



# Kingsway set to launch Navy JROTC program; leadership & citizenship through a military lens

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Woolwich Twp.** – School officials are excited to announce that it will roll out its Navy JROTC Program in the fall 2023. Kingsway’s Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) Program, in partnership with the U.S. Department of the Navy, will be open to all high school students in the 2023-24 school year.

The program implements the U.S. Department of the Navy’s accredited curricula, which emphasizes leadership and citizenship alongside other real-world skills.

The Navy’s maritime heritage, the significance of sea power, and naval topics such as the fundamentals of naval operations, seamanship, navigation, and meteorology will also be part of the classroom experience. Students gain opportunities to participate in community service, military drills, field meets, physical fitness, and co-curricular visits to naval or other military organizations. The program will begin as a Navy National Defense Cadet Corps (NNDCC), a forerunner to the NJROTC, and is being advertised with its more familiar name - NJROTC.



Incoming 9th through 12th grade students can begin signing up for the program in January. Though many associate JROTC with joining the military, it is not a program intended for military preparation. In fact, the main objectives of the program center on cultivating students' leadership skills, self-confidence, discipline, hard work, and community service skills. In a survey administered in November 2022, sixty-one percent of the near 1,200 respondents noted an interest in a course or program that helped them develop the aforementioned skills. "We are excited to expand our program offerings for our students and especially one that they say is important to them," said Superintendent Dr. James J. Lavender. "Programs that emphasize leadership development and highlight service to others are critical as we prepare our students for college, career, and life after graduation."

The first year of the program introduces students to the meaning of citizenship. It also sets a foundation for their four years of the program by diving into leadership, scholarship, goal-setting, and healthy lifestyle choices; an overview of naval ships and aircraft is also taught. The second year of the program broadens the understanding of students in operative principles of military leadership. Students learn teamwork, using order and discipline to accomplish objectives, while gaining a more in-depth knowledge of naval ships and aircraft.

The third and fourth years of the program offer a unique experience. As students continue to build on the principles of leadership, they interact through a mentorship-style approach allowing upperclassman to demonstrate what they have learned. Students who sign up for NJ ROTC are assigned ranks to provide a sense of leadership and chain of command. "Being a member of the NJROTC allows students to be part of a greater community of supportive peers and adults, says Lavender. "This gives them purpose and provides them support during a critical time in their lives."

Announcement of the program is the result of multi-year discussion about bringing NJROTC to Kingsway. A virtual information session will take place on January 17, 2023 to assist students and parents in learning more about the program.

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### **About the Kingsway Regional School District**

Kingsway is a limited purpose regional school district that offers its students a rigorous academic program and a myriad of enrichment programs and services for students in 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 own areas of interest. Our population of approximately 2,900 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 [www.krsd.org](http://www.krsd.org) or visit our information video [Why Kingsway?](#)