



# KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Committed to Excellence*

Mr. Jason Schimpf  
School Business Administrator

Dr. James J. Lavender  
Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Patricia Calandro  
Assistant Superintendent

September 17, 2024

Dear School Community,

With the 2024-25 school year now in full swing, I am pleased to share that we have had a fantastic start. This week, we are delighted to welcome our parents to our Annual Back to School Nights. Today, I am also pleased to share with you the latest [Superintendent's News & Notes](#) and the [September Board Brief](#).

On behalf of our Board of Education, faculty, and staff, I wish all of our students a successful and rewarding year ahead.

### **Kingsway Welcomes Back 2950 Students**

School Officials are happy to announce that our students have returned to school and are quickly getting into a routine. Back to School Nights are scheduled for **September 18 (High School)** and **September 19 (Middle School)** and we look forward to introducing our staff and programs to our parents. Enjoy this brief [Welcome Back Video](#), which captures highlights from our first day.



### **Jaclyn Dopke Joins Kingsway's Board of Education**

We are excited to introduce **Jaclyn Dopke**, our newest member of the Kingsway Regional Board of Education. As a Woolwich Township resident, Jaclyn's extensive experience in public education and her dedication to community service will be a significant asset to our district's growth and success. Her role is crucial, and we are excited to have her on board, knowing that she will be a strong advocate for the needs of our students and the district, ensuring their voices are well represented within our broader community.

In her role as a Board member, Jaclyn will work alongside the other nine members to represent the interests of our community, including citizens, taxpayers, and parents, to our school administrators. The Board of Education plays a crucial role in setting the vision and policies for our schools, which directly impact the quality of education our students receive. Jaclyn will be a strong advocate for the needs of our students and the district.

### **Learn More about the Board of Education**

All parents and residents are invited to our Board of Education meetings. Your questions, comments, and suggestions are not just welcomed, but they are crucial as we work together to shape the future of our schools. Your active participation in these meetings is a direct way to influence the decisions that affect our students and our community. Meetings take place at 6:30 pm in the high school East Cafeteria. Click [here to learn more about the Board of Education](#) and meeting dates.

*Home of the Dragons*

### 18th Annual Dragon Run 5K and 1 Mile Walk Registration Now Open

[Registration](#) for the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Dragon Run on September 28, 2024, is now available at [naterocksheaven.org](http://naterocksheaven.org).

### Board of Education Installs Student Representatives Nikhil Banga & Ksena Brudnicki-Maher

The Board of Education recognizes the experience gained by and input from our students is a valued source of improving the operation of the school district. To this end, the Board annually appoints student representatives to serve as non-voting members. On Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Education installed seniors **Nikhil Banga & Ksena Brudnicki-Maher** as the Student Representatives of the Board of Education. Congratulations to our 2024-25 Student Representatives.

- **Ksena Brudnicki-Maher** is currently a senior at Kingsway and has been part of the Student Council since her freshman year. She is eager to start her position as a student representative to the Board of Education and plans to take full advantage of the opportunity. She channels leadership in every situation, whether leading as captain on the court or field or being a voice for her friends when they can't find their own, which she hopes to continue throughout her term.
- **Nikhil Banga** is a senior at Kingsway Regional High School and is honored to serve as the Student Representative on the Board of Education for the 2024-2025 school year. Throughout his high school career, Nikhil has dedicated countless hours to the Executive Board of the Student Council, striving to create a meaningful and enjoyable experience for every student. He has previously served as a grade-level representative and managed the Student Council website. This year, [Nikhil was elected President of the New Jersey Association of Student Councils](#), where he collaborates with student leaders from across the state to organize conventions and provide resources to foster student leadership.

### The Board of Education Welcomes New Staff

As we embark on a new school year, the Kingsway Board of Education is thrilled to introduce and welcome our newest faculty and staff members to the team. These talented individuals bring a wealth of knowledge, experience, and passion to our school community, and we are confident they will play an integral role in supporting our students' success. Please join us in welcoming them as they help us continue our mission of providing an exceptional educational experience for all.

