



MATAWAN-ABERDEEN CONNECTIONS

CLIFFWOOD NEWSLETTER

September 1, 2026

Important Links

[District School Calendar](#), [School Hours](#), [Cliffwood Morning Music Requests](#), [Breakfast & Lunch Menu](#)

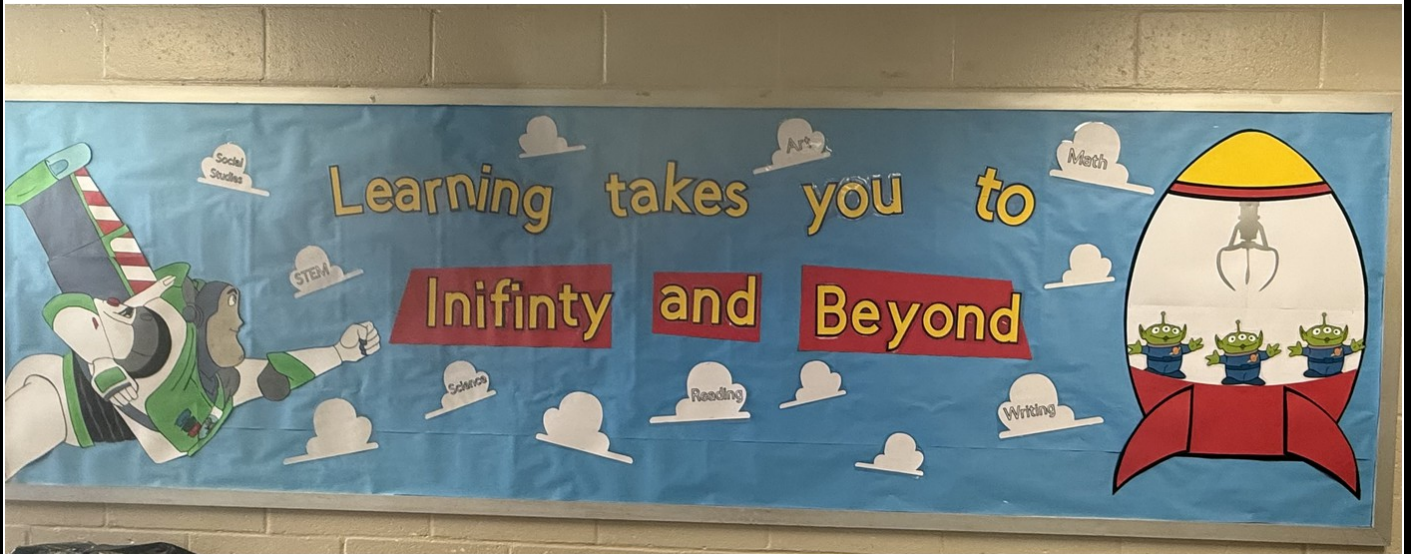
Cliffwood Family Connections- [8/19](#), [8/24](#)

Message from Mrs. Cherence, Principal

The halls of Cliffwood are coming to life, and we are getting SO excited to welcome our students back! Our teachers and staff have been working incredibly hard to prepare their classrooms and create warm, welcoming spaces where our Cliffwood students will feel safe, excited, and ready to learn.

