



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

April 29, 2025

Dear School Community,

Spring is in full bloom, and so is the energy across our district! I'm pleased to share this month's [Superintendent's News & Notes](#) along with the [April Board Brief](#), filled with key updates, celebrations, and a look at what's on the horizon.

April brought a whirlwind of activity—from honoring our gifted student musicians at the **Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction** to celebrating a major milestone with our **Navy JROTC's 1st Annual Military Ball**. Our seniors also made unforgettable memories on their **Disney trip** and returned home with stories (and souvenirs) to last a lifetime. And we can't forget our **8th Grade Semi-Formal**, where students dressed to impress and danced the night away!

This month also marked an important step forward as the Board of Education officially adopted the [2025-26 School Budget](#). We are incredibly grateful for the support of our Board, our community, and the fact that we are fully funded by the State, positioning us as a well-resourced school system as we prepare for the year ahead.



With just over 30 days remaining in the school year, we're entering the final stretch—and it's shaping up to be an exciting one. We're preparing to **welcome the Class of 2031**, gearing up for the **8th Grade Spirit of Philadelphia Trip**, the **High School Prom**, and many more memorable moments ahead.

As always, feel free to reach out with any questions.

Honoring Spotlight Students for April (Character Trait: Citizenship)

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) – Sydney Westcott (K); Analeigh Albaugh (I); Kelly Szeg (N); Dylan Read (G); Emily Scarlett (S); Emma Franzosa (W); Chase Caltabiano & Aubrey Miller (A); Ethan Alexander (Y)
- **High School Students** (Grade) – Tyler Sedlock (9); Hope Jones (10); Mishi Chaturvedi (11); Cameron Stephenson (12)

Seniors of the Month for April

Congratulations to the Seniors of the Month, ***Sophie Bell*** and ***Derrick Cheng***.

Spotlight Teacher of the Month for April

Kingsway celebrated Middle School Social Studies Teacher ***Ben Henderberg***.

Kingsway Welcomes Its Newest Dragon

The Board of Education was pleased to welcome ***Ron Finley*** to the team as our newest school bus driver.

Vegas Nights! Our 8th Graders Hit the Jackpot!

On Friday, March 28th, our 8th graders hit the jackpot at this year's **Vegas Nights**-themed Semi-Formal! From dazzling décor to an electrifying dance floor, students enjoyed a night filled with music, fun, and unforgettable memories. **Check out the highlight reel [HERE](#) to relive the excitement!**

2025-26 School Budget Adopted

The Kingsway Regional School District's tentative budget for 2025-2026, totaling \$63.3 million, was adopted. Click [Fiscal Year 2025 District Budget](#) for more information.

Student Musicians Honored at Annual Tri-M Music Honor Society

To be inducted into Tri-M is no small feat. It requires a steadfast commitment to the values of **scholarship, character, and leadership**—all driven by a deep love of music. These students have embraced that challenge and, in doing so, have enriched our school community in profound ways. This month, we celebrated the accomplishments of our outstanding student musicians—**31 of whom are being formally inducted** as new members of this prestigious honor society, joining **17 continuing members** who continue to demonstrate excellence in musicianship, leadership, and service. [Please enjoy this special tribute to our Tri-M Music Honor Society members.](#)

Mia Capozzolo Wins Best in Division at NJFFA Horticultural Exposition!

Congratulations to **Mia Capozzolo**, a standout junior at Kingsway Regional High School and a dedicated student in Salem County Career & Technical High School's Agricultural Sciences Program, for earning a "Best in Division" distinction at the NJ FFA Horticultural Exposition! Competing against hundreds of entries from across the state, Mia's floral arrangement, "**Independence Day!**", was selected as the top choice in the **Permanent Division**, which features arrangements made with silk flowers. Well done, Mia—we are so proud of you!

Attention Seniors! Scholarships Now Available



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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.

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.



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](#).

- April 30 Rising 7th Graders – MS Orientation
- May 2 Welcome Class of 2031 Dragon Field Day
- May 2 Multi-Cultural Assembly
- May 2 College Decision Day
- May 5-16 AP Testing
- May 5-9 Educator Appreciation Week
- May 9 7th Grade Dance
- May 13 Academy: STEM/BLA Orientation
- May 14 High School Art Show Exhibit & NAHS Induction Ceremony
- May 14-22 NJSLA Testing
- May 16 Junior Class Movie Night, 6:30 p.m.
- May 16 BLA Open Mic Night
- May 16 MS Musical
- May 22 Board of Education Meeting
- May 23 Memorial Day Ceremony
- May 26 School Closed, Memorial Day
- May 28 HS Blood Drive



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- May 29 Athletic Signing Ceremony
- May 29 NJROTC Award Ceremony
- May 30 Senior Prom
- June 3 MS End of Year Band Concert
- June 4 HS End of Year Band/Percussion Ensembles Concert
- June 5 MS Art Show
- June 5-6 7th Grade Field Trip
- June 9 World Language Honor Society Induction Ceremony
- June 10 HS/MS End of Year Chorus Concert
- June 11 HS End of Year Jazz Band Concert
- June 12 8th Grade Field Trip
- June 16 Senior Awards Ceremony
- June 17 Senior Sunset
- June 18 Class of 2025 Graduation / Last Student Day

You May Have Missed....

- **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.
- **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**!
- **"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.
- **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](#) 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.
- **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 Names Nick Rothwein as New Head Girls' Lacrosse Coach**



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The Kingsway Regional School District is thrilled to announce Nick Rothwein's appointment as the new Head Girls' Lacrosse Coach, which was announced at the January 23rd Board of Education meeting.

- **[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 handmade 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](#)**



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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,



James J. Lavender, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

JJL/svv



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