



MATAWAN-ABERDEEN CONNECTIONS

CLIFFWOOD NEWSLETTER

June 21, 2026

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](#), [9/14](#), [9/21](#), [9/28](#), [10/5](#), [10/12](#), [10/19](#), [10/26](#), [11/2](#), [11/9](#), [11/16](#), [11/23](#), [11/30](#), [12/7](#), [12/14](#), [12/21](#), [1/4](#), [1/11](#), [1/18](#), [1/25](#), [2/1](#), [2/8](#), [2/15](#), [2/22](#), [3/1](#), [3/8](#), [3/15](#), [3/22](#), [4/5](#), [4/12](#), [4/19](#), [4/26](#), [5/3](#), [5/10](#), [5/17](#), [5/25](#), [5/31](#), [6/7](#), [6/14](#)

Message from Mrs. Cherence, Principal

A Final Message for the 2025–2026 School Year

What a week, and what an incredible year it has been at Cliffwood School!

As we wrap up the 2025–2026 school year, I want to take a moment to thank our amazing staff, students, families, PTO, and community for making this year so special. It has been truly wonderful celebrating the end of the school year together and reflecting on all that we have accomplished.

One of the greatest joys of being an educator is watching our students grow, and this year was no exception. Our students have grown academically, socially, and emotionally. They have gained confidence, learned new skills, overcome challenges, discovered new interests, and formed friendships that will last for years to come. We are so CLIFFWOOD PROUD of each and every one of them and all they have achieved.

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and father figures in our Cliffwood community. We hope you had a wonderful and relaxing day filled with love and appreciation. Your support, guidance, and encouragement make a lasting difference in the lives of our children, and you are truly valued and celebrated.

While it is always bittersweet to close our doors for the summer, we are excited for what lies ahead. We look forward to reopening in September, refreshed, reenergized, and ready to begin an exciting new chapter as a PreK–5 school!

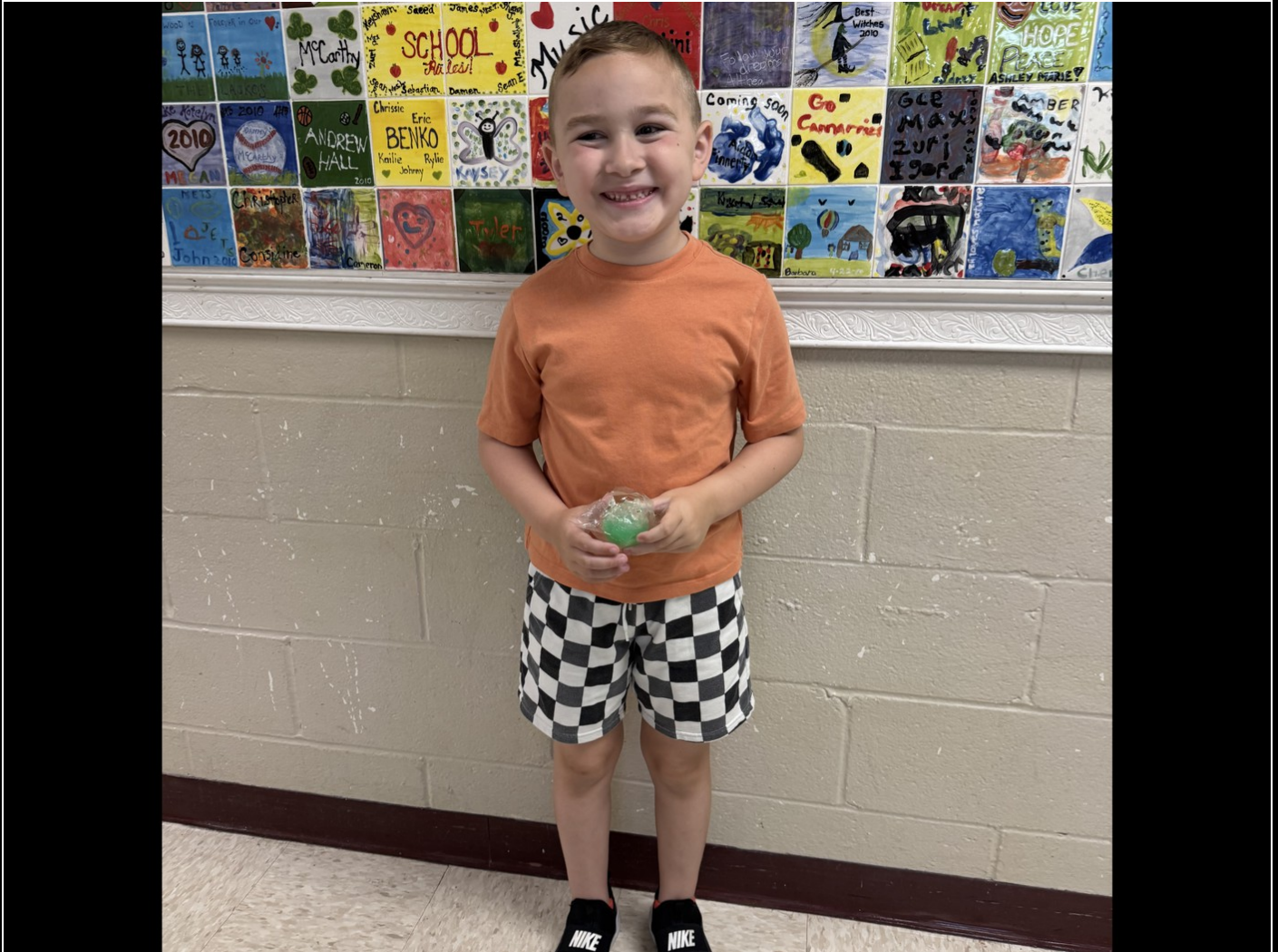
As you enjoy your summer break, be sure to spend time with family and friends, play outside, explore new adventures, and most importantly, keep reading! A good book can take you anywhere.



