



KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Committed to Excellence

Mr. Jason Schimpf
School Business Administrator

Dr. James J. Lavender
Superintendent of Schools

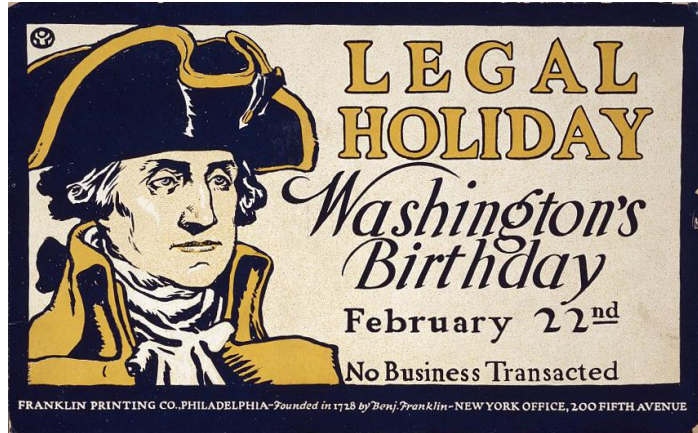
Ms. Patricia Calandro
Assistant Superintendent

February 24, 2025

Dear School Community,

Today, I am sharing my [Superintendent's News & Notes](#) and the [February Board Brief](#), where you'll find important updates, recent accomplishments, and upcoming initiatives happening across the district. As always, I encourage you to reach out if you have any questions or need further clarification.

Since February is the month we celebrate Presidents' Day, it's important to remember that the holiday was originally established to honor [George Washington's Birthday](#) (Feb. 22). Swedesboro also holds a unique connection to the American Revolution and the Father of Our Country. In February 1778, under General Washington's orders, General Anthony Wayne led a vital cattle drive through our town along the Old Kings Highway, ensuring that the starving Continental Army encamped at Valley Forge received much-needed supplies. Despite the harsh winter and the threat of British interference, Wayne and his men succeeded—an act of resilience recorded by [Pastor Nicholas Collins](#) of the Church of Sweden, now known as the Old Swedes Church.



Swedesboro's history is a testament to the perseverance and dedication that defined Washington's leadership and the fight for our nation's independence—values we strive to instill in our students today. This month, as we celebrate our Spotlight Students for exemplifying **perseverance**, we are reminded that resilience in the face of challenges is not just a lesson from history but a principle that continues to guide us. As we honor the Father of Our Country, may his vision, determination, and unwavering commitment to a greater purpose inspire us all to lead with integrity and perseverance in our own journeys.

I hope you enjoy this month's updates and, as always, thank you for your continued support!

Honoring Spotlight Students for February (Character Trait: Perseverance)

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) – Avery Goings (K), Matthew Dafick (I), Melanie Orilas (N), Shane LaMarra (G), Jordan Camacho (S), Gemma Palladino (W), Maura Hendricks & Chloe Iyob (A), and Kyle McCabe (Y).
- **High School Students** (Grade) – Cooper LaScala (9), Ryan Rittershausen (10), Colton Naylor (11), and Violet Kornegay (12).

Home of the Dragons

Seniors of the Month for February

Congratulations to Seniors of the Month, **Anais Girard**, and **Natalie Horchuck**.

Committed to Excellence: Perez & Mopal Stand Out

The Kingsway Regional School District proudly congratulates Senior [Jayden Perez](#) on his remarkable achievement—graduating from the **Gloucester County Fire Academy**. This milestone reflects Jayden's dedication, perseverance, and passion for public service. We also extend our heartfelt congratulations to [Mahi Mopal](#), an 11th-grade student at Kingsway Regional High School, for being featured in the **American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine**! Mahi's contributions to important discussions in the medical field are truly remarkable—an exceptional accomplishment for a high school student!

Board of Education Celebrates Teachers and ESP of the Year

The Board of Education is proud to recognize **Middle School Special Education Teacher** [Amanda Hanigan](#) and **High School History Teacher** [Kristian Ward](#) were recognized as the 2024-25 Teachers of the Year. Additionally, **School Psychologist** [Danielle Baney](#) has been honored as this year's Educational Support Professional of the Year. We are thrilled to celebrate these outstanding educators and their dedication to our students and school community.

Welcome New Employees

The Board of Education was honored to recognize **William Stutzenburg**, a newly hired custodian and Kingsway's newest dragon. Welcome William!

11th Annual Jazz Bistro – Set for March 14th

Get ready for a night of incredible music and delicious food at the **11th Annual Kingsway Jazz Bistro**! Enjoy performances by our talented student musicians. Feel the rhythm and join us on the dance floor! Dinner will be served by our own Kingsway Cafeteria, featuring Swingin' Cavatappi Alfredo and Jazzy Bolognese Pasta! Tickets will be sold at the door or may be pre-purchased (see QR code to the right) and picked up the night of the event. We also have an option to "Reserve a Table" for six. Come out and support our amazing jazz musicians! See you there!

Cash or
Paypal /Credit Payments, Scan:
Please include Paypal Service Fee



We look forward to seeing you!

Dual Credit Registration at Camden County College – Closes Feb. 26

This is a final reminder that Dual Credit course registration at Camden County College closes on **February 26**. If your child is currently enrolled in at least [one high school-eligible course for college credit through Camden County College](#), we invite you to take advantage of this opportunity. Questions specific to CCC can be directed to dualcredit@camdencc.edu. As always, your child's school counselor is also available to assist.

New Graduation Requirement: FAFSA, NJFAMS, or Waiver – Due 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



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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.

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 information, click on the District’s [2024-25 School Calendar](#) or the [Athletics & Activities Calendar](#).

- February 26 – [STEAM Night](#), 6:30 p.m.
- March 6-8 – High School Musical “Matilda,” 7:00 p.m.
- March 7 – Middle School Talent Show
- March 10 – High School Spring Season Begins
- March 12 – Middle School Band Concert
- March 14 – [High School Jazz Bistro](#)
- March 21 – Kingsway Live
- March 29 – Jazz Festival, 10:00 a.m.
- March 28 – 8th Grade Semi-Formal



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



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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](#)**
- **[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.



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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/svv



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