



KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Committed to Excellence

Ms. Sharon Ormsbee
School Business Administrator

Dr. James J. Lavender
Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Patricia Calandro
Assistant Superintendent

August 20, 2026

Dear School Community,

There is something special about this time of year at Kingsway. After a quieter summer, our campus is once again coming to life as we prepare to welcome nearly 3,000 students back for the start of the **2026–2027 school year**. Our Marching Band and Navy JROTC students have already been hard at work preparing for another exciting year, and on Monday, August 18, our fall athletic teams converged on campus with tremendous enthusiasm. From the sounds of the Marching Band rehearsing to whistles on the practice fields and students reconnecting with teammates and friends, there is an unmistakable energy across campus and growing excitement for the year ahead.

I am pleased to share this [Back-to-School edition of the Superintendent's News & Notes](#), along with our [July Board Brief](#), featuring important updates and information to help our students and families prepare for opening day on **Thursday, September 3**. This year brings several important changes, including our new **Off and Away** expectations for personal internet-enabled devices, updated **student attendance procedures**, and the launch of our new **secure 2-Way Chat** platform to make communication between families and participating teachers, coaches, advisors, and staff easier and more convenient.

There is also much to be excited about across our campus. Our new **multi-sport turf field** officially opened for play on August 18 and is already providing much-needed space for our fall athletic programs, while our new **pollinator garden** at Route 322 and Kings Highway represents a wonderful partnership among our students, staff, and community. This edition also includes important back-to-school information about Genesis, transportation, Schoology, Chromebooks, health services, school safety, Back-to-School Nights, and key dates for the months ahead.

As we prepare to open our doors once again, I am excited about the opportunities that await our students and look forward to another year of learning, growth, achievement, and memorable experiences. On behalf of our Board of Education, administration, faculty, and staff, **welcome back to Kingsway and the start of another great school year!**

Very truly yours,
Jim



Home of the Dragons

What's New for 2026-2027

Off and Away

New Internet-Enabled Device Expectations

As shared in my **August 6 announcement**, Kingsway will begin the 2026-2027 school year implementing new expectations for personal internet-enabled devices in accordance with New Jersey's new Phone-Free Schools law. Through our **Off and Away** initiative, personal devices, including cell phones and smartwatches, must remain powered off and securely stored from bell to bell, allowing students to focus on learning, engage more fully with one another, and reduce distractions throughout the school day. **Learn Now. Connect Later.** Click [here](#) to review my announcement and learn more about the new expectations.

New Student Attendance Procedures

As shared in my **June 9 announcement**, Kingsway will implement updated student attendance procedures beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. The changes better align our local practices with New Jersey statutes and NJDOE attendance reporting requirements while supporting our ongoing efforts to address chronic absenteeism and maximize instructional time for students. **Every day matters**, and regular attendance remains one of the most important factors in student success. Click [here](#) to review my original announcement and learn more about the updated attendance procedures.



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OFF AND AWAY

Device Expectations 2026-27

From entering the building until final dismissal, personal internet-enabled devices must remain **off and away** all day.

	OFF	Powered Off or Silenced
	AWAY	Stored in School-Issued Lockers or Leave at Home
	ALL DAY	From building entry until final dismissal including class, lunch, passing time, study hall, and bathrooms

This policy applies to cell phones, smartwatches, tablets, personal laptops, smart glasses, and other personal devices capable of connecting to the internet or sending or receiving digital communications and is in accordance with NJ state law.

Need to communicate during the school day?

	Parents: Contact the school's main office.		Students: Use the school's phone in the office with staff's permission.		Students may use their district-issued devices and email accounts to communicate with their parent or guardian.
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Leave at home or stored in school-issued lockers.

LEARN NOW. CONNECT LATER.



New Secure 2-Way Chat Makes Connecting with Kingsway Easier

New for the **2026–2027 school year**, Kingsway is launching **Finalsite's 2-Way Chat**, providing families with a simple, secure, and convenient way to communicate directly with participating teachers, coaches, advisors, and school staff. In an increasingly digital world where privacy and security matter, the new platform brings school-related messages, updates, and important

notifications together in one place, reducing the need for multiple apps, text threads, and email chains. Families can access 2-Way Chat through the **Kingsway Mobile App** or from a web browser using the email address associated with their Genesis Parent Portal. **Additional information and guidance will be**



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shared by your principals, teachers, coaches, and advisors in the coming days. In the meantime, families are encouraged to review our [2-Way Chat FAQs](#) to learn more.