Thank you for an unforgettable year. Have a safe, relaxing, and fun-filled summer!
Remember, at Cliffwood, we are Curious. We are Kind. We are CLIFFWOOD PROUD!
See you in September!

PAWS Winners





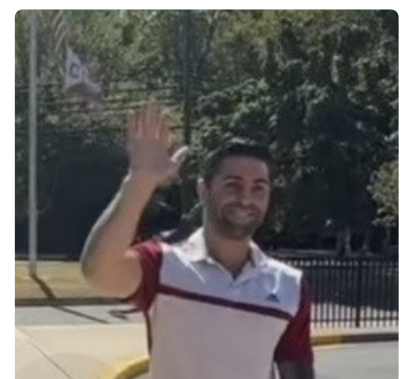
Happy Retirement Ms. Fallon & Mr. Saraiva!



Congratulations to Our MARSD Retirees!

The Cliffwood School community extends its heartfelt congratulations to all of the **2025–2026 Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District** retirees. Thank you for your years of dedicated service, commitment, and unwavering support of our students, families, and schools.

A special congratulations goes to **Ms. Fallon** and **Mr. Saraiva** on their retirement.



Ms. Fallon, most recently serving as the Art Teacher at Cliffwood School, inspired generations of students through creativity, self-expression, and a love of the arts. Her passion for teaching and dedication to her students have left a lasting impression on our school community.

Mr. Saraiva, who served as our Physical Education and Health Teacher this school year, encouraged students to lead healthy, active lifestyles while teaching the importance of teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship.

Working with children is one of the most important and meaningful professions. Each day, educators have the opportunity to inspire, guide, and shape the future. Through your dedication, compassion, and commitment, you have touched countless lives, made a lasting impact on your students, and helped build the leaders of tomorrow.

Thank you for all that you have done for our students, staff, families, and the Cliffwood community. Your contributions will be remembered for years to come, and the positive influence you have had on the lives of children will continue far beyond the classroom.

Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement! We wish you happiness, good health, and many exciting adventures in this next chapter of life.

Thank you for your service. Thank you for your impact. Thank you for helping shape our future.

Cliffwood will always be your home!

Thankful for our Cliffwood PTO!

Thank You, Cliffwood PTO!

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to the Cliffwood PTO for all that you do for our school, students, families, staff, and community. Your dedication, generosity, and countless hours of volunteer service help create amazing events, meaningful experiences, and lasting memories for our Cliffwood Lions.

Today, we were honored to host a PTO Appreciation Breakfast to celebrate and thank our incredible PTO members for their unwavering support throughout the year. Whether organizing family events, supporting school initiatives, fundraising, or volunteering behind the scenes, your efforts make a tremendous difference in the lives of our students and staff.

