



MATAWAN-ABERDEEN CONNECTIONS

DISTRICT UPDATES

Superintendent's Message

Welcome to the 2026–2027 School Year!

Dear Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Families and Community Members,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year!

On behalf of the Board of Education and our entire staff, I am delighted to welcome you back to another exciting year of learning, growth, and opportunity. Whether your family is joining us for the first time or returning for another school year, we are grateful for the trust you place in us each day to educate, support, and care for your children.

Each new school year offers a fresh start and a chance to build relationships, discover new interests, overcome challenges, and celebrate successes together. We look forward to partnering with you to ensure every child is known, valued, challenged, and inspired to reach their fullest potential.

That shared purpose and commitment is reflected in our district's theme for the year: **We Are ONE. ONE District. ONE Team. EVERY Student.**

"We Are ONE" reflects our belief that the greatest success is achieved when students, families, educators, staff, and our community work together with a shared commitment to student success. Together, we create schools where every child feels safe, supported, respected, and empowered to learn.

A Shared Commitment to School Safety

Creating safe learning environments is our highest priority. Throughout the year, our schools will continue to implement comprehensive safety and security plans, conduct required emergency drills, train staff, and collaborate closely with the Aberdeen Township Police Department, Matawan Police Department, local first responders, and emergency management officials to ensure we are prepared for any situation.

Enclosed with this letter is our [MARSD School Safety Family Readiness Checklist.docx](#), developed to help families better understand our safety procedures and how we can work together before, during, and after emergencies.

The guide explains:

- Why schools conduct emergency drills and what students can expect.
- Common safety responses, including lockdowns, secure school, shelter-in-place, evacuations, and reunification procedures.
- How families can best support emergency operations by waiting for official district communication, avoiding rumors, and following reunification procedures.
- Ways to help children understand safety drills and reduce anxiety.
- A family readiness checklist to ensure emergency contacts and plans remain current.

We encourage every family to review this guide together. When schools and families share a common understanding of safety procedures, we strengthen our ability to protect every child.

Bell-to-Bell Cell Phone Expectations

Beginning this school year, New Jersey's new statewide requirements regarding student personal internet-enabled devices will take effect. Personal cell phones, smartwatches, and similar connected devices will not be used during the instructional day except as permitted by law or district policy. An updated policy with reflected changes will be up for Board approval at our next Board of Education meeting on August 24, 2026.

Research continues to demonstrate that reducing digital distractions improves student engagement, academic achievement, classroom participation, and face-to-face social interaction.

To support these expectations, families can partner with us by:

- Supporting our phone-free learning environment.
- Using the school office for important daytime communication rather than contacting students directly.
- Refraining from asking students to text, call, record, or post during the school day or during emergencies.
- Practicing good cybersecurity habits by protecting passwords, verifying suspicious communications, and safeguarding student information.
- Keeping emergency contacts and authorized pick-up information current.

Your partnership is essential as we work together to create classrooms where students can fully engage in learning without unnecessary distractions.

Strengthening Communication

While safety provides the foundation, our mission extends far beyond it. Every day, our educators are committed to providing engaging instruction, meaningful relationships, innovative learning experiences, and opportunities for every student to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. We also recognize that students thrive when schools and families work together. That's why we're excited to partner with Apptegy to strengthen communication between home and school.

Later this month, you'll receive more information about how to download MARSD's new app-based messaging tool through Apptegy. The app will become your one-stop place to chat directly with teachers, view district news and event updates, access important information, and more. Later this year, we'll also launch a redesigned district website that will complement the new app, making it even easier to stay connected with our schools along with introducing new transportation software with a parent-facing component designed to make transportation information even easier to access.

Shaping Our Future Together

As we begin a new school year, we are also looking ahead to the future of our schools. The Board of Education and administration have begun the early stages of reviewing our long-range facilities needs. As part of that process, the District is exploring whether a potential bond referendum in

2027 may be an appropriate way to fund certain facility improvements. No final project list, cost estimate, financing plan, or referendum question has been determined or approved.

Your voice is an important part of this planning process. We invite all families, staff, and community members to participate in a brief facilities survey to share their priorities and perspectives: [Shaping Our Future Together](#) (English) [Shaping Our Future Together](#) (Spanish). This survey is designed to gather community feedback, not serve as an official vote. The survey will remain open until Friday, September 25.

I encourage everyone to participate and help shape the future of MARSD!

We Are ONE Community

As we begin this new school year, I invite each member of our school community to embrace the spirit of **We Are ONE**.

Together, we will create safe schools.

Together, we will inspire learning.

Together, we will build strong relationships.

Together, we will prepare every student for a bright future.

Thank you for your continued partnership, trust, and unwavering support of the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District.

We look forward to an exceptional school year with each of you. Enjoy the rest of summer!

Dr. Perez

Genesis Information - ACTION REQUIRED

Please review your Guardian Contact information in Genesis within the next two weeks.

To ensure you receive important school and district communications, each Guardian contact must have a **unique email address and/or phone number in Genesis**. Duplicate contact information across multiple Guardian records prevents us from creating individual parent accounts in Apptegy, our new communication tool.

Apptegy will be used for important communications, including:

- Genesis Parent Portal and student homeroom / class assignments
- Delayed opening and school closing notifications
- Other important school and district information

Please log into **Genesis** and review your Guardian Contacts. If the same email address or phone number is listed for multiple guardians, please update the information so that each guardian has unique contact information.

Please complete these updates within the next two weeks to help ensure you do not miss important communications from the district.

WRONG: The same phone number and email addresses are used across Guardian contacts.

CORRECT: Guardian contacts have unique a phone number and email addresses.

Zinnia Wormwood Guardian

Contact Info

Home 555-555-5555 Primary Phone: ☒

Home hwormwood@gmail.com

Home zwormwood@gmail.com

[View Edit](#) [Add New](#)

STUDENTS THAT BELONG TO THIS CONTACT

Name Wormwood, Matilda Mother ☒

[Save Contact](#)

Harry Wormwood Guardian

Contact Info

Home 555-555-5555 Primary Phone: ☒

Home hwormwood@gmail.com

Home zwormwood@gmail.com

[View Edit](#) [Add New](#)

STUDENTS THAT BELONG TO THIS CONTACT

Name Wormwood, Matilda Father ☒

[Save Contact](#)

Zinnia Wormwood Guardian

Contact Info

Home 555-555-5555 Primary Phone: ☒

Home zwormwood@gmail.com

[View Edit](#) [Add New](#)

STUDENTS THAT BELONG TO THIS CONTACT

Name Wormwood, Matilda Mother ☒

[Save Contact](#)

Harry Wormwood Guardian

Contact Info

No phone numbers on file

Home hwormwood@gmail.com

[View Edit](#) [Add New](#)

STUDENTS THAT BELONG TO THIS CONTACT

Name Wormwood, Matilda Father ☒

[Save Contact](#)

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES



Matawan-Aberdeen Regional
School District

