



# 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

September 11, 2026

Dear School Community,

The **2026–2027 school year is officially underway**, and I am pleased to share that we have enjoyed a successful and energetic opening across Kingsway. After months of planning and preparation, there is nothing quite like seeing nearly 3,000 students return to our classrooms and hallways, reconnect with friends and teachers, and settle into the routines of another school year.

I want to thank our faculty, staff, administrators, students, and families for helping us get off to such a positive start. As we begin the year together, I encourage families to take two minutes to enjoy our [2026–2027 Welcome Back Video](#), featuring familiar faces from across Kingsway sharing their excitement for the new school year and a simple message: **Welcome back, Dragons—we're glad you're here!**

This week also provides an important opportunity for reflection as Kingsway joins our nation in commemorating **Patriot Day and the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks**. This morning, our students and staff paused together to remember the 2,977 innocent lives lost, honor the heroic first responders who rushed toward danger to save others, and reflect upon the profound impact that day had on our nation. At 8:46 a.m., four bell chimes sounded throughout Kingsway as our school community observed a moment of silence. **We Remember. We Honor. We Serve.**



Our commemoration will continue Friday evening with Kingsway's annual **Salute to Service Ceremony** prior to kickoff of our varsity football game. We will proudly recognize the **police officers, firefighters, and EMS professionals** who serve our local communities and invite them onto the field to lead our Dragons out before the game. It is another opportunity for our students and school community to express gratitude to those who dedicate themselves to serving and protecting others.

Finally, I look forward to welcoming our parents and guardians back to campus for our upcoming **Back-to-School Nights**. These evenings provide an opportunity to follow your child's schedule, meet their teachers, learn more about their courses and expectations, and strengthen the school-family partnership that is so important to student success.

I invite you to review this month's **Superintendent's News & Notes** and [August Board Brief](#) for additional updates, reminders, and important information as we begin another great year at Kingsway.

As always, thank you for your continued support and partnership. **We are excited for all that lies ahead in 2026–2027.**

Very truly yours,  
Jim

*none of the Dragons*

### Welcome Back Video

There's no better way to start a new school year than hearing from the people who make Kingsway such a special place! Take two minutes to enjoy our [2026–2027 Welcome Back Video](#), featuring familiar faces from across our schools sharing a simple message: **Welcome back, Dragons—we're glad you're here!**

### Patriot Day: Commemorating the 25th Anniversary

*A National Day of Service and Remembrance.*

On this 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Kingsway joined our nation in observing Patriot Day, a National Day of Service and Remembrance. **This morning, our students and staff paused together** to remember the 2,977 innocent lives lost, honor the heroic first responders who rushed toward danger to save others, and reflect upon the profound impact that day had on our nation.

At 8:46 a.m., marking the moment American Airlines Flight 11 struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center, four bell chimes sounded throughout Kingsway as our school community observed a moment of silence. As we remember those who were lost, we also encourage our students to honor their legacy through service to our school, our community, and our nation.

**We Remember. We Honor. We Serve.**

### 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.

**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/>.

### Running For Nate: Celebrating 20 Years of the Dragon Run

For 20 years, the **Dragon Run** has brought the Kingsway and Swedesboro-Woolwich communities together to celebrate the life and legacy of **Nate Boerlin**, a Kingsway student who passed away from brain cancer at just 16 years old. What began as a way for the Boerlin family and community to honor Nate has grown into a cherished annual tradition, bringing together students, alumni, families, volunteers, and friends while carrying forward Nate's spirit of **family, faith, education, and service**.

The *Swedesboro-Woolwich Neighbors* recently featured the Boerlin family and the remarkable story behind the Dragon Run **as this cherished community tradition prepares to celebrate its 20th anniversary on September 26**. To read the full article, [click HERE](#).



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## 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](#).

September 10 – MS Sports Begins  
 September 10 – Middle School Picture Day  
 September 11 – Patriot Day Commemoration; Salute to Service Football Game vs. Rancocas Valley  
 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 – 20<sup>th</sup> 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



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accomplishments and [the recognition they have received.](#)

- **[U.S. News & World Report Recognition: Kingsway Ranked Among Best High Schools.](#)** 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.



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