A special shout-out goes to our amazing Executive Board: **Co-President Kelsey Sobin, Co-President Kristina Acosta, and Treasurer Christina Oczkowski**. Your leadership, commitment, and passion for Cliffwood consistently go above and beyond. We are truly grateful for the time, energy, and heart you pour into making Cliffwood such a special place.

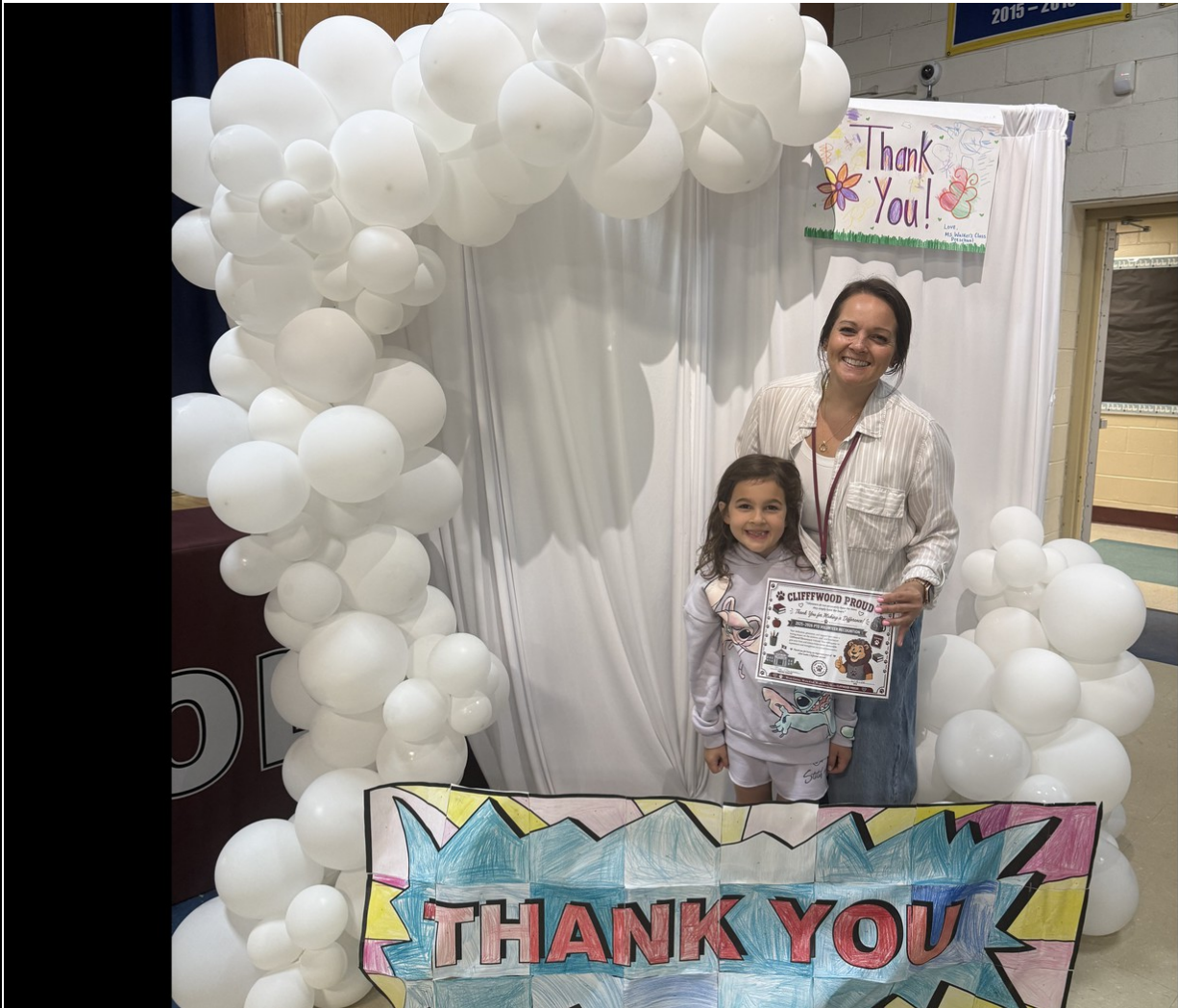
Thank you for your partnership, your dedication, and your endless support. We appreciate you more than words can express and are so proud to have such an outstanding PTO as part of our Cliffwood family!