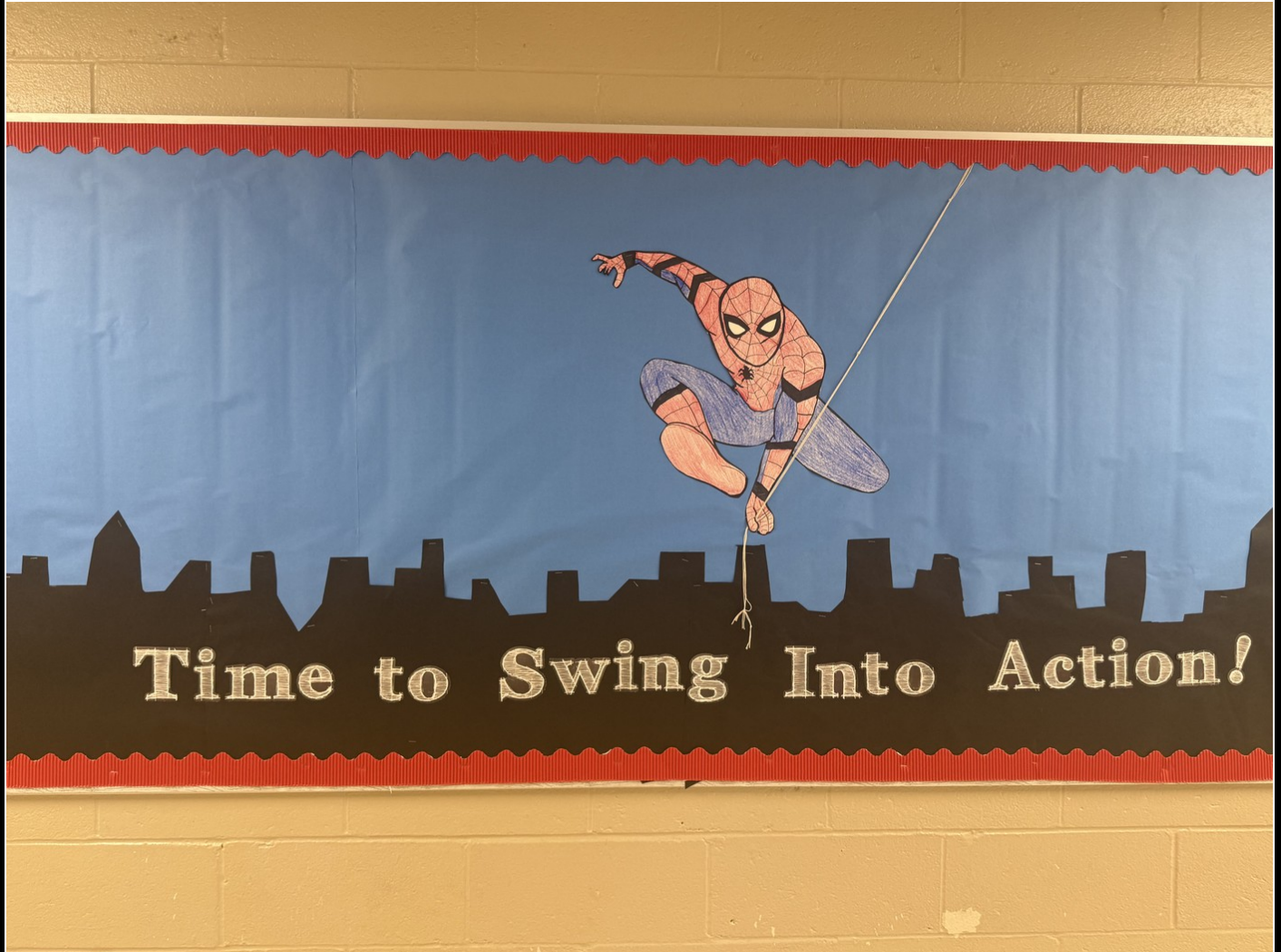
Take a look at some of the beautiful classrooms and bulletin boards that are ready and waiting for our students' work to be proudly displayed! We cannot wait to fill these spaces with the creativity, learning, and accomplishments of our students. We are **Cliffwood Proud!**

