20th.
- Cost: \$40.00 (Includes Cap, Gown, and a "Class of 2026" Tassel).
- Optional: You may purchase an additional tassel during checkout if desired.
- Distribution: All gowns will be shipped directly to the high school and distributed to students following graduation practice.

*Please note.... There will be a \$25 Graduation fee collected at a later date.*

#### How to Order

Please use the link below to complete your purchase and make sure you use the student's first and last name, height, and weight.

- <https://www.buildagrad.com/mrhs>

Thank you for your continued support in making this a memorable year for our seniors. We look forward to celebrating their hard work and achievements with you this spring!

Best regards,  
Michael C. Wells  
Principal  
Matawan Regional High School

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## MRHS Class of 2027 - Senior Portraits

### Attention Class of 2027 Parents, Guardians and Students:

It's hard to believe but before you know it, your child will be a senior! [Senior Portraits for the Class of 2027](#) are scheduled to begin on April 6th in room 611. Students must schedule an appointment to have their Senior Portrait taken. Please see the attached memo regarding how to make an appointment and use the blue link that is listed. Students should have a photo taken whether they want to purchase a photo package or not because the photo will be included in the senior section of the 2026-2027 yearbook. Portraits from other companies cannot be accepted.

Please review the information on the attached document regarding Option 1 and Option 2 so that students know what to wear and expect for their session. No retakes will be done during these days because we want to get as many students photographed as possible.

Time slots will fill up quickly! Don't wait. If you don't see any open time slots, please check back at another time in case more days/times are added. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Kish or Ms. Shalhoub, but if an appointment time needs to be changed, you must contact Normandy Studio directly ([hello@normandystudio.com](mailto:hello@normandystudio.com)).

**KEEP TRACK OF YOUR APPOINTMENT DATE AND TIME. THEY WILL NOT SEND YOU A REMINDER.**

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## 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.



**Need support but not sure where to turn?**  
SafeNJ can help without anyone knowing it's you.  
Keep yourself and your school safe & happy.



**HOW TO USE THE SafeNJ APP:**

- 1. ASK FOR HELP**  
Get help or anonymously report concerns for others.
- 2. CRISIS TEXT LINE**  
Chat for free with a mental health counselor 24/7, privately and safely.
- 3. GET RESOURCES**  
Find clothing, shelter, food, and self-help support for homework, substance abuse, dating, sexuality, and disordered eating.

Download the **SafeNJ** App Today!



Available on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

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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**

## Matawan-Aberdeen Fire Departments - Volunteers Needed!!!

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

# Aberdeen Township Office of Emergency Management - Volunteers Needed!!!

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.

## ABERDEEN OEM VOLUNTEERS STUDENT VOLUNTEERS WANTED

**ARE YOU READY TO STEP UP AND SUPPORT  
ABERDEEN WHEN IT MATTERS MOST—  
WHILE EARNING VOLUNTEER HOURS?**

**JOIN THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT (OEM) STUDENT  
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM!**

### **WHAT YOU'LL DO:**

✓ **SUPPORT COMMUNITY EVENTS**

✓ **ASSIST DURING EMERGENCIES**

✓ **PARTICIPATE IN  
PREPAREDNESS EFFORTS**

✓ **LEND A HAND WHEREVER IT'S  
NEEDED MOST**

**NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!  
TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED.**

**YOUR TIME AND TALENTS CAN HELP MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY**

★ EARN VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

★ LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION FOR COLLEGE & SCHOLARSHIPS.



**IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE CONTACT OEM COORDINATOR**

- 👤 Captain Craig Hausmann
- 📞 732-583-4200 ext. 220
- ✉️ [Craig.hausmann@aberdeennj.org](mailto:Craig.hausmann@aberdeennj.org)



## Husky Touchdown Club 2026 Tricky Tray

**Join Us on Saturday, May 16th**

Join us for the **2nd Annual Husky Touchdown Club Tricky Tray** on **Saturday, May 16th**. The cost for the event is \$40 per person and will be taking place at the VFW 2179 in Port Monmouth.

Interested participants should register by clicking the link below:

- [Tricky Tray Registration](#)

Questions regarding the event can be directed to [huskytouchdown@gmail.com](mailto:huskytouchdown@gmail.com).

Thank you for your support!!!



HUSKY TOUCHDOWN CLUB PRESENTS

# 2nd Annual TRICKY TRAY

Can you come?



Send Money with Zelle®

Scan or your banking app to pay

HT

HUSKY TOUCHDOWN CLUB & NJ



Zelle

\*TABLES OF 10 REGISTRATION CAN EMAIL: HUSKYTOUCHDOWN@GMAIL.COM OR MAILED TO MATAWAN REGIONAL HS 450 ATLANTIC AVE ABERDEEN NJ 07747

TICKET ADMISSION CAN BE PAID BY: \*CASH, CHECK (MADE OUT TO HUSKY TOUCHDOWN CLUB) AND ZELLE

RAFFLE DRAWING 7PM

5PM-10PM

TICKET PRICE \$40

\*INCLUDES A SHEET OF TIER 1 TICKETS COFFEE TEA AND DESSERTS PROVIDED

## MAY 16th 2026

\*BRING YOUR OWN FOOD - CASH BAR NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL

### PORT MONMOUTH VFW 2179

1 VETERANS WAY PORT MONMOUTH NJ 07758

## 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](mailto: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

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## 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.

### Hudl TV – Fan Page

All MRHS Upper Gym athletic events will now be live-streamed – **no subscription needed** – on our Hudl TV fan page:

- <https://fan.hudl.com/usa/nj/aberdeen/organization/1837/matawan-regional-high-school>

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!!!!**

# Attendance Matters.



**I am here.**

BUILDING STRONG CONNECTIONS



**Michael Wells**

Michael is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

