



# 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 25, 2025

We've had an exciting start to the year, and I'm thrilled to share some of the latest updates and accomplishments from around the district. In this edition of my **Superintendent's News & Notes** and the **January Board Brief**, you'll find highlights of recent events, important announcements, and upcoming initiatives.

As always, should you have any questions or need further clarification about the information shared, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly.



Thank you for your continued support, and enjoy reading the latest updates!

## **Honoring Spotlight Students for January**

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) – Ryan Phillips & Rajay Pryce (K), Sierra Lane (I), Edward Voll (N), Byron Ramsay (G), Jackson Meli (S), Luke Gilliland (W), Max Kadelski (A), Madeline Hnosko
- **High School Students** (Grade) – Marc-Eli Magnet (9), Autumn Herring (10), Thelma Reed (11), Laney Thorp (12)

## **Seniors of the Month for January**

Congratulations to Seniors of the Month, **Sophia Counsellor**, and **Teddy Oberg**.

## **Kingsway Celebrates January's Spotlight Teacher**

Kingsway celebrated Middle School Teacher of Language Arts **Mairin Schramm**

## **Kingsway Names Nick Rothwein as New Head Girls' Lacrosse Coach**

The Kingsway Regional School District is thrilled to announce Nick Rothwein's appointment as the new Head Girls' Lacrosse Coach where he was appointed at the January 23rd Board of Education meeting. To read more about Head Coach Rothwein, click [HERE](#).

## **Dual Credit Registration Open at Camden County College**

Registration for Dual Credit courses through Camden County College is now open! If your child is enrolled in an [eligible high school course](#), [register](#) by February 26 to earn college credit. Please note that Camden County College has a new registration platform, so all users must create a new account. For more information, visit our webpage or contact your child's school counselor for assistance.

*Home of the Dragons*

### **Kingsway Participates in National Day of Mourning**

On January 9th, students from our Middle and High Schools participated in the National Day of Mourning to honor the legacy of President Jimmy Carter, who passed away on December 29, 2024, at the age of 100. President Carter, the 39th President of the United States, was a champion of peace, human rights, and service to others. We joined the nation in reflecting on his life and the values he exemplified through a moment of silence.

### **New Graduation Requirement: FAFSA, NJFAMS, or Waiver Due by May 1**

The New Jersey Department of Education has introduced a new graduation requirement under P.L.2023, c.295. To receive a high school diploma, seniors (if 18) or their parents must complete one of the following by May 1: the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)), the New Jersey Alternative Financial Aid Application ([NJFAMS](#)), or a waiver requesting exemption from this requirement. To access the waiver, log into [Genesis](#), open the FAFSA Waiver form, and select “Yes” to utilize the exemption or “No” to indicate you will complete FAFSA or NJFAMS. Once you make your selection, click “Update Answers.” For more information about FAFSA, visit [HESAA’s FAFSA webpage](#). If you have questions, please contact your school counselor.

### **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 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](mailto: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 31 – High School Winter Gala (Juniors and Seniors), 6:30 p.m.
- February 3 – Semester 1 Ends
- February 6 – [Virtual Information Session: NCAA](#)
- February 11 – BLA Academy Rising Seniors Night (Virtual), 6:30 p.m.
- February 13 – Report Cards Published
- February 17 – School Closed to Students/Staff; President’s Day



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- February 20 – Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- February 21 – National Art Honor Society Empty Bowls Fundraiser
- February 26 – STEM Night, 6:30 p.m.

### 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.
- **[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 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.



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- [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

JJL/sv



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