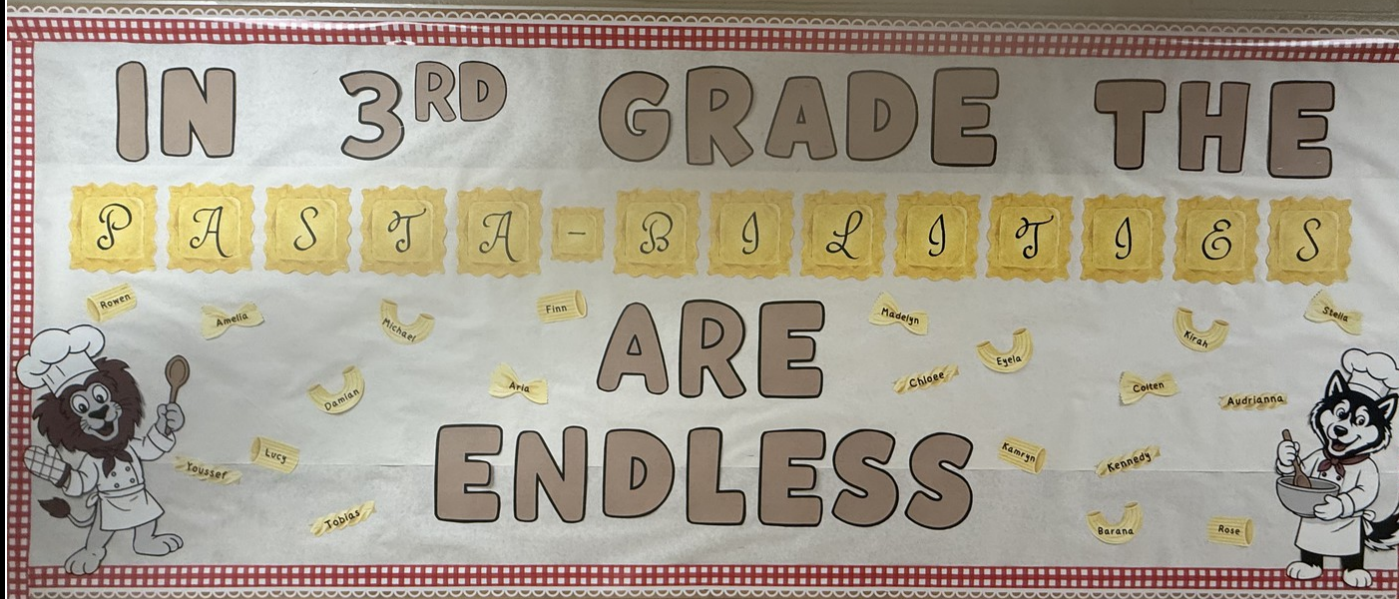














Cliffwood Orientation

Tomorrow is Cliffwood Orientation, and we are so excited to welcome our new families! Families should meet their child's teacher outside on the blacktop. Teachers will greet you there and then bring families into the building for a **school tour**. **Please arrive on time** for your scheduled Orientation session. Once your Orientation session is complete, we kindly ask that you **promptly leave the parking lot** so we can make room for the families arriving for the next session. Thank you for helping us keep the morning running smoothly! If there is inclement weather, families will enter through the main entrance or Door 16, and staff will be available to direct you to the appropriate classrooms.



CLIFFWOOD ORIENTATION!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND

SCHEDULE

🕒 9:00 – 9:45 AM	PK & KINDERGARTEN including Ms. Royland's class
🕒 10:00 – 10:45 AM	GRADES 1 & 2 including Ms. Fisher's class and Ms. Whelan's class
🕒 11:00 – 11:45 AM	GRADES 3, 4 & 5 including Ms. Heuer's class

 Each student should be accompanied by one adult.
Head straight to the classrooms at your scheduled time. 

 **LIMITED PARKING, PLEASE PLAN AHEAD!**
Parking spaces will be limited. 

 **ORIENTATION IS FOR STUDENTS THAT ARE NEW TO CLIFFWOOD SCHOOL.** 

First Day of School

We cannot wait to see all of our Cliffwood students on **Thursday, September 3!**

Please see the pictures below for information about **where your child's homeroom teacher will be greeting students on the first morning of school.**

First-Day Arrival

Thursday, September 3:

- Homeroom teachers will be outside greeting students.
- Please check the pictures below for your child's grade-level arrival location.
- **Doors open at 9:15 AM and close at 9:25 AM.**

Please make every effort to have your child at school on time. Let's start the year by building those great attendance and punctuality habits right from the beginning!

If there is inclement weather on Thursday morning, students will enter through the **main entrance or Door 16**, and staff will be on hand to direct students to their homerooms.

Second-Day Arrival — Friday, September 4

On the second day of school:

- **K–5 students:** Enter through the **main entrance or Door 16**
- **PreK students:** Enter through **Door 16**
- **Bus riders:** Students will be directed off the buses and enter through **Door 2**

Early Dismissal — September 3 & 4

Please remember that **Thursday, September 3 and Friday, September 4 are early dismissal days.**

- **PreK dismissal:** 1:15 PM
- **Grades K–5 dismissal:** 1:25 PM

📌 A Few Reminders for the First Day

Please remember to send your child with:

- A **lunch**, if they are not purchasing one at school
- A **light, healthy snack**
- A **water bottle**

Cliffwood has **two filtered water fountains** where students can refill their water bottles throughout the day as needed.

