



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

December 20, 2024

As we prepare to celebrate the holiday season, I'm pleased to share my [Superintendent's News & Notes](#), along with the [December Board Brief](#). If you have any questions about the information provided, please don't hesitate to reach out.

This season offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the many blessings we share as a community. At Kingsway Regional School District, we are truly grateful for the unwavering support of our families, the dedication of our talented staff, the enthusiasm of our hardworking students, and the partnerships that make our schools stronger. Together, we create an environment where every student can thrive, grow, and achieve.

As we embrace this season of joy and giving, I'd like to extend my warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a joyous holiday season to all. May this time bring you peace, happiness, and cherished moments with loved ones.

To help spread some holiday cheer, let [Kingsway's Choir](#) get you into the festive spirit with its outstanding performances of traditional holiday music.

Wishing you all a joyous, peaceful, and restful holiday season!

Honoring Spotlight Students for December

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) – Trysta Tetrick (K), August Lin (I), Emma Moughan (N), Addison Hoover (G), William Henry (S), Grace Pham (W), Morgan Healy & Nicholas DiBello (A), Kelsey Oebbecke (Y)
- **High School Students** (Grade) – Giuliana Pizzichillo (9), Karlie Tomforde (10), Madeleine Gallagher (11), Juan Calderon (12)

Seniors of the Month for December

Congratulations to Seniors of the Month, **Julianna Jones & Colin McCourt**.

Kingsway Celebrates November's Spotlight Teacher

Kingsway celebrated Middle School Teacher of Language Arts **Mary Fiordimondo**.



Home of the Dragons

School Officials Commend “Commended Students” in the 2025 Merit Scholarship Program

The principal, Stefanie Fox-Manno, of the Kingsway Regional School District, announced today that **Daniel Houck, Evan Frederick, Natalie Ficarra, and Kai Tolley** had been named *Commended Students in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program*. A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®), which conducts the program, will be presented by the principal to these scholastically talented seniors.

Kingsway Celebrates Outstanding Music Program

Kingsway’s music program continues to excel, showcasing the incredible talent of our students and staff. This winter’s concert series highlighted outstanding performances from our Middle and High School instrumental and choir programs. Notable achievements include the High School Choir’s debut National Anthem performance at Hollydell Ice Arena’s Thanksgiving Eve hockey game and 11 students earning spots in the Junior and Senior High All-South Jersey Chorus, with senior **Yulia Bidula** (#2), freshman **Cecelia Wilson** (#3), junior **Landyn Pollard** (#6), senior **Grace Palladinetti** (#7) and freshman **Isaiah Olabode** (#10) placing in the top 10 of their sections.

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Junior **Luke Blatt** made history as the first Kingsway student to advance to the All-State Jazz level, performing alongside the state’s top jazz musicians. Additionally, three band students—**Maya Jaiswal** (Flute), **Caleb Ackley** (Clarinet), and **Ryan Rittershausen** (Trombone)—secured spots in the All-South Jersey Symphonic Band and will represent Kingsway in a concert at Rowan University on January 12th. These accomplishments reflect the hard work of our student musicians and the dedication of our music educators. Congratulations to all for continuing to make Kingsway proud!

Celebrating Excellence: Three Seniors Achieve the Prestigious Eagle Scout Rank!

School officials, in partnership with *Boy Scouts Troop 7059 of East Greenwich Township*, proudly celebrate the remarkable achievement of three best friends—**Devin Soffy, Robert “Bobby” Rittershausen, and Anthony Barone**—members of the Kingsway Regional High School Class of 2025—who have recently earned the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. This esteemed honor, achieved by only 4 percent of Scouts nationwide, stands as a testament to their unwavering dedication, exceptional hard work, and commitment to serving their community.

Kingsway’s Birbilis Signs National Letter of Intent with Monmouth University

Kingsway Regional High School is proud to celebrate **Blake Birbilis**, who signed his National Letter of Intent on December 4th to join Monmouth University as a member of the 2025 football recruiting class. Blake continues the tradition of excellence showcased during last month’s Annual National Signing Day Ceremony, where 15 of Kingsway’s scholar-athletes celebrated their commitment to collegiate sports across a variety of disciplines, including softball, field hockey, volleyball, lacrosse, and baseball. Blake’s achievements on and off the field reflect Kingsway’s strong legacy of scholar-athletes excelling at the next level. Congratulations to Blake on this significant milestone, and best wishes as he takes the next step in his athletic and academic journey at Monmouth University!



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Kingsway's Bjanes Wins Woolwich Twp. Water Tower Design

The Kingsway Regional School District is proud to celebrate Christine Bjanes, a valued member of our staff, and High School Art Teacher, for winning [Woolwich Township's Water Tower Design Competition!](#) The contest invited the community to create a logo for the new water tower on Pancoast Road, and the response was incredible. Among 33 residents and over 50 unique submissions, Christine's stunning design captured the hearts of the community, earning over 500 votes out of more than 1,200 cast. The water tower, being constructed by Aqua New Jersey, will support the upcoming development near Kings Highway and Route 322. Christine's design has been slightly adjusted to fit the tower perfectly. Congratulations to Christine on this remarkable achievement, and thank you to all who participated in this creative endeavor!



Interested in One of Kingsway's Select Academy or Cohort Programs?

Kingsway offers a range of exceptional programs designed to cater to the unique interests of our students. This is a reminder that applications for Kingsway's special programs—[Team Scholastics](#), [JROTC](#), [BLA](#), and [STEM](#)—are due by **Friday, December 20**.

The 2025-26 School Calendar Has Been Approved!

We are pleased to announce that the [2025-2026 School Calendar](#) has been approved, and it is now available for viewing on our website under the 'Calendars' section."

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](#).

- December 20 – High School Winter Pep Rally
- December 22 – January 1 – Winter Recess. School is closed to students.
- December 23 – Staff Inservice
- January 2 – School Reopens; HS Blood Drive
- January 2 – Board of Education Reorganization Meeting
- January 7 – Alumni Sharing Event (Juniors and Seniors)
- January 9 – [Virtual Information Session: School of Health Professions](#)
- January 16 – High School Cabaret
- June 17 – Advanced Credit and Electives Fair (during S.M.A.R.T.)
- January 18 – BLA & STEM Academy Entrance Exams
- January 20 – School Closed to Students and Staff in observance MLK Day.
- January 23 – Board of Education Meeting



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- February 6 – [Virtual Information Session: NCAA](#)

You May Have Missed....

- [Kingsway Celebrates Excellence at This Year’s NHS Induction Ceremony!](#)

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.

- [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](#)

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.

- [Quilts of Valor Honorees Celebrated at 4th 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.

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



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- [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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