



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

May 30, 2025

Dear School Community,

As we approach the end of the school year, there is so much to be thankful for. We've watched our students grow in the classroom, shine on stage, and compete with pride on our athletic fields. Although opening day in September feels like a distant memory, this year has flown by—and so has the incredible energy across our district!

I'm pleased to share this month's [Superintendent's News & Notes](#) along with the [May Board Brief](#), both filled with important updates, celebrations, and a glimpse at what's on the horizon.

May was filled with activity and excitement—from honoring our talented student artists at the [National Art Honor Society Induction Ceremony](#) and [ACC Champion Select Jazz Ensemble](#), to commemorating our veterans during the [30th Annual Memorial Day Ceremony](#). We also celebrated academic excellence as we recognized Kingsway's Academic All-Stars and more than 50 seniors who have committed to continuing their sport at the collegiate level.



As the spring athletic season wraps up, several of our varsity programs are beginning their playoff runs. We look forward to cheering them on as they compete for championships and represent Kingsway with heart and determination.

With just a few weeks 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 send off the Class of 2025, celebrate our 8th Graders, and enjoy long-awaited events like the 8th Grade Spirit of Philadelphia Trip, the High School Prom, and many more memorable moments ahead.

Honoring Spotlight Students for May (Character Trait: Growth)

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) – Cole Jaworski (K), Ethan Hall (I), Sophie Strockbine, Arthur Santiago (N), Anna Riordan (G), Briana Tull (S), Annabelle Ridgeway (W), Brooklyn Miller (A), Aubrey Horton (Y)
- **High School Students** (Grade) – Ashlyn Raio (9), Tyler Sharpe (10), Angel Rivera IV (11), Molly Baldino (12)

Seniors of the Month for May & June

Congratulations to the Seniors of the Month, **Kyle Nordon**, **Madison Sims** (May) & **Brielle Bucs**, **Evan Frederick** (June)

Spotlight Teacher of the Month for May

Kingsway celebrated High School Teacher of Health & Physical Education Teacher **Susan Massara**

Kingsway Welcomes Its Newest Dragons

The Board of Education was pleased to welcome **Fernando Garcia** (*Custodian*) and **John Lloyd** (*Instructional Supervisor*) to our Dragon family.

Honoring Our Heroes: 30th Annual Memorial Day Ceremony

Kingsway proudly hosted its **30th Annual Memorial Day Ceremony**, honoring the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. This year's theme, "*United We Stood, Stronger Together*," paid tribute to the Greatest Generation and all who have stood in defense of freedom. We remembered our fallen Dragons—**Donald Lee Corbin**, **Stephano James Fiducioso**, **Dennis Philip Martin**, and **Ryan Kenneth Iannelli**—and reaffirmed our commitment to ensuring their legacies are never forgotten.

The program featured a [Kingsway's 30th Annual Memorial Day Ceremony Tribute Video](#), heartfelt student reflections, and remarks from distinguished guests, including **Steven Paranto** (Class of 2003), a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom; **Garry Maddox**, U.S. Army Vietnam veteran and World Series Champion; and a special recognition of **Corporal Joseph Cucinotta**, a 102-year-old WWII veteran and former POW.

Through this ceremony, our school community honored the past, reflected on the cost of freedom, and paid tribute to the heroes who inspire us still.

Seniors Recognized at GloCo. Academic Excellence Banquet

Please join us in congratulating Kingsway's five Academic All-Stars who were selected to represent our school at this year's Annual Academic All-Star Banquet. These outstanding seniors exemplify what it means to be part of the Dragon Family—driven, dedicated, and committed to excellence.



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- **Nikhil Banga** – Harvard University
- **Haley Brown** – Marquette University
- **Joseph Ingersoll** – Union College
- **Ella Wakiaga** – Georgetown University
- **Daniel Houck** – Villanova University

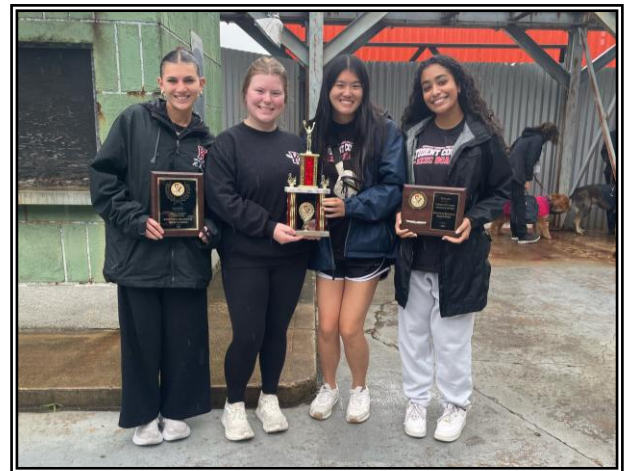
Kingsway Honors College-Bound Student Athletes

