



Kingsway's Esports Team competes for state title; showcases 4 C's of success

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Woolwich Twp. – Communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity are important skills in the modern world. In fact, an article in the [Harvard Business Review](#) claims that the ability to think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems may even be more important to potential employers than a candidate's undergraduate degree.

In its inaugural season, Kingsway's Esports team leveraged these skills to win the Garden State Esports (GSE) West Jersey Conference and advance to the semifinals ranked first among stiff competition. The team, led by starters Bryce Townes (senior), Dominic Palladino (junior), and Antonio Segarra (junior) performed at an exemplary level all season.

School officials jumped on the opportunity to develop its first Esports program this year after recognizing the benefits high school and college students have experienced while participating in competitive virtual gaming programs.



“The opportunity for our students to develop the so-called soft skills is what grabbed our attention,” said Superintendent James Lavender. “The opportunity for our students to sharpen their ability to think critically, communicate clearly, and collaborate as a member of a team is what sold us.”

Leading scholars claim virtual gaming boosts strategic thinking, teamwork, communication, leadership, performance skills and confidence building, so-called soft skills, among participants.

Coach Melanie Springer said, "The students have worked hard all season to improve their gameplay, teamwork, and communication. I'm proud of how far they've come and we are looking forward to competing in the semifinals at Rider University."

Coaches Melanie Springer and Jasmine Amberths have observed camaraderie as another benefit of the program. Creating opportunities for students to become part of a team, to connect with teammates and coaches, improve confidence and learn to compete fairly while collaborating group efforts toward a common purpose are major benefits of the new program.

“Regardless of the sport, teams create a sense of community; a sense of belonging for our students,” said Athletic Director June Cioffi. “When you become part of something bigger than yourself, you gain a new sense of self and experiences that shape who you become long after play stops.”

Kingsway’s Esports Team looks to continue their extraordinary season by traveling to Rider University this Saturday to face the defending state champion, Barnegat High School, in a 3v3 Rocket League match. Kingsway will have the opportunity to showcase their skills in front of attending college coaches and professional teams.

Nearly 200 colleges and universities are members of the National Association of Collegiate Esports (NACE) and offer recognized varsity Esports programs. Many of these schools offer partial and full-ride