



KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Committed to Excellence

Mr. Robert Delengowski
School Business Administrator

Dr. James J. Lavender
Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Patricia Calandro
Assistant Superintendent



September 17, 2025

Dear School Community,

With the 2025-26 school year now in full swing, I am pleased to share that we have had a fantastic start. This week, we are delighted to welcome our parents to our Annual Back-to-School Nights. Today, I am also pleased to share with you the latest [Superintendent's News & Notes](#) and the [September Board Brief](#).

On behalf of our Board of Education, faculty, and staff, I wish all of our students a successful and rewarding year ahead.

Looking Ahead to the 2025-26 School Year: Important Highlights

Kingsway Welcomes Back Nearly 3,000 Students

With the return of our faculty, staff, and students this past week—and the launch of our fall athletic programs—one doesn't have to look far to realize that the 2025-2026 school year is well underway at Kingsway! To capture the excitement of our first day, we've created a short [Welcome Back, Dragons!](#) video featuring moments from both our middle and high schools. We hope you'll take a few minutes to watch



Home of the Dragons

and celebrate the energy, joy, and sense of community that mark the start of another promising school year.

Back-To-School Nights at Kingsway

We are excited to welcome our parents back into our schools for **Back-to-School Nights** — an opportunity to experience the fun, energy, and excitement that students enjoy every day. These evenings allow parents to meet their child's teachers, learn more about our programs, and connect with the Kingsway community.

- **Middle School:** Wednesday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m.
- **High School:** Thursday, September 18 at 6:30 p.m.

More details will be shared directly from each school's Principal. We look forward to seeing you and introducing you to our dedicated staff and outstanding programs!



Board of Education Installs Student Representatives

We are proud to introduce **Krishani Parikh** and **Mason Corey** as the Board of Education Student Representatives for the 2025–2026 school year. Krishani, a dedicated student leader, serves as President of the National Honor Society, Vice President of Physics Club, and an officer for Science Olympiad, while also captaining the Varsity Tennis team and volunteering as a licensed EMT. Mason, equally accomplished, is President of the Physics Club and Science Olympiad, Secretary of the National Honor Society, and founder of Kingsway's Physics Summer Workshop, which has prepared over 100 middle schoolers for high school physics. Beyond Kingsway, Krishani teaches at her Indian Sunday School and tutors students at Mathnasium, while Mason co-founded the South Jersey Youth Arts Association, conducted university-level optics research, and performs as a professional actor. Both plan to pursue rigorous STEM fields in college—Krishani in Neuroscience or Biology and Mason in Mechanical Engineering—and will bring their talent, dedication, and student voice to the Board this year.

Rising Together: Class of 2026 Senior Sunrise

On a brisk 54-degree morning, more than 300 seniors gathered on the football field before dawn for Kingsway's **5th Annual Senior Sunrise**, a tradition that brings the class together in camaraderie to symbolically launch their final year. Students were greeted by a brilliant full moon—the last of the summer—hovering over the field before giving way to a stunning sunrise at 6:36 a.m., setting the tone for a year full of promise and celebration. Seniors were also encouraged to write a letter to themselves, which they will open and read at the **Senior Sunset** later this school year, creating a meaningful bookend to their time at Kingsway. Special thanks to **Senior Advisors Mr. Fiocco and Mr. Schaffer**, along with **12th Grade Assistant Principal Mr. Zurzolo**, for organizing and supporting this memorable kickoff to the Class of 2026.



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The Board of Education Welcomes New Staff

As we embark on a new school year, the Kingsway Board of Education is thrilled to introduce and welcome our newest faculty and staff members to the team. These talented individuals bring a wealth of knowledge, experience, and passion to our school community, and we are confident they will play an integral role in supporting our students' success. Please join us in welcoming them as they help us continue our mission of providing an exceptional educational experience for all.

Patriot Day Observance

On Wednesday, September 11, Kingsway Regional School District observed **Patriot Day – a National Day of Service and Remembrance** – to honor the nearly 3,000 lives lost during the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. At 8:42 a.m., a district-wide announcement was read, followed by a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m., the time American Airlines Flight 11 struck the World Trade Center's North Tower. As part of this tribute, a bell tolled four times to symbolize the tragic events of that day. Our students and staff paused to remember the innocent victims and the heroic first responders who gave their lives to save others, while also reflecting on the importance of service, unity, and resilience in strengthening our community and our nation.