New Multi-Sport Turf Field Opens for Play

Kingsway's new **multi-sport turf field** behind the High School officially opened for play on **August 18** and is already seeing tremendous demand from our fall athletic programs. The addition provides Kingsway with a second synthetic turf field and much-needed capacity as **Barchuk Stadium** continues to serve multiple athletic programs, the Marching Band, and our broader community. The new field provides a durable, consistent, year-round playing surface that can withstand heavy use while reducing many of the maintenance and playability challenges associated with natural grass fields. We are grateful for the support of our **Board of Education and community** in making this investment possible and ensuring our students have the facilities, resources, and opportunities they need to excel on our athletic fields, in the classroom, and on the stage.



Kingsway Pollinator Garden Takes Root

Kingsway's new **pollinator garden**, located at the corner of Route 322 and Kings Highway, is doing much more than beautifying our campus. With native bee and honey bee populations experiencing significant



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decline, pollinator habitats play an increasingly important role in supporting the ecosystems upon which local agriculture depends. The project grew from the vision and generosity of **Don Grasso and the Grasso Pollinator Alliance**, working alongside **Ms. Ross, the Kingsway Biology Club, and our students**, who helped construct the garden. Support also came from the **Gloucester County Soil Conservation District, local nurseries, and Garoppo's**, which donated topsoil. The garden features native and pollinator-friendly plants, including **Butterfly Weed** to attract monarch butterflies and hummingbirds, **Coreopsis** for honey bees, **Nepeta catmint**, and **Sweet Pepperbush**, along with a bee house designed to provide habitat for native bees. Beyond supporting our local pollinator population, the garden will serve as a living outdoor classroom where Kingsway students can explore biology, ecology, conservation, and environmental stewardship firsthand. **Be sure to check out the [Pollinator Garden video](#)** to see this exciting project come to life.



Go Bound: New Home for Kingsway Athletics

We are excited to announce that Kingsway Athletics will be transitioning to GoBound as our new platform for athletic schedules and digital ticketing starting July 1st for the 2026-2027 school year. GoBound provides a user-friendly experience that allows families to easily access athletic schedules, receive updates, and purchase event tickets online. **Families can visit the [Kingsway Athletics GoBound page](#) to view schedules, purchase tickets, and stay up to date throughout the season.** We appreciate your support as we make this transition and look forward to providing an improved experience for our students, families, and fans.

Back-to-School Essentials: What Families Need to Know

Genesis Portal is Now Open

Families who have not yet completed their required Back-to-School forms in the **Genesis Parent Portal** should do so as soon as possible. Completion of these forms is necessary to access important information, including student schedules and bus routes. Click [GENESIS](#) to access the Parent Portal.

2026-27 School Calendar

We highly recommend all parents review the [2026-27 School Calendar](#) and mark important dates to ensure a smooth transition back to school. As a reminder, **school reopens to students on Thursday, September 3rd**, and closes on Thursday, June 17, 2027. 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](#).

Student Bus Passes/Information

Be advised that Bus Passes will be made available in the **Genesis Parent Portal on August 22, 2026**.



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Back to School Nights

Our **High School Back to School** Night is scheduled for *Wednesday, September 16th*, and our **Middle School Back to School Night** is scheduled for *Thursday, September 17th*. More information will be sent to you from our principals.

Chromebook Distribution for 7th & 9th Grade Students

Seventh & Ninth grade students will have the opportunity to receive Chromebooks this summer during the opening days of school on September 3 and 4.

Schoology – Student and Parent Access

Kingsway Regional School District uses Schoology as its Learning Management System (LMS) to support teaching and learning and to streamline student, parent, and faculty interactions in an all-in-one digital environment. Schoology serves as a convenient one-stop shop for students to access courses, assignments, teachers, grades, school counselor support, and more. Through Schoology, parents can view their student's courses, check grades, and communicate with teachers. We invite you to sign in and access your parent account to stay involved as partners in your child's education. Click [STUDENT AND PARENT ACCESS](#) (to Schoology) to create your access or add student(s). if you already have a Schoology account, click [SCHOOLGY FOR PARENTS](#) to learn everything you need to know about this platform.

