



# Kingsway names Erin Bernat as New Head Field Hockey Coach; names assistant coaches

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Woolwich Twp.** – The Kingsway Regional School District is thrilled to announce the appointment of Erin Bernat as the new Head Field Hockey Coach, officially approved at the March 20th Board of Education meeting.

Superintendent Dr. James Lavender shared the exciting news, stating, “Erin Bernat is a dedicated educator and an outstanding coach who has played a key role in Kingsway's field hockey success. We are confident that under her leadership, our program will continue to thrive, not only in competition but also in fostering the growth and development of our student-athletes both on and off the field.”

### **About Erin Bernat**

A proud 2009 graduate of Glassboro High School, Erin Bernat was a standout athlete on the Field Hockey and Softball teams. Her achievements on the field earned her induction into the Glassboro High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2024.

After high school, Coach Bernat continued her academic and athletic career at Rowan University, where she excelled as a key player on the field hockey team. Over her collegiate career, she amassed impressive statistics in scoring and assists. As a senior, she served as team captain and was named to the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) All-Conference First Team. Her accolades also include selection for the North/South Senior All-Star Game, the Eastern College Athletic Conference Mid-Atlantic All-Star Team, and recognition as a Rowan Scholar-Athlete for all four years.

Following graduation, Coach Bernat pursued a career in teaching and coaching. She has served as a Health & Physical Education teacher while leading field hockey and softball

programs as Head Coach at both Gloucester City High School and Glassboro High School. Additionally, she had a brief tenure coaching field hockey at Rowan University.

Since 2019, Coach Bernat has been a Health & Physical Education Teacher at Kingsway Regional High School and Middle School, where she is known for her enthusiasm, dedication, and commitment to student success. She has served as Kingsway's Assistant Field Hockey Coach, helping lead the team to numerous division titles and three consecutive NJSIAA Group IV State Championships.

As Erin Bernat steps into this new role, her commitment to fostering a positive and competitive environment remains steadfast. "Kingsway has built a tradition of excellence in field hockey, and I am honored to continue that legacy," said Coach Bernat. "I look forward to working with our student-athletes, helping them grow both on and off the field, and pushing them to achieve their highest potential."

### **Meet the Coaching Staff**

Kingsway is fortunate to have a talented and dedicated coaching staff supporting its field hockey program. Athletic Director June Cioffi expressed her enthusiasm for the coaching team, stating, "Kingsway athletics has a strong history of success, and our field hockey program is no exception. That success is a testament to the outstanding coaches we have in place. Our focus remains on developing student-athletes both as competitors and as individuals, ensuring they have the skills, discipline, and mindset to succeed on and off the field. With this coaching staff, we are confident that Kingsway will continue to be a premier program in the state."

#### **Susan Massara – Varsity Assistant Coach**

Coach Susan Massara has been a Health & Physical Education teacher at Kingsway Regional High School since 2022. She previously led the middle school field hockey program and currently serves as the Head Coach of the Kingsway Flag Football Team, which secured the West Jersey Flag Football League (WJFL) Championship in the 2024 season.

Before joining Kingsway, Coach Massara taught at the Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional School District, where she served as the Head Field Hockey Coach. Her leadership earned her the **South Jersey Times Field Hockey Coach of the Year** honor in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2018, and 2021. She guided her teams to multiple division titles and South Jersey Group 1 Championship victories in 2014, 2015, 2018, 2019, and 2021.

Massara earned her bachelor's degree from Rowan University, where she played NCAA field hockey and was named **Midfielder of the Year** in 2007.

#### **Lana Lowry – Junior Varsity Assistant Coach**

A dedicated member of the Kingsway faculty since 2000, Coach Lana Lowry brings extensive coaching experience, having served as an Assistant Coach for Middle School Boys' Soccer, Girls' Lacrosse, and Field Hockey. She teaches Health & Physical Education at Kingsway Regional High School and was named **Teacher of the Year** in 2013-14.

Coach Lowry is a **role model** who builds **meaningful relationships** with her students, inspiring them both in the classroom and on the field. She is committed to making every practice and game **enjoyable and impactful**, helping her players develop a **love for the**

**game** and grow as **young women**. Her dedication to student-athletes and the Kingsway community makes her an **invaluable asset** to the program.

### **Meredith Wuzzardo – Freshman Assistant Coach**

Coach Wuzzardo joined Kingsway as a paraprofessional in September 2024 and recently served as the Varsity Girls' Basketball Assistant Coach. Previously, she worked as an instructional aide at Bridgeton High School. Before her time at BHS, Wuzzardo was at Indian Avenue School, where she was recognized as the 2020-2021 Educational Professional of the Year. She has also coached middle school softball and field hockey, as well as high school girls' basketball.

Wuzzardo attended Cumberland County College (now Rowan College), where she played softball as a catcher and was honored with the Most Dedicated Award for the 2012 season.

### **Looking Ahead**

The 2025 season is set to begin on August 18th, and the appointment of Head Coach Bernat and Assistant Coaches Massara, Lowry, and Wuzzardo marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for Kingsway's Field Hockey Team. The entire district eagerly anticipates the program's continued success under their leadership.

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### **About Kingsway's Athletic Programs**

Kingsway Regional High School competes in the Tri-County Conference Royal Division, composed of schools whose enrollments vary greatly for grades 9-12, operating under the supervision of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA). The mission of the Tri-County Conference is to provide opportunities for schools to work closely together while promoting educational experiences for student-athletes, which will benefit them throughout their lives. The Conference will foster an educationally sound environment that values good sportsmanship, fair play, and a wholesome relationship among participants, spectators, schools, and communities. You can learn more about Kingsway's athletic program by visiting the website at <https://www.krsd.org/departments/athletics>.

### **About the Kingsway Regional School District**

Kingsway is a limited-purpose regional school district offering its students a rigorous academic program and myriad enrichment programs and services for grades 7 to 12. Kingsway Regional Middle School (Grades 7 to 8) and Kingsway Regional High School (Grades 9 to 12) cater to the individual needs of our students and promote opportunities for students to pursue their areas of interest. Our population of approximately 3,000 students is multicultural and reflects the diversity of the communities it serves. Its mission is to ensure that all students receive rigorous and engaging instructional experiences that promote high levels of student achievement, including those with diverse learning needs. To learn more, visit the District's website at <https://www.krsd.org/>