



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

March 24, 2025

Dear School Community,

With the arrival of spring, our district is buzzing with energy and achievement! I'm excited to share my [Superintendent's News & Notes](#) and the [March Board Brief](#), where you'll find important updates, recent accomplishments, and a glimpse at what's ahead.

This month, we adopted the [2025-26 tentative budget](#), which reflects **full state funding** for our students—an important step in supporting their educational journey. We also celebrated the achievements of our **Spotlight Students**, **Seniors of the Month**, and **VFW Voice of Democracy** winners, while successfully kicking off an exciting spring athletic season.

Our **Select Jazz Ensemble** also made us proud by attending the **West Chester University Jazz Festival** and bringing home **top honors**—a testament to their talent, dedication, and hard work.

March has also been a month filled with creativity and school pride. We opened the month with a **wonderful high school musical** and closed it on an even higher note with **Kingsway Live**, where we witnessed an outstanding showcase of senior talent and contagious school spirit. We are incredibly proud of the dedication, hard work, and collaboration our students continue to display.



As we begin the final stretch of the school year, I look forward to the many opportunities this season brings to celebrate and support our students.

As always, I encourage you to reach out if you have any questions or need further clarification.

Honoring Spotlight Students for March (Character Trait: Responsibility)

We were pleased to honor the following students during this month's Board of Education meeting. To view the photos, click [HERE](#).

Home of the Dragons

- **Middle School Students** (Team) – Noah Brown & Linda Wilkie (K); Brooklynn Pennypacker (I); Henry Beese (N); Teagan Powell (G); Rebecca Schaeffer (S); Eleanor Klieger (W); Abey Little (A); Chelsea Green (Y)
- **High School Students** (Grade) – Bella Perez (9); Wei Li (10); Ryan Hirl (11); Samrah Hashmi (12)

Seniors of the Month for March

Congratulations to Seniors of the Month, **Ksena Brudnicki-Maher**, and **Michael Shultz**.

VFW 10886 Patriot Pen Essay Winners

We are proud to recognize the talented 7th-grade students for their outstanding essays. Their thoughtful reflections on patriotism are a testament to their hard work and dedication. **Mackenzie Booker** – 1st Place (and **2nd Place** at the District level!); **Brennen Green** – 2nd Place; and, **Arianna Jimenez** – 3rd Place.

Tentative 2025-26 School Budget Adopted

The Kingsway Regional School District's tentative budget for 2025-2026, totaling \$63.3 million, was adopted. The final budget will be presented to the Board of Education during the April 20th meeting. Click Tentative [2025-2026 School Budget in Brief](#) for more information.

Kingsway Job Fair Set for April 12th

Kingsway is now hiring! [Register HERE](#) to attend our upcoming job fair on April 12th at 9:00 a.m.

Attention Seniors! Scholarships Now Available

The [GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION](#) is open to Seniors who plan to further their education, career, profession, or occupation. Up to \$5,000 in scholarships are available for academic achievement contribution to school or community, postsecondary plans, and financial needs.

Please visit the Scholarships Page to read more about the various types of scholarships. Click on the [Kingsway Scholarship Newsletter](#) to read the lists of scholarships for Kingsway Regional High School students.

Bernat & Finlaw Named New Head Coaches

Kingsway Regional High School is excited to announce the appointments of **Erin Bernat** as the new **Head Field Hockey Coach**, alongside her assistant coaching staff, and **Jason Finlaw** as the **Head Girls' Soccer Coach** for the 2025 season. Both coaches bring a wealth of experience and passion to their respective programs. We look forward to their leadership and the continued success of our student-athletes.

- **Read more about [Erin Bernat's appointment](#);**
- **Read more about [Jason Finlaw's appointment](#)**



KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

JOB FAIR 2025

Open Positions Include:
Certified Teachers in various content areas including Special Education, World Language, Science
CST Member / Food Services / Custodians / Bus Drivers / Daily Substitutes through ESS

Doors Open At **09:00 am - 12:00 pm** Saturday **April 12, 2025**

Kingsway Regional High School - East Cafe
 203 Kings Highway, Woolwich Twp., NJ 08085

Contact Us 856-467-3300 www.krsd.org

REGISTER NOW



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School Calendar Revision

Be advised that the school closure on January 6th due to snow will be made up by students on Monday, April 14th. Staff in-service has been moved to June 19th. The [2024-25 School Calendar](#) has been updated to reflect these changes.



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 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."

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](#).

- March 28: 8th Grade Formal
- March 29: Jazz Festival @10:00 a.m.
- March 31: Mid Sem 2 Genesis Portal Opens
- April 1: Senior Trip Parent Meeting @6:30 p.m.
- April 9 – Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction Ceremony @ 6:30 p.m.
- April 11 - BLA Open Mic Night @ 6:30 p.m.
- April 12 – Kingsway Job Fair, 9:00 a.m.
- April 12 – Navy JROTC Military Ball @ 6:00 p.m.
- Apr. 14 - 18 – Senior Trip to Disney World



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- Apr. 14 – Snow Make-up – School Opened to Students
- Apr. 15-18: Spring Recess; School Closed to Students
- Apr. 23 – NAHS Paint Night
- Apr. 24 – Take Your Child to Work Day
- Apr. 24 – Board of Education Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- Apr. 30 – Rising 7th Graders, Orientation @ 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 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



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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

JJL/svv



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