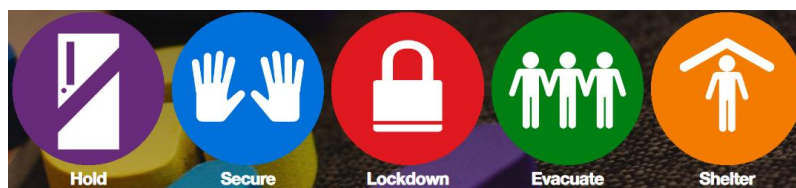


2025-26 School Calendar

We highly recommend all parents review the [2025-26 School Calendar](#) and mark important dates to ensure a smooth transition back to school. As a reminder, **School reopens to students on Thursday, September 4th**, and closes on Wednesday, June 17th. You can also access our bell schedules, athletics and activities calendar, high school calendar by letter days, and information regarding **Emergency School Closings** by clicking [HERE](#).

Kingsway's Safety & Security Plan

Kingsway continues to be committed to ensuring a safe and secure school environment. As we prepare for the new school year, we are sharing with our parents information regarding our safety & security plan. The "I Love U Guys" Foundation's [Standard Response Protocol \(SRP\)](#). Please take a moment to review the clear common language we will utilize to respond to emergencies. You can also review [the Standard Response Protocol 2023 K12 \(SRP\)](#) Manual for additional information.



Student Chromebooks: Expectations for the 2025-26 School Year

Our 1:1 Chromebook initiative supports student learning in and outside of the classroom. All students are expected to attend every class, every day, prepared with a fully charged, district-issued Chromebook with



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the charging cord. Establishing a routine from "Day 1" is critical. [Click here for more information related to our Chromebook expectations.](#)

Student Chromebook Insurance for the 2025-26 School Year

Chromebook insurance for the 2025–2026 school year is available now through November 1st for \$25 per student. This plan helps protect you from costly repair bills caused by accidental damage. We encourage all families to take advantage of this protection. More details and enrollment information can be found here: <https://www.krsd.org/departments/technology/11-chromebook-insurance>

Health Office Update

We require current documentation for a child's medical needs for medication administration, physical activity restrictions, or special accommodations. The documentation you provide is **valid for one school year**. Students will be unable to participate in school-sponsored interscholastic and intermural athletics, activities/clubs, and field trips without the proper medical paperwork submitted to the school health office. These forms can be found on the KRSd home page under [Health Services](#) and [Health Services Forms](#).

GYM Uniforms are Now Available for Purchase!

[Gym Uniforms](#) are available for purchase. Cash, check, and charge accepted. Uniforms can also be purchased when school opens. **Students will dress for PE beginning on Friday, September 12th.** Questions can be directed to Shanna Hoffman, hoffmans@krsd.us.

19th Annual Dragon Run 5K and 1 Mile Walk Registration Now Open

[Registration](#) for the **19th Annual Dragon Run on September 27, 2025**, is now available at naterocksheaven.org.

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 2025-2026](#) 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](#).

- September 17 – Back to School Night (Middle School), 6:30 p.m.
- September 18 – Back to School Night (High school), 6:30 p.m.
- September 19 – Varsity Football Home Opener vs. Delsea, 6:00 p.m. (Salute to Service)
- September 26 – 8th Grade Renaissance Celebration
- September 27 – 19th Annual Dragon Run
- October 9 – Senior Class Picture (during S.M.A.R.T.)
- October 11 – Junior Class Movie Night (during S.M.A.R.T.)
- October 13 – Staff In-service, No School for Students
- October 15 – Make-up Picture Day (Grades 9-11)



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- October 16 – Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 pm
- October 20-24 – High School Spirit Week
- October 24 – Homecoming Football Game vs. Washington Twp., 6:00 pm
- October 25 – Homecoming Dance, 6:00 pm
- October 30 – Makeup Picture Day, Grades 7-8
- November 1 – [Foundation's 23rd Annual Holiday Craft Show](#) (Volunteer [Sign-Up](#))

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Together, we look forward to a successful and enriching 2025-26 school year.



James J. Lavender, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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.
- **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.
- [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



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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.



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