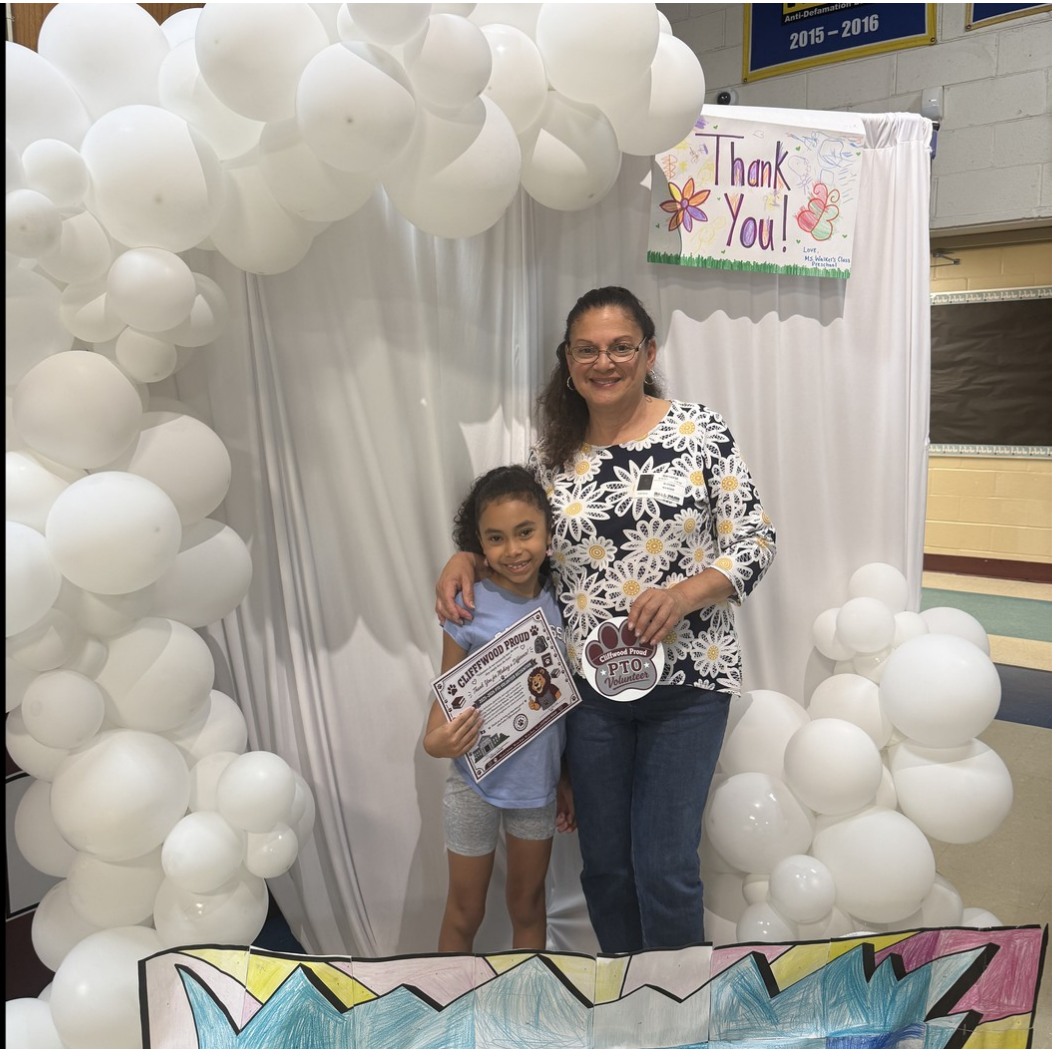


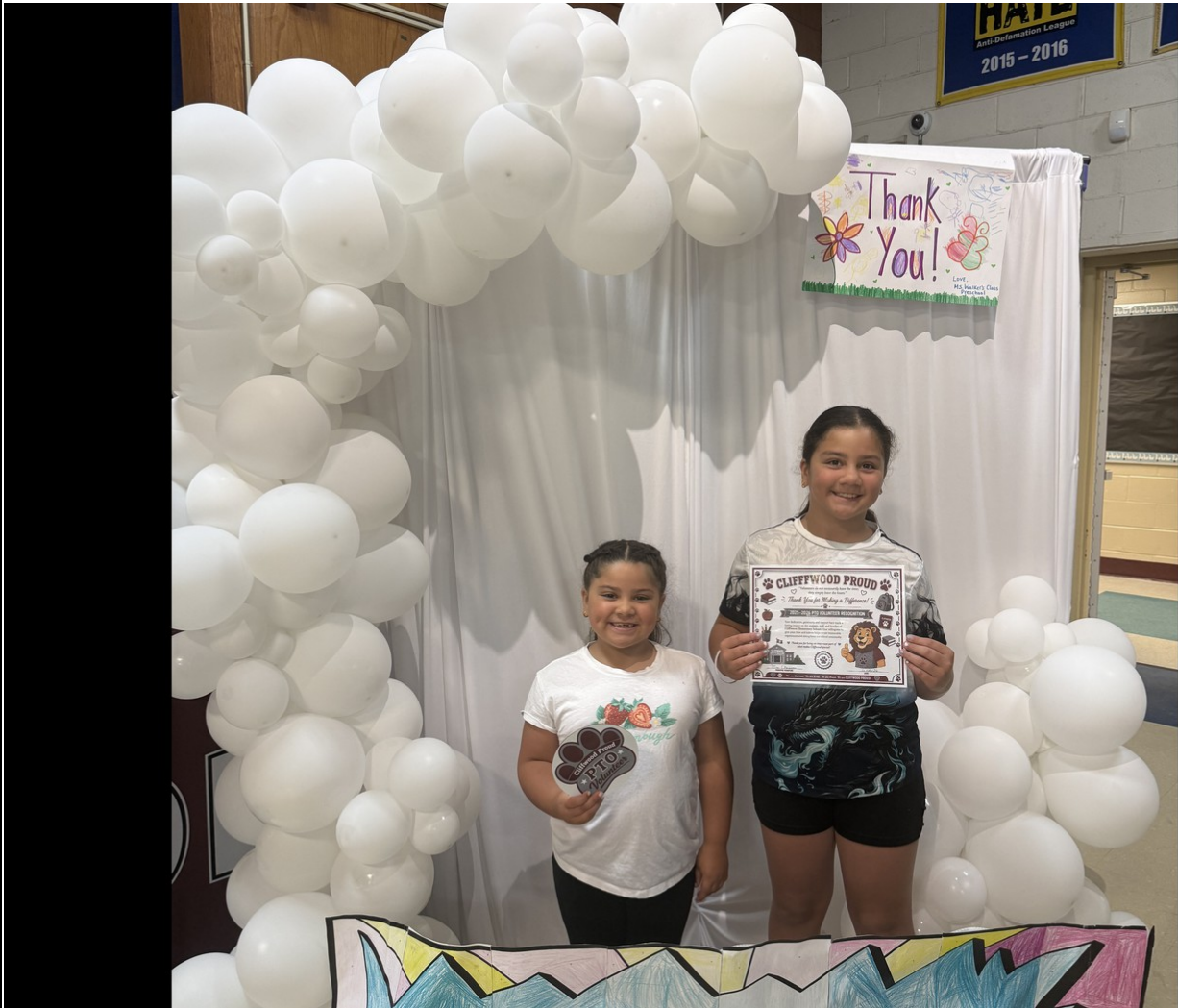
















Kindergarten Celebration





PreK & 2nd Grade Buddies



Our PreK and Kindergarten students loved spending time with their buddies! Buddy activities help younger students build confidence and social skills while giving older students the opportunity to develop leadership, responsibility, and kindness. These special connections strengthen our school community and create meaningful friendships across grade levels.

Summer Reading Resources

For the Summer Reading Together program from Learning Ally, you can find all of the resources on [this page](#).

For easy access, below are the grade-banded packets:

- [Elementary Summer Packet](#)
- [Middle Summer Packet](#)
- [High Summer Packet](#)



Relocating Outside Matawan Aberdeen School District

As the 2025-2026 school year draws to a close, we want to ensure a smooth transition for families who will be relocating outside of the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District. If your family is moving, please complete the [online transfer out form](#) at your earliest convenience and note your student's last day in the district when prompted. Transfer cards will be prepared and available for pickup at the main office no later than June 23 for all requests submitted by June 21.