Kingsway's Safety & Security Plan

Kingsway remains committed to providing a safe and secure school environment. We encourage families to review the "I Love U Guys" Foundation's [Standard Response Protocol \(SRP\)](#), which provides the clear, common language Kingsway uses when responding to emergencies. Families may also review the [Standard Response Protocol K12 Manual](#) for additional information.

Summer Assignments Reminder

The goal of summer assignments at KRSD is to continue to engage students in academic activities throughout the summer or to provide continued practice so students enter the next school year with confidence. These activities have been designed to be completed independently without the need for direct instruction to further demonstrate the importance of self-directed learning. If a course is not listed, then a summer assignment is not required for that course. **Summer Assignments Link:**

<https://www.krsd.org/for-parents/summer-assignments>

Student Chromebooks: Expectations for the 2026-27 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 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 2026-27 School Year

Chromebook insurance for the 2026–2027 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>



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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 intramural 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](#).

Student Google Passwords Updated!

As part of our ongoing commitment to protecting student accounts and personal information, **all student Google account passwords were changed on Tuesday, August 4**. This password change applies to all students in grades 8-12. New passwords are available in the Genesis Parent Portal. If you are unable to access the Parent Portal, please contact our Registrar's Office at registrar@krsd.us for assistance.

PE Uniforms 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 Monday, September 14th**. Questions can be directed to Shanna Hoffman, hoffmans@krsd.us.

20th Annual Dragon Run 5K and 1 Mile Walk Registration Now Open

[Registration](#) for the **20th Annual Dragon Run on Saturday, September 26, 2026**, is now available at <https://naterocksheaven.org/DragonRun/>.

Dragon Run Volunteers Needed

The Dragon Run Committee is looking for volunteers to assist with sponsorship, advertising, public relations, pre-registration, race day, and more. It's a great opportunity for our students to earn service hours. Email DragonRun@NateRocksHeaven.org for additional information.



Policy Updates

The Board of Education has amended and/or adopted several policies. Updated policies and regulations are available on the district website and in the [Board Briefs](#) section. All POLICIES & REGULATIONS can be viewed on our website [HERE](#). Employees are reminded of their obligation to review all policy updates carefully.

Look Ahead/Important Dates

Please update your calendars to include the following key dates. For more, click on the District's [2026-27 School Calendar](#) or [Kingsway Athletics GoBound Calendar](#).

Through August 27: Senior Parking Tag Distribution @9:00am-11:30am and 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

August 20 – Welcome Back Bus Drivers!

August 25-27 – New Teacher Orientation Begins

August 27 – 7th Grade Self-Guided Building Tour @10am-12 p.m. & 5 p.m.-7 p.m.



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August 27 – Board of Education Meeting @6:30 p.m.
 September 1 – Annual Faculty & Staff Barbeque
 September 2 – High School Open House @6:30 p.m.
 September 3 – First Day of School for Students
 September 3-4 – Chromebook Distribution for 7th & 9th Graders
 September 8-9 – Picture Day (Grades 9-11)
 September 10 – MS Sports Begins
 September 10 – Middle School Picture Day
 September 14 – Senior Sunrise @6:30am
 September 16 – High School Back to School Night @6:30 p.m.
 September 17 – Middle School Back to School Night @6:30 p.m.
 September 18 – Middle School Renaissance Kick Off
 September 24 – Board of Education Meeting @6:30 p.m.
 September 26 – 20th Annual Dragon Run
 October 1 – College Application Night@6:30 p.m. (Virtual)
 October 7 – Senior Class Picture (during SMART)
 October 12 – In-Service Day (No School for Students)
 October 13-16 – HS Fall Spirit Week
 October 14 – Make-Up Picture Day (Grades 9-11)
 October 15 – Board of Education Meeting @6:30 p.m.
 October 16 – Homecoming Football Game vs. St. Augustine., 6:00 p.m.
 October 17 – Homecoming Dance @6:00 p.m.

In Case You Missed It

- [Kingsway's AP Course Participation Up 37%](#)**
 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.
- [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.](#)
- [U.S. News & World Report Recognition: Kingsway Ranked Among Best High Schools.](#)** Kingsway



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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.

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

JJL/svv



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