On Thursday, May 29th, over 50 high school seniors and their families gathered in the South Gym to sign letters of commitment to continue their athletic careers in college. Proud parents watched as each student was announced by name, sport, and college. These accomplished student-athletes highlight the strength of Kingsway's academic and athletic programs.



Leadership in Action: Student Council Recognized Statewide

On May 28, Kingsway's Student Council received exciting news from the New Jersey Association of Student Councils (NJASC), bringing home several prestigious honors. Kingsway was awarded the 2025 Community Smiles Award, recognizing the many hours our Student Council dedicated to serving both our school and local community. In addition, our students raised over \$3,000 for Ava's Voice, this year's NJASC State Charity, earning a place in the \$2,000 Club. Even more impressively, Kingsway placed 3rd overall in the state for our total contribution. These awards are a powerful reflection of the leadership, compassion, and dedication our Student Council members bring to everything they do. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and the meaningful difference they continue to make.



Student Artists Honored at Annual National Art Honor Society Induction Ceremony

On May 14th, Kingsway celebrated the [21st Annual National Art Honor Society Induction Ceremony](#), recognizing new inductees and returning members. For centuries, art has served as a powerful form of communication, and our students continue that tradition—using their talents to express themselves, connect with others, and better both our school and the broader community. Through their dedication to art, they've demonstrated scholarship, character, leadership, and service, while learning patience, resilience, and the value of embracing imperfections along the way.

Kingsway High School's Select Jazz Band – 2025 Atlantic Coast Champions

We had the privilege of recognizing Kingsway High School's Select Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Mr. Joe Henderson, for their outstanding 2025 season, which culminated in being named **Atlantic Coast Champions** in the top open class division at the Wildwood ACC Championship with a Superior/Gold Rating of **97.5**. The ensemble also earned **Best Saxophone Section**, **Best Rhythm Section**, and the only **Outstanding Solo Award** in the open class, presented to **Chris Ferguson**. This season, the group participated in six competitions, earned multiple superior ratings, and brought home awards for best



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sections and outstanding soloists, including **Sophia Counsellor**, **Ray Mooney**, and Ferguson. The Board was thrilled to celebrate this talented group of 24 students for their continued excellence and growing reputation as one of the premier jazz programs in the region.

Kingsway NJROTC Earns Unit Achievement Award

We are proud to announce that the Kingsway Regional High School NJROTC program has been awarded the prestigious **Unit Achievement Award for the 2024-2025 school year**. This honor recognizes units that demonstrate significant success and excellence in their program, placing Kingsway among the top 20% of units in the region. The award includes a special yellow flag streamer and a Unit Achievement Ribbon for cadets who participated during the award year. To celebrate, cadets are preparing a brief video highlighting their accomplishments, which will be featured on KDTV and shared on our Facebook page.

Connor's Crew: Kingsway Students Turn Personal Tragedy into Hopeful Mission

Born out of personal tragedy, **Paige Oatman** and **Audrey Klieger** have transformed grief into action, hope, and healing for others. Their story is a reminder of the extraordinary impact young people can make when they lead with empathy and heart.

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](#).

- May 28 HS Blood Drive
- May 29 Athletic Signing Ceremony
- May 29 NJROTC Award Ceremony
- May 30 Pre-Prom Assembly; 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 6 7th Grade Field Trip to Independence Hall
- 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 – Spirit of Philadelphia
- June 16-18 Early Dismissal Schedule, Grades 7-12
- June 16 Senior Awards Ceremony
- June 17 Faculty/Staff Year-End Luncheon; Senior Sunset
- June 18 Class of 2025 Graduation / Last Student Day



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You May Have Missed....

- [Connor's Crew: Kingsway Students Turn Personal Tragedy into Hopeful Mission](#)**
 Born out of personal tragedy, **Paige Oatman** and **Audrey Klieger** have transformed grief into action, hope, and healing for others. Their story is a reminder of the extraordinary impact young people can make when they lead with empathy and heart.
- [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](#)**
 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



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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**](#)
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,




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

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