MARSD 2025-2026 Calendar-Updated

2025-2026 School Calendar

September 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
Total days=17						
October 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Total days=21						
November 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						
Total days=16						
December 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
Total days=17						
January 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Total days=19						
February 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Total days=19						

Marking Periods

1st	Sept. 4, 2025-Nov. 13, 2025
2nd	Nov. 14, 2025-Jan. 30, 2026
3rd	Feb. 2, 2026-April 14, 2026
4th	April 15, 2026-June 23, 2026

MATAWAN- ABERDEEN

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sept. 1	Labor Day
Sept. 2-3	Staff In-service days
Sept. 4-5	First 2 days of school-1/2 day students only
Sept. 23-24	Rosh Hashanah-District closed
Oct. 2	Yom Kippur-District closed
Oct. 13	In-service day -No students
Oct. 31	Early dismissal students/staff
Nov. 5	Early dismissal students/staff
Nov. 6-7	NJEA-District Closed
Nov. 26	Early dismissal students/staff
Nov. 27-28	Thanksgiving-District closed
Dec. 23	Early dismissal students/staff
Dec. 24-Jan. 2	Winter Break-school closed
Jan. 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day-school closed
Feb. 16	President's Day-school closed
March 4	Staff In-service -no students
March 27	Early dismissal students/staff
March 30-April 3	Spring Break-school closed
May 22	Early dismissal students/staff
May 25	Memorial Day-school closed
May 29	1/2 day HS Prom
June 19	Juneteenth-school closed
June 22	Early dismissal -MAMS Graduation
June 23	Early dismissal -last day of school
June 23	HS Graduation at 9:30am

Back To School Nights

HS- 9/10/25 6:30pm-8:30pm
MAMS - 9/9/25 6:00pm-8:00pm
Lloyd Rd- 9/17/25 4th grade at 6:45 pm
5th grade at 5:30 pm
Strathmore- 9/16/2025 6:30pm-7:30pm
Cliffwood- 9/15/25 6:30pm
Ravine Dr- 9/11/2025 6:30pm
Cambridge- 9/18/25 6:30pm-7:30pm

Preschool Trimesters

1st	Sept. 4, 2025-Dec. 8, 2025
2nd	Dec. 9, 2025-March 17, 2026
3rd	March 18, 2026-June 17, 2026

March 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
Total days=19						
April 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
Total days=19						
May 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
Total days=20						
June 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
Total days=16						
Early dismissal Days						
FOR STUDENTS ONLY						
Nov. 14	Pre-K-8 students					
Feb. 2	Pre-K-8 students					
NOTE						
3 extra days have been built into the calendar for emergencies, weather closings etc. For each day not used the district will be closed: 6/23, 6/22 & 6/18 (in this order). If additional emergency days need to be made up, they will be at the discretion of the Superintendent.						

Student total days= 183

Staff total days= 187

Board Approval 2/27/2025

	School Closed
	Early dismissal students and staff

	Professional Development (no school for students)
	First 2 days of school(1/2 day students only)

	Pre-K-8 students ONLY early dismissal
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Revised 3/2/26

MARSD 2026-2027 Calendar-Updated

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!

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

Breakfast & Lunch Menus

June 2026

Cliffwood ES
Breakfast

FRIDAY

5	
12	
19	
 Juneteenth	
26	

Breakfast Served with Choice of: Fresh Fruit , 100% Fruit Juice , 1% White Milk , Fat Free Chocolate Milk , Fat Free White Milk

