



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

December 22, 2025

Dear School Community,

As we approach the close of 2025 and prepare for the winter recess, I am pleased to share the December edition of [Superintendent's News & Notes](#). This time of year, offers an opportunity to pause, reflect, and appreciate the many accomplishments, milestones, and moments of pride that have defined our schools throughout the fall.

December is also a season of celebration and togetherness. As members of our community observe Hanukkah, prepare for Christmas, and look ahead to the New Year, I extend my warmest wishes to all.

[Click here to view Holiday Video Greeting](#). May this holiday season be filled with peace, joy, and meaningful time with family and loved ones. Thank you for your continued partnership, support, and commitment to our students and schools.

To help spread some holiday cheer, let [Kingsway's Choir](#) get you into the festive spirit with its outstanding performances of traditional holiday music.

Wishing you all a joyous, peaceful, and restful holiday season!

Very truly yours,

James J. Lavender, Ed.D.
Superintendent



December Board Brief

At the December meeting, the Board of Education took action on a number of items, which are summarized in this month's [Board Brief](#) and detailed further in the official meeting minutes.

Multi-Factor Authentication Requirement for Students

To further protect student privacy and strengthen data security, Kingsway Regional School District will implement Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) for student Google accounts beginning December 24, 2025, at the start of Winter Break. MFA adds an important layer of protection against stolen passwords, account takeovers, and unauthorized access to confidential information. Additional details are available in the linked documents below, including important information for parents, step-by-step guidance for students, actions required for those using personal devices, and reminders related to phone-free school expectations.

Home of the Dragons

Celebrating Excellence and Achievement

Building on last month's recognition of our students selected for the *All-South Jersey Region Chorus*, Kingsway musicians continue to distinguish themselves at the regional level. Following our Winter Concerts, a **record nine students auditioned for the All-South Jersey Band and Orchestra**, competing alongside more than 500 of the region's top student musicians. Five students earned placement in prestigious honor ensembles and will rehearse and perform at Rowan University in mid-January, with eligibility to audition for All-State Band later this month. Congratulations to Symphonic Band members **Maya Jaiswal** (Flute, Grade 11), **Samantha Pinto** (Flute, Grade 10), **Caleb Ackley** (Clarinet, Grade 10), and **David Gloeckner** (Trombone, Grade 11), as well as **Ryan Rittershausen** (Trombone, Grade 11), who earned the top trombone score among all auditioning students and will hold first chair in both the Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra. We are proud of all our students who continue to represent Kingsway with excellence across the performing arts.



Artificial Intelligence (AI) Update for Students

Effective December 8, student access to AI tools on district devices and/or accounts will be limited to the secure Google Gemini platform within our Google for Education Workspace and other approved educational tools. This prioritizes safety, data security, and system-wide consistency for AI integration.

Superintendent's Leadership Recognition Luncheons

As part of our Superintendent's Leadership Recognition Luncheons, we recently welcomed the cast and crew of this year's high school production, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child: High School Edition*, sponsored by the Kingsway Performing Arts Program and performed December 4 through December 6, 2025. These talented students, both on stage and behind the scenes, demonstrated creativity, teamwork, and dedication in bringing a truly spectacular production to life. During a pizza luncheon, students shared thoughtful feedback on the production as well as insights on school life, reinforcing the importance of student voice and the many ways our students contribute to the culture of Kingsway High School.

Middle School Highlights

At the middle school, we celebrated a successful fall athletic season and welcomed **Sarah Seeman**, a veteran teacher who joined our staff as a Special Education Teacher. Our theater students brought *Alice in Wonderland* to life before a packed house, showcasing their creativity and talent. Our Chorus and Instrumental Concert Bands entertained parents and visitors at the annual Holiday Concert Extravaganza. The **Dragon SPARK Club**, **Community Service Club**, and **Environmental Club** teamed up for a community clean-up at a local park, proudly living out our **#1DragonFamily** spirit.

Spotlights and Recognitions

The following spotlights and recognitions celebrate individuals and groups whose dedication and accomplishments exemplify our district's **Commitment to Excellence**.

- **December Seniors of the Month**
Karson Taylor & Courtney Weatherby



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- **High School Student Spotlights**

Liam Hedglin (Grade 9); Thomas Parcels (Grade 10); Kailah Ward (Grade 11); Isabella Archer (Grade 12)

- **Middle School Student Spotlights**

Shea Wadleigh (K); Colin Barski (I); Brooklyn Bell (N); Savannah Robostello (G); Cole Sperduto (S); Michaiyah Obiri-Yeboah (W); Charlotte McNeill & Jennifer Hardy (A); Thomas Sedon (Y)

- **Welcome Our Newest Dragon**

The Board of Education was excited to welcome **William Mitman**, a new Bus Driver who joined Kingsway on December 8th.

- **December Spotlight Teacher**

Heather Haines Horan, High School Teacher of Special Education and English Language Arts, joined Kingsway on September 1, 2020. This month, we are proud to recognize Ms. Haines for her passion for teaching, dedication to her students, and unwavering **Commitment to Excellence**. As a special education teacher in the Structured Transitional Education Program (STEP), she teaches English and Language Arts and is known for her ability to meet students where they are, supporting their academic, social, and emotional growth. Ms. Haines’ work exemplifies the high standards and care that define Kingsway’s instructional community.



Township Enacts New “No Parking Zones” Near Campus

The Woolwich Township Committee has recently enacted [Ordinance No. 2025-18](#), which establishes “No Parking Zones” along the full length of both sides of **Wayne Drive, Merseyside Drive, Benito Drive, Cassella Way, and Weathersfield Court** in Woolwich Township. Student drivers should be aware that this is now an active ordinance, and enforcement is in effect. Anyone who parks along these roads Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. may be ticketed. This ordinance was enacted in response to an excessive number of cars parking along these roads, which has led to blocked driveways, restricted access to trash cans and mailboxes, limited driveway access, and a number of outraged residents.

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](#).

- December 23 – Half Day for Students
- December 24 – January 2 – Winter Recess
- January 2 – Staff Inservice
- January 5 – School Reopens



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



You May Have Missed....

- [Meet the Cadets of Kingsway’s Rising NJROTC Program](#) by Matt Rappa, SW Neighbors “These students aren’t just earning academic credits – they’re building character, sharpening leadership skills, and discovering the power of camaraderie.”
- [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 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, December 15, 2024, to bestow upon Kingsway



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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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