We are counting down the hours until our halls are filled with the smiles, laughter, and excitement of our Cliffwood students!

We can't wait to welcome everyone back this Thursday! Let's make it an amazing start to the school year!

♥ Welcome back, Cliffwood! We are ready for you! ♥

Cliffwood Proud: Anchored in Greatness

Teacher Location for Arrival at Orientation & First Day of School



School Supplies

Please visit the [Cliffwood School website](#) to view the school supply lists. Once you are on the website, scroll down to **News & Events** and look for the **School Supplies** image.

LLD classes will follow the grade-level supply list.



Dismissal Pick Up Locations

Please read the important [Arrival/Dismissal and Parking Letter](#) to ensure the safety of all students and families.

- **Kiss & Go Line**
- Use designated doors for drop-off/pick-up. Teachers and staff will escort Prek-3rd Grade students to dismissal locations.
- **Bus Riders** – Please review your child's bus number with them. Bus passes are available in Genesis (printing is encouraged).

Older Siblings Dismissing Younger Siblings

We want to clarify our dismissal procedures, particularly for families who have children in multiple grade levels.

It was recently brought to our attention that some students in grades K–3 have dismissal forms indicating that they are permitted to dismiss themselves. We are asking all families to please review their child's dismissal information in Genesis and make sure that all information is accurate.

Older Siblings Dismissing Younger Siblings

Students in grades 4 and 5 who are not riding the bus may dismiss themselves through the main doors at Cliffwood School.

If your 4th or 5th grade student will be dismissing a younger sibling in grades K–3, there must be two appropriate forms completed in Genesis:

1. A form indicating that the 4th/5th grade student is permitted to dismiss their younger sibling.
2. A form indicating that the younger sibling is permitted to be dismissed to their older 4th/5th grade sibling.

Your child's homeroom teacher will also check with you to confirm that the appropriate forms have been completed in Genesis.

Please note that PreK students may not be dismissed to an older sibling. PreK also has a different dismissal time.

How Older Siblings Will Pick Up Younger Siblings

If your 4th or 5th grade student is picking up a younger sibling at dismissal, the older student will:

- Dismiss through the main doors, just like other 4th and 5th grade students who are walking home.
- Walk outside to the designated exterior dismissal door.
- Meet their younger sibling there, following the same procedure that an adult would follow when picking up a student.

For safety and to maintain an orderly dismissal, please do not request that your 4th or 5th grade student go to the younger child's classroom to pick them up or leave through the same door as their younger sibling. We understand that this may seem more convenient, but following one consistent dismissal procedure is extremely important for student safety and supervision.

Authorized Pickup Information

Please take a moment to review your child's information in **Genesis** and make sure your authorized pickup information is correct.

If a person is **not listed as an authorized pickup person**, your child cannot be released to that individual.

If an adult is picking up a student **before regular dismissal**, they must present a valid photo ID. Students will not be released to an adult who is not listed as an authorized pickup person.

Early Pickup

To help us maintain a safe and orderly dismissal, please remember our early pickup cutoff times:

- **PreK:** Students cannot be picked up early after **3:05 PM**
- **Grades K–5:** Students cannot be picked up early after **3:25 PM**

After these times, students are already leaving their classrooms and moving to different dismissal locations throughout the building. Attempting to pull students from classrooms at this point creates significant confusion and makes it more difficult for us to safely account for every student. We truly appreciate your patience, cooperation, and understanding as we work to make dismissal as safe, smooth, and organized as possible.