***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 - Grilled Chicken Club - Emoji Fries	2  - Confetti Pancakes - Juicy Breakfast Sausages - Seasoned Sweet Potato Fries	3 - Pasta with Meatballs and Marinara - Italian Green Beans - Herbed Breadstick	4  - Seasoned Beef Scoop-A-Bowl with Rice, Cheddar Cheese, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Salsa and Tostitos Scoops - Cilantro-Lime Black Beans and Corn	5 - Freshly Baked Pizza Crunchers - Broccoli Italiano
8 - Crispy Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potato Bowl - Freshly Baked Dinner Roll	9 - Emoji Waffles - Juicy Breakfast Sausages - Crispy Tater Tots	10 - Creamy Mac and Cheese - Steamed Broccoli - Soft Pretzel Stick	11 - Seasoned Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla - Fiesta Corn	12 - Mini Pizza Bagels - Farm Fresh Cucumber Coins
15 - Grilled Cheese Sandwich - Fresh Veggie Dippers	16  - Assorted Breakfast - Juicy Breakfast Sausages - Crispy Hash Browns or Crispy Tater Tots	17 - Juicy Cheeseburger on a Bun or Juicy Hamburger on a Bun - Crinkle Cut French Fries	18 - Spaghetti with Meat Sauce - Roasted Parmesan Carrots - Seasoned Garlic Breadstick	19  Juneteenth
22 - Breaded Chicken Nuggets - Mixed Vegetables - Freshly Baked Dinner Roll	23 - Assorted Pizza - Fresh Veggie Dippers	24	25	26
29	30			

Lunch Served with Choice of: Fresh Fruit , Assorted Chilled Fruit , 100% Fruit Juice , Variety of Vegetables from our Harvest Market , 1% White Milk , Fat Free Chocolate Milk , Fat Free White Milk

*Menu is Subject to Change



Maschio's Food Services, Inc.
"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:
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Twitter, Instagram, Facebook icons

Healthy meals grow
healthy kids!

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

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



Dave & Buster's Power Cards Fundraiser

Purchase Dave & Buster's Power Cards Supporting Cliffwood PTO!

<https://www.groupraise.com/offer-campaigns/73297-cliffwood-ptdave-busters-fundraising-campaigns>



Volunteers Needed

The Cliffwood PTO is already planning some exciting events for the rest of the school year, and we'd love YOUR help! Whether you have just a little time to give or want to take on a bigger role, there's a place for you!

By joining a committee, you can:

- Help plan and organize fun events for our students and families
- Lend a hand during events (set up, run activities, or clean up!)
- Share ideas and talents to make our school community even stronger



You can choose your level of involvement-every bit of help makes a big difference!

We're looking to create committees for:

- Winter Festival
- 3rd Grade End of Year Events
- Fun Day

If you're interested in joining a committee or just want to learn more, please fill out our volunteer form or reach out to CliffwoodPTO422@gmail.com

Let's make this year amazing, together!

[Volunteer Interest Form](#)

Box Tops



CLIFFWOOD AVENUE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CLIFFWOOD, NJ



Referral Code: I6D42ILN

Be sure to sign up for Box Tops for Education and scan receipts to earn rewards for Cliffwood School!



Cliffwood Elementary School PTO Membership Form

APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION
Middlesex-Cliffwood Regional School District
Authorized Signature

Come JOIN the PTO for the 2025-2026 School year!

Membership Cost: \$10 per family

Membership dues are considered a donation to the organization and are utilized as a fundraising tool. Annual dues and our fundraising dollars provide the following (and more!): Class trips and busing, classroom supplies, fun day t-shirts, staff appreciation days, assemblies, programs, and family events.

Why join? Joining the PTO can benefit you, your child, your school, and the community.

The PTO needs YOU! Your opinion matters and your presence and support are appreciated. The amount of involvement you have in the PTO is completely up to you! As a member, you have the privilege to potentially hold office, introduce motions, debate, and vote in the decision-making process at monthly meetings. There is no obligation to attend meetings, but we hope you do!

We are Cliffwood Proud and are ready to get the school year started!



zelle

To Join: Fill out form below with payment (\$10) and submit it to your child's teacher in an envelope labeled "PTO Membership"

We accept cash, check (made payable to Cliffwood PTO or Zelle



Parent/Member Name: _____

Email: _____

Contact #: _____

Child #1 Name: _____

Child's Teacher: _____

Child #2 Name: _____

Child #2's Teacher: _____

Child #3 Name: _____

Child #3's Teacher: _____

Child #4 Name: _____

Child #4's Teacher: _____

Email us at CliffwoodPTO422@gmail.com

Dates to Keep in Mind

6/22- Early Dismissal- All students dismissed at 1:20 PM

6/22- Chalk the Walk

6/23- Last Day of School-Early Dismissal (All students dismissed at 1:20 PM)



CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES



Matawan-Aberdeen Regional

School District