### Kingsway's Safety & Security Plan

Kingsway continues to be committed to ensuring a safe and secure school environment. As we prepare for the new school year, we are sharing information regarding our safety & security plan. The "I Love U Guys" Foundation's [Standard Response Protocol \(SRP\)](#) Please take a moment to review the clear common



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language we will utilize to respond to emergencies. You can also review [The Standard Response Protocol 2023 K12 \(SRP\) Manual](#) for additional information.

### Student Chromebooks: Expectations for the 2023-24 School Year

Our 1:1 Chromebook initiative supports student learning in and outside of the classroom. The district-issued device is part of each student's necessary classroom supplies, similar to a pencil, book, or paper. All students are expected to attend **every class, every day** prepared with a **fully charged, district-issued Chromebook** with the charging cord. We highly recommend designating a location in your home for the device to charge at night and to be easily placed in the student's backpack in the morning. Establishing this routine from "Day 1" is critical. [Click here for more information related to our Chromebook expectations.](#)

### Chromebook Insurance – Act Now!

Parents have until November 1st to obtain our optional Chromebook insurance for their child's device. After this date, you will no longer be eligible to sign up for insurance until the next school year. This optional coverage is a great way to protect against any potential damage. For more details, visit the following link: <https://www.krsd.org/departments/technology/11-chromebook-insurance>.

### Policy Updates

The Board of Education has amended and/or adopted several policies. To read more about these updates, please go to the [Board Briefs for School Year 2024-25](#) page. All [POLICIES & REGULATIONS] can be viewed on our website [HERE](#). School employees are obligated to read each policy/regulation carefully and ensure they are up-to-date with any changes.

### Look Ahead/Important Dates

Please update your calendars to include the following key dates... For more, click on the District's [2024-25 School Calendar](#) or the [Athletics & Activities Calendar](#).

- September 18 – High School Back to School Night
- September 19 – Middle School Back to School Night
- September 24 – Team Scholastics Freshmen Orientation
- September 26 – College Application Virtual Information Session, 6:30 pm
- September 28 – 18th Annual Dragon Run / Swedesboro-Woolwich Day
- October 3 – Financial Aid Virtual Information Session, 6:30 pm
- October 7-11 – Middle School Book Fair
- October 9 – Senior Class Picture during S.M.A.R.T.
- October 10 – Makeup Picture Day, Grades 9-11
- October 14-18 – High School Spirit Week
- October 14 – Staff In-service, No School for Students
- October 17 – Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 pm
- October 18 – Homecoming Football Game vs. Washington Twp., 6:00 pm
- October 19 – Homecoming Dance, 6:00 pm
- November 2 – KEF 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Craft Show

### You May Have Missed....



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- [Celebrate Students' Academic Honors from College Board's National Recognition Program](#)  
We are excited to highlight our students' exceptional achievements and the significance of these honors in showcasing their academic prowess. We are immensely proud of their accomplishments and the recognition they have received.
- [Kingsway Introduces Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Playbook](#)  
This comprehensive playbook offers invaluable guidance and a wealth of resources to enhance our collective AI Literacy, empowering us to support student learning better and streamline educator workflows.
- [Kingsway's Armed Service Veterans Honored with Quilts of Valor](#)
- [Kingsway's Navy JROTC Promotional Video](#)
- [Kingsway Ranked Among Best High Schools in South Jersey](#)  
Kingsway is the highest-ranked high school in Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland, and Cape May Counties (U.S. News & World Report).
- [Kingsway is Named to the College Board's AP District Honor Roll](#)  
With more than twenty Advanced Placement (AP) offerings.
- [Kingsway Partners with Care Solace Removing Barriers to Mental Health Access](#)  
Kingsway recently announced a partnership with Care Solace to support our ongoing commitment to removing barriers to access to mental health services.

Thank you for your attention to this announcement. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,



Dr. James J. Lavender  
Superintendent of Schools



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