



KINGSWAY NAMES DIANE NELSON AS NEW HEAD SOFTBALL COACH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dr. James J. Lavender, Superintendent
Kingsway Regional School District
(O): 856-467-4600 ext. 4205
(C): 856-217-5192

Woolwich Township, NJ – The Kingsway Regional School District is pleased to announce the appointment of Diane Nelson as the new Head Softball Coach for Kingsway Regional High School. Ms. Nelson’s recommendation was approved at the Board of Education's January 22, 2026, meeting.

Superintendent Dr. James Lavender shared, “Diane Nelson is a veteran educator and coach with the experience, integrity, and student-centered approach we value in Kingsway athletics. She is someone we have tremendous confidence in to lead our softball program and provide our student-athletes with a competitive, engaging, and rewarding experience. Her well-rounded background aligns perfectly with the expectations of our program, and she embodies the core qualities we seek in our staff: humility, drive, and insight.”

Ms. Nelson brings more than 15 years of experience in health and physical education and a deep background in coaching and student leadership.

About Diane Nelson

Ms. Nelson earned a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education and Exercise Science from Rutgers University and holds New Jersey certification in Health and Physical Education (K–12), as well as Driver Education certification.

As a coach, Ms. Nelson has served as a head varsity softball coach at multiple high schools, including Timber Creek Regional High School (2002–2004) and Metuchen High School (1995). Her coaching background also includes head coaching roles in varsity cross country and JV tennis, as well as assistant coaching experience in softball with a pitching specialty. Throughout her career, Ms. Nelson has emphasized commitment, dedication, communication, and the holistic development of student-athletes.

Ms. Nelson has been recognized for her accomplishments as both an athlete and

educator, including induction into the Clifton High School Athletic Hall of Fame, along with additional athletic honors.

“I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve as Kingsway’s Head Softball Coach,” Nelson said. “I look forward to building strong relationships with our student-athletes, supporting their growth on and off the field, and continuing the proud tradition of Kingsway softball.”

Kingsway looks forward to the positive impact Ms. Nelson will have as she begins leading the program this spring.

Kingsway is fortunate to have a talented and dedicated coaching staff supporting its softball program. Athletic Director June Cioffi expressed her enthusiasm for the coaching team, stating, “Kingsway athletics has a strong history of success, and our softball program is no exception. That success is a testament to the outstanding coaches we have in place. Our focus remains on developing student-athletes both as competitors and as individuals, ensuring they have the skills, discipline, and mindset to succeed on and off the field. With this coaching staff, we are confident that Kingsway will continue to be a premier program in the state.”

Looking Ahead

The season is set to begin on **March 9**, and the appointment of Head Coach Nelson marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for Kingsway softball. **A student information session will be scheduled Friday, January 30th in Room 100 during L1.** Coming off a 24-3 record SJ Group IV and Tri County Champions in 2025, the team returns several veteran players and is poised to compete for the South Jersey and Tri-County Conference Championships. The entire district eagerly anticipates the program’s continued success under her leadership.

###

About Kingsway’s Athletic Programs

Kingsway Regional High School competes in the Tri-County Conference Royal Division, composed of schools whose enrollments vary greatly for grades 9 to 12, operating under the supervision of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA). The mission of the Tri-County Conference is to provide opportunities for schools to work closely together while promoting educational experiences for student-athletes, which will benefit them throughout their lives. The Conference will foster an educationally sound environment that values good sportsmanship, fair play, and a wholesome relationship among participants, spectators, schools, and communities. You can learn more about Kingsway’s athletic program by visiting the website at <https://www.krsd.org/departments/athletics>.

About the Kingsway Regional School District

Kingsway is a limited-purpose regional school district offering its students a rigorous academic program, as well as a myriad enrichment programs and services for grades 7 to 12. Kingsway Regional Middle School (Grades 7 to 8) and Kingsway Regional High School (Grades 9 to 12) cater to the individual needs of our students and promote opportunities for students to pursue their areas of interest. Our population of

approximately 3,000 students is multicultural and reflects the diversity of the communities it serves. Its mission is to ensure that all students receive rigorous and engaging instructional experiences that promote high levels of student achievement, including those with diverse learning needs. To learn more, visit the District's website at <https://www.krsd.org/>