



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

July 1, 2025

Dear School Community,

With the Class of 2025 officially graduated and summer now in full swing, I'm pleased to share the latest edition of the [Superintendent's News & Notes](#), along with the [June Board Brief](#)—both filled with important updates, proud celebrations, and a look ahead at what's to come. You'll find more highlights and details below, so be sure to scroll through.

Kingsway Graduates 511 Members of the Class of 2025

On Wednesday, June 18th, Kingsway proudly graduated **511 students**, marking the **largest graduating class in school history**. Due to rain, the ceremony was delayed to an **8:00 p.m. start**, making the **Class of 2025 the first to graduate under the stadium lights**—a fitting tribute to a group that has continually broken barriers. This remarkable class earned more than **2,300 college credits** before even receiving their diplomas, secured over **\$23 million in scholarships, grants, and awards**, and will be attending some of the **most prestigious colleges and universities in the nation**. Surrounded by proud families, friends, and faculty, the Class of 2025 walked with confidence and pride, ready to leave their mark on the world. *Be sure to check out the [Senior Highlight Reel](#) to relive the unforgettable moments from this historic night!*



Home of the Dragons

Kingsway's 8th Grade Class Celebrates the End of Middle School Journey

On June 18th, Kingsway's 8th-grade class came together to celebrate the end of their middle school years with a spirited and heartfelt year-end event. The gathering reflected not only their academic accomplishments but also their remarkable growth over the past two years. Surrounded by proud friends and faculty, our students demonstrated their readiness to take on the challenges of high school. With strong foundations, lasting memories, and a renewed sense of confidence, the Class of 2029 is eager to begin their next chapter this fall, ready to explore new opportunities, forge new friendships, and continue striving for excellence. *Be sure to check out the [8th Grade Highlight Reel](#).*

School Officials Recognize and Celebrate Retiring Faculty & Staff

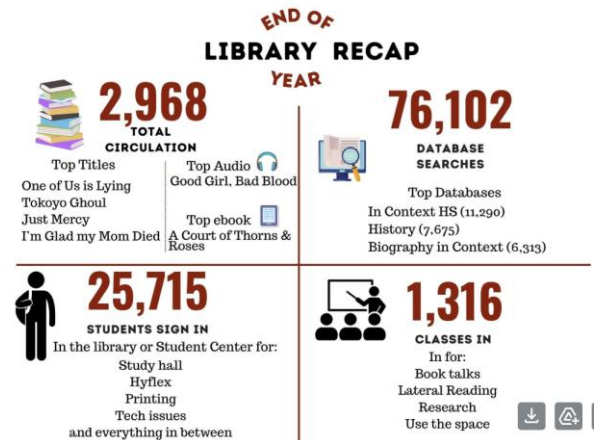
Kingsway's 400+ faculty and staff gathered in the high school Café West to commemorate the end of a successful school year and recognize significant achievements. The highlight of the event was the heartfelt tribute to the distinguished careers of 9 retiring faculty and staff members. These dedicated individuals have made lasting contributions to our school community, shaping countless lives and leaving a legacy of excellence. We extend our deepest gratitude and best wishes to our retiring Dragons, hoping they enjoy a fun, healthy, and fulfilling retirement. Your impact on Kingsway will be cherished for years to come.

- **Mike Shuster** (Director of Buildings & Grounds), 5 years of service
- **Kim Dormann** (Secretary; School Counseling Office), 13 years of service
- **Kristine Bilderback** (MS/HS Teacher of Mathematics), 13 years of service
- **Patricia Bowe** (Bus Driver), 17 years of service
- **Christine Fisher** (General Café. Worker), 25 years of service
- **Sharon Freeman** (HS Custodian), 16 years of service
- **Joanne Gagne** (HS Teacher of Special Education), 11 years of service
- **Karen Jennett** (MS Teacher of Special Education), 27 years of service
- **Victor Rodriguez** (HS Custodian), 25 years of service

Summer 400-Wing Construction – Important Information

We want to make you aware of some key details regarding this summer's construction project in the 400-wing:

- Renovations will focus on the **hallways**, including updated finishes, **new doors and door frames**, and the **removal of lockers**.
- The **last day to access your classroom** in the 400 wing is **Wednesday, June 19**.
- **Beginning Thursday, June 20**, the 400-wing will be **completely closed**—no access will be permitted for any reason, so please plan accordingly.
- Access will resume **on or around August 28**, pending completion. We'll share updates throughout the summer as the project progresses.



Library End-of-Year Stats

Curious how the library was used this year? Check out the highlights above to see just how active and engaged our students and staff have been!



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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 [2025-26 School Calendar](#) or the [Athletics & Activities Calendar](#).

- June 23 Summer Flex Schedules Begin for Staff
- July 4 Independence Day; School Closed to Staff
- July 7-11 Administrative Retreat
- July 22 Chromebook Distribution for 9th Grades
- August 5-6 Secretary Summit
- August 5-7 Teacher Summer Academy
- August 11-15 NJROTC Basic Leadership Training
- August 13 Freshman Transition Camp
- August 18 Fall Athletics Begin
- August 20-26 New Education Orientation
- August 25 Summer Flex Schedules End for Staff
- August 27 High School Open House
- August 28 Middle School Self-Guided Tour
- September 2-3 Faculty Inservice; Annual Staff BBQ
- September 4 Welcome Back! 1st Student Day.

You May Have Missed....

- [Kingsway NJROTC Earns Unit Achievement Award](#)
Kingsway Regional High School NJROTC program has been awarded the prestigious Unit Achievement Award for the 2024-2025 school year.
- [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



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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 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.



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- [**Celebrate Students' Academic Honors from the 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,



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

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