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

November 17, 2026

Re: Sad News – Passing of Kingsway Student Stephen Toth

Dear School Community,

It is with profound sadness that I inform you of the passing of **Stephen Toth,** a ninth-grade student at Kingsway Regional High School, on Monday, November 16. Stephen was a kind young man who was involved in our Navy JROTC and cross-country programs, and the news of his passing has had an immediate impact on our faculty, staff, and students.

We learned of Stephen's passing Monday afternoon and immediately began preparing our school to support students and staff. We ask that our community respect Stephen's family and one another during this very difficult time and refrain from speculation or sharing unverified information.

Before the start of school Tuesday morning, we met with our faculty and staff to share the news and review our plans for supporting students. Our teachers and school counselors then personally addressed students in their classrooms. Counseling and support services were established throughout the school, and students have been afforded the time and flexibility to seek support as needed. These services will remain available throughout the week and longer, if necessary.

We recognize that this communication may be the first time some families are learning of Stephen's passing. Students will have varied reactions to the death of a peer, and these reactions are a normal part of the grieving process. I encourage you to speak openly with your child about how they are feeling and remind them that support is available.

To assist our families, we are sharing several **resources** provided through the Traumatic Loss Coalition, including **Tips for Supporting Grieving Kids** and additional **Grief Resources**. Families seeking outside support may also access **Care Solace**, a free and confidential service that connects students, staff, and their families with mental health providers, regardless of insurance. **If your child or family needs immediate support, 24/7 crisis support is a phone call away. Dial 988 or call NJ PerformCare at 1-877-652-7624.**

If you believe your child would benefit from additional support, please do not hesitate to contact your child's school counselor.

Our hearts are with Stephen's family and friends, as well as the students and staff members who knew him. Please keep them in your thoughts during this incredibly difficult time.

Very truly yours,

James J. Lavender, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools