



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*

January 7, 2025

Happy New Year! I'm excited to welcome our students back after the winter recess, diving into academic, athletic, and extracurricular activities with enthusiasm. Wishing you all a healthy, happy, and prosperous new year!

As we start the year, I'd like to share a few important updates. On Thursday, January 2, the Board of Education held its annual reorganization meeting. During this session, reelected Board members took the oath of office to begin their new terms, and the [2025-2026 School Calendar](#) was officially approved.

See below for additional information!

Board of Education Members and Leadership

The Kingsway Regional Board of Education consists of nine members elected by the residents of East Greenwich, Woolwich, South Harrison, and Swedesboro. Additionally, the Logan Township Board of Education appoints a tenth member to Kingsway's Board annually.

We extend our congratulations to **Apryl Palazzo** (East Greenwich Twp.), **Michele Blair** (Woolwich Twp.), **Marilyn O'Rourke-Young** (Woolwich Twp.), and **Kristen Lombardo** (Logan Twp.) on their re-election to the Board of Education.

Furthermore, we congratulate **Jennifer Cavallaro-Fromm** (Swedesboro) on her re-appointment as President of the Board of Education and **Lauren Boerlin** (East Greenwich Twp.) on her appointment as Vice President. These leadership appointments are made annually.

Purpose of the Board of Education and Meeting Dates

The Board has a dual role: To represent the concerns of the citizens, taxpayers, and parents to the school administrators and to represent the needs of the students and school district to the citizens, taxpayers, and parents of the community. The Board's required functions are policy oversight, educational planning, and provision of financial resources. We encourage our parents and residents to attend Board of Education meetings to raise questions, comment, and offer suggestions during the public portion of the agenda. All meetings are held at 6:30 pm in the high school East Cafeteria. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the Board of Education and meeting dates.

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."

Emergency Closings – Weather Alerts

In the event that schools are closed on a school day due to inclement weather, a decision will be made in each instance as to who is expected to report to work. For additional information regarding school closings, please click the [Emergency Closings](#) tab under school calendars. The information on this page

Home of the Dragons



should answer most questions about a school closing, but at any time you have a question, please contact the Superintendent's office at (856) 467-4600, ext. 4205, or lavenderj@krsd.us.

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](#).

- January 7 – Alumni Sharing Event (Juniors and Seniors)
- January 9 – [Virtual Information Session: School of Health Professions](#)
- January 16 – High School Cabaret
- January 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/Staff; MLK Jr. Day
- January 23 – Board of Education Meeting
- February 3 – Semester 1 Ends
- February 6 – [Virtual Information Session: NCAA](#)
- February 17 – School Closed to Students/Staff; President's Day

You May Have Missed....

- [“Commended Students” in the 2025 Merit Scholarship Program](#)
Daniel Houck, Evan Frederick, Natalie Ficarra, and Kai Tolley have been named Commended Students in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program.
- [Three Seniors Achieve the Prestigious Eagle Scout Rank!](#)
Celebrating the remarkable achievement of three best friends—Seniors *Devin Soffy*, *Robert “Bobby” Rittershausen*, and *Anthony Barone*.
- [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.



Commitment to Excellence

- [**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**](#)
- [**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
JLL/svv



Commitment to Excellence