Student safety is always our number one priority. Thank you for partnering with us and helping us establish clear and consistent dismissal routines for all of our Cliffwood students! ♥

Cliffwood Elementary School

Dismissal Locations for Pick Up

Dismissal Locations for Pick Up	
Homeroom Teacher (Grade)	Exterior Door Numbers
Oczkowski (PreK), Gilbert (PreK), Thorpe (PreK)	12
Anderson (K), Maiello (K), Walker (K), Whelan, Royland	16
Petrucchio(1), Saviano (1), Somohano (1), Colaneri (2), Fischer	13
Santos (2), Fiedler (2), Pappas (3), Schultz (3), Gritzek (3)	14
4th & 5th Graders-With signed form they can dismiss their younger siblings.	Main Door





Bus Information & Bus Safety Reminders

When Genesis opens on August 25th, families will be able to access their child's bus pass and schedule. Please continue checking bus information until the night before school starts, as routes, stops, and times may be adjusted while Transportation finalizes schedules and accommodates late registrations.

If your child or children are eligible for busing, but will not need transportation this year, please opt out by completing the link below.

[Transportation Waiver](#)

Thank you.



BUS INFORMATION

IMPORTANT REMINDERS



Bus passes/schedules will be available when Genesis opens. Please continue checking your child's bus pass up until the night before school starts for possible changes.



The bus will stop approximately **10 feet** from the students. Students should wait until the bus is fully stopped and then walk single file to the bus doors.



If crossing the street, look both ways and make sure the bus is fully stopped with its **red flashing lights** activated before crossing.



Always cross in front of the bus, **never** behind it.



If something is dropped while getting on or off the bus, **do not bend down to pick it up** while the bus is there. Alert the driver, as the driver may not be able to see you.



Please be respectful of other people's property while waiting at the bus stop.



No eating or drinking on the bus.



Cell phones should remain put away while on the bus.



THANK YOU FOR HELPING US KEEP OUR STUDENTS SAFE!

Cliffwood School Hours

2026-2027 SCHOOL HOURS

Building	Doors Open	End of Student day	2 hour delay	Early Dismissal
MRHS	7:05 am	2:04 pm	9:05 am	11:15 am
MAMS	8:10 am	2:33 pm	10:10 am	12:10 pm
LR	8:55 am	3:20 pm	10:55 am	1:05 pm
RD	8:55 am	3:20 pm	10:55 am	1:05 pm
ST	9:15 am	3:40 pm	11:15 am	1:25 pm
CL	9:15 am	3:40 pm	11:15 am	1:25 pm

Building PreK ONLY	PreK Student arrival/PreK Student day begins	End of PreK Student day	2 hour delay	Early Dismissal
RD	8:55am	2:55pm	10:55 am	12:55 pm
ST	9:15am	3:15pm	11:15 am	1:15 pm
CL	9:15am	3:15pm	11:15 am	1:15 pm
CP	9:15am	3:15pm	11:15 am	1:15 pm
Lightbridge	9:15am	3:15pm	11:15 am	1:15 pm

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.



MARSD 2026-2027 District Calendar

Tuesday-6/15/27
Wednesday- 6/16/27
Thursday-6/17/27
Monday-6/21/27
Tuesday- 6/22/27
Wednesday-6/23/27

Shaping Our Future Together

Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District

We want to hear from you!

MARSD is evaluating school facility needs and considering a future bond referendum. Your feedback will help guide planning and identify community priorities.

Scan to take the Community Survey!



Survey closes September 25

Stay Cliffwood Connected

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

Free & Reduced Breakfast and Lunch Form

The 202-2027 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.

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

Sarah Engst, Area Supervisor, sengst@maschiofood.com

Breakfast & Lunch Menus

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1 No School	2 No School	3 • Sausage, Egg & Cheese on an English Muffin	4 • Fluffy Buttermilk Pancakes with Berry Infused Maple Drizzle
7 No School	8 • Egg and Cheese on a Bagel	9 • Savory Egg and Cheese Stuffed Hash Brown Patty	10 • Cheesy Omelet with Fluffy French Toast Slice	11 • Golden Crisp Waffles with Apple Cinnamon Maple Drizzle
14 • Mini French Toast	15 • Mini Cinnamon Waffles	16 • Sausage, Egg, and Cheese on a Bun	17 • Confetti Pancakes	18 • Egg and Cheese on a Croissant
21 • Mini Maple Waffles	22 • Savory Egg and Cheese Stuffed Hash Brown Patty	23 • Bacon, Egg and Cheese on a Bun	24 • Mini French Toast	25 • Apple Frudel
28 • Mini Maple Pancakes	29 • Mini Cinnis	30 • Sausage, Egg & Cheese on a Croissant		

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

September 2026

Cliffwood ES
Lunch

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1 No School	2 No School	3 Welcome Back! • Grilled Cheese Sandwich • Fresh Crisp Carrots and Celery Sticks	4 Pizza Day • Stuffed Crust Pizza • Freshly Prepared Caesar Salad
7 No School Happy Labor Day	8 Breakfast for Lunch • Fluffy Buttermilk Pancake • Juicy Breakfast Sausages • Crispy Tater Tots or	9 Welcome Back BBQ • Juicy Hamburger on a Bun or Juicy Cheeseburger on a Bun • BBQ Baked Beans NEW MENU ITEM! • Cool Tropics-Blue Raspberry 100% Juice Slush	10 • Pasta Alfredo with Chicken & Broccoli • Seasoned Garlic Breadstick	11 Pizza Day • NY Style Bella's Pizza • Freshly Prepared Maschio's House Salad
14 • Breaded Chicken Tenders • Mixed Vegetables • Freshly Baked Dinner Roll	15 TACO DAY! • Fiesta Seasoned Beef Taco Rice Bowl • Cilantro-Lime Black Beans and Corn	16 Pasta Day • Pasta with Meatballs and Marinara • Italian Green Beans • Herbed Breadstick	17 Breakfast for Lunch • Emoji Waffle • Juicy Breakfast Sausage • Emoji Fries	18 Pizza Day • French Bread Pizza • Freshly Prepared Spring Mix Salad
21 No School	22 Breakfast for Lunch • Fluffy French Toast Sticks • Juicy Breakfast Sausage • Crispy Tater Tots	23 Mac & Cheese DAY! • Creamy Mac and Cheese • Mini Soft Pretzel Nuggets • Roasted Vegetable Medley	24 • Crispy Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potato Bowl • Warm Cinnamon Apples	25 Pizza Day • Twisted Cheesy Breadsticks with Marinara Sauce • Freshly Prepared Cucumber and Tomato Salad
28 • Crispy Chicken Sandwich • Maple Cinnamon Seasoned Sweet Potato Waffle Fries	29 Grilled Cheese Day! • Ciabatta Grilled Cheese Sandwich • Sliced Cucumber Coins	30 Breakfast for Lunch • Confetti Pancakes • Juicy Breakfast Sausage • Mini Hash Browns		

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 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 <i>healthy kids!</i>
---	---	--	--	--

Swap Outs-Elementary: Muffin Bag Meal , Bagel Bag with Cheese , Maschio's Chicken Nuggets with Freshly Baked Dinner Roll , WW Cheese Pizza 4x6, Nardones , Ham and Cheese Sandwich

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. Layout & Design © Nutrislice, Inc. Printed on 9/1/2026 at 3:03 pm .

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!**

Welcome Back, Cliffwood Families!

A brand-new school year is here, and the Cliffwood Elementary PTO is so excited to welcome all of our students, families, teachers, and staff back to school!



We hope everyone had a wonderful summer and is ready for a year filled with fun, friendship, school spirit, and lots of memories!

Our PTO is looking forward to working together with our Cliffwood families to make this school year extra special for our children. Throughout the year, we'll be planning fun events, supporting our teachers and staff, organizing fundraisers, and finding new ways to give back to our school community. Your support is very much appreciated ❤️

We are so excited for everything this year has in store! Let's make it a wonderful year for our Cliffwood students, teachers, staff, and families. 🤝❤️

Welcome back, Cliffwood! 📚🍏

Here's to a fantastic 2026–2027 school year!



CLIFFWOOD AVENUE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CLIFFWOOD, NJ



Referral Code: I6D42ILN

Dates to Keep in Mind

8/25- Student Schedules posted on Genesis

9/2- Orientation

9/3- First Day of School!

9/3- Early Dismissal Day (PreK Dismissal at 1:15 & K-5 Dismissal at 1:25)

9/4- Early Dismissal (PreK Dismissal at 1:15 & K-5 Dismissal at 1:25)

9/4- PTO Meet & Greet 2:00 at the playground

9/7- School Closed- Labor Day

9/17- Back to School Night

9/21- School Closed- Yom Kippur



CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES



Matawan-Aberdeen Regional
School District

