



# 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

November 26, 2024

Dear School Community,

Today, I am sharing my [Superintendent's News and Notes](#) and [November Board Brief](#). Should you have any questions regarding the information transmitted, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

As we approach the *Thanksgiving holiday*, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the many things for which we are grateful at Kingsway Regional School District. This time of year offers an opportunity to express our sincere thanks for the unwavering support of our school community — from our dedicated staff and hardworking students to our families and community partners. Together, we have created an environment where all of our students can thrive, grow, and seize the opportunities ahead.



I am incredibly thankful for the privilege of working alongside such a committed group of individuals, and I look forward to the continued success and achievements of our students.

As we celebrate this season of gratitude, we remind our families to tune into the [105th Annual 6abc Thanksgiving Day Parade in Philadelphia](#) to cheer on *Kingsway's exceptionally talented Marching Band* as they march in this exciting tradition.

Wishing you all a wonderful and restful Thanksgiving!

### **Honoring Spotlight Students for November**

We were pleased to honor the following students during this month's Board of Education meeting. To view the photos, click [HERE](#).

- **Middle School Students** (Team) – Zachary Duer (K), Mackenzie Booker (I), Ryan Leap & Tommy Connell (N), Alyssa Cetkowski (G), Lauren Fitch (S), Lia Henson (W), Carlena Streitfeld (A), Utah Watson (Y)
- **High School Students** (Grade) – Gabriel McLaughlin (9), Nadia Esan (10), Rita Sheets (11), Kaitlin Weil (12)

### **Seniors of the Month for November**

Congratulations to Seniors of the Month, *Ava DiBonaventura & Nikhil Banga*.

*Home of the Dragons*



**Kingsway Welcomes New Staff**

Members of the Board of Education welcomed **Holly Bornstein (MS Paraprofessional)**, and **Chelsea Pfahl (HS Special Education Teacher)** as our newest Dragons during the October Board Meeting.

**Kingsway Celebrates Excellence at This Year’s NHS Induction Ceremony!**

This year, we welcomed a record 168 new inductees alongside 159 returning members, celebrating their achievements and bright futures. These students exemplify the values of leadership, learning, and character, standing as tomorrow’s leaders and compassionate citizens. [Watch the journey unfold in our exclusive video!](#)

**Scholar Athletes Celebrated for Continuing Athletics as Scholarship Athletes After High School**

The following students participated in our **Annual National Signing Day Ceremony** as scholar-athletes who have accepted an Athletic Scholarship to play a sport in College/University. The following students are *Softball*: Jessa Pieters (Towson Univ.), Hannah Weismer (Univ. of Virginia), Olivia Sciulli (Drexel); *Field Hockey*: Erin Callahan (Univ. of Maryland), Grace Hunter (Univ. of Michigan), Karlie Mertz (Saint Joseph’s Univ.); *Volleyball*: Mackenzie Layton (Holy Family Univ.), Sarah Elliot (McKendree Univ.); *Lacrosse*: Haley Brown (Marquette Univ.), Brielle Bucs (Wilmington Univ.); *Baseball*: Dylan Rickards (Wilmington Univ.), Dylan Potero (Wilmington Univ.)

**Quilts of Valor Honorees Celebrated at 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Program**

Representatives from the *South Jersey Quilts of Valor Foundation* participated in [Kingsway’s 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Breakfast](#) on Friday, November 15, 2024, to bestow upon Kingsway employees who have served in the United States Armed Services a hand-made quilt. Honored this year, were **Bus Driver Henry Olinsky (U.S. Army)** and **School Resource Officer Billy Franklin (U.S. Marine Corps)**. Kingsway’s [Navy JROTC Cadets](#), Middle School Choir, Band, Student Council Members, and the [Woolwich VFW Post 10886](#) also participated this year. Watch video highlights from our [4<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Program](#).



On behalf of our faculty, staff, and students, thank you, veterans, for your service to our country, and thank you for the example you set for all of us.

**Kingsway Recognized as Gloucester County’s Best High School by NJ.com**

Kingsway Regional High School has been [recognized as the top high school in Gloucester County](#), according to a recent NJ.com article published on September 5, 2024. In addition to this local accolade, Kingsway has been ranked among the Best High Schools in the Nation for the 2023- 2024 school year by U.S. News & World Report, the premier authority on school rankings. To read more, Click [#KingswayBest](#)

**Enrollment in Advanced Placement (AP) Courses on the Rise at Kingsway**

We are excited to share that participation in Advanced Placement (AP) courses at Kingsway is continuing to grow. ([Kingsway’s Commitment to AP Course Drives 37% Growth in Enrollment.](#)) In the 2022-23 school year, 1,375 seats were filled in AP courses, and for the 2024-25 school year, that number has climbed to 2,183—representing a 37% increase. Registration for AP exams has also risen, from 627 in 2023-24 to 913 currently, a 16% increase.



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This growth reflects Kingsway's commitment to offering opportunities for students to challenge themselves with rigorous coursework. We have also become increasingly skilled at identifying students with the potential to excel, who might not have otherwise considered enrolling in an AP course.

A special thank you to our school leaders, counselors, teachers, and everyone involved in the AP Roundtable. Your efforts have made a meaningful impact, and we look forward to continuing this upward trajectory. Watch our informational video about [Kingsway's Advanced Placement Courses](#).



### Join Us This Giving Tuesday – December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Mark your calendars for December 3<sup>rd</sup> as we kick off our *United Way Giving Campaign* in conjunction with Giving Tuesday, a global day dedicated to generosity and making a difference. This is your



opportunity to support meaningful initiatives that directly benefit our school community.

Through the United Way, you can designate contributions to the [Kingsway Education Foundation \(KEF\)](#), amplifying the impact of your generosity. We encourage staff and community members alike to participate. For those with employers who match charitable contributions or

participate in the campaign, this is a wonderful chance to maximize your support for KEF. Stay tuned for more details, and let's come together to make a lasting difference!

### 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. Below is a summary of policies/regulations that have been revised or abolished.

### 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](#).

- November 27: Early Dismissal for Students and Staff
- November 28-29: Thanksgiving Recess
- November 28: Marching Band at Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade
- December 3: Join Us This [Giving Tuesday!](#)
- December 5-7: HS Play, [Lost in Yonkers](#)
- December 16-20: HS Winter Spirit Week
- December 19: Board of Education Meeting



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- December 20: HS Winter Pep Rally
- December 23 – January 1: Winter Recess
- January 2: School Reopens

### **Kingsway's Class of 1969 Celebrates 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion**

The Class of 1969 holds a special place in Kingsway's history as the first group to start in 7th grade and graduate through all grades at Kingsway Regional High School. With approximately 120 students in their graduating class, they recently reunited to reminisce about their school days and reignite their Dragon Pride.



*Class of 1969 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion*

### **You May Have Missed....**

- [Kingsway's Commitment to AP Courses Drives 37% Growth in Enrollment](#)

Kingsway Regional School District is proud to announce a significant increase in student participation in [Advanced Placement \(AP\) courses](#) and exams. For the 2024-25 school year, AP course enrollment has climbed to 2,183 seats, representing a 37% increase from the 1,375 seats filled during the 2022-23 school year. Additionally, AP exam registrations have risen by 46%, from 627 in 2022-23 to 913 this year.

- [Kingsway Recognized as Gloucester County's Best High School by NJ.com](#)

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- [Quilts of Valor Honorees Celebrated at 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Program](#)

Representatives from the South Jersey Quilts of Valor Foundation participated in Kingsway's 4th Annual Veterans Day Breakfast on Friday, November 15, 2024, to bestow upon Kingsway employees who have served in the United States Armed Services a hand-made quilt. Honored this year, were Bus Driver Henry Olinsky (U.S. Army) and School Resource Officer Billy Franklin (U.S. Marine Corps). Kingsway's Navy JROTC Cadets, Middle School Choir, Band, Student Council Members, and the Woolwich VFW Post 10886 also participated this year.

- [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.



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- [Kingsway Offers More than 20 Advanced Placement \(AP\) Courses](#)
- [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

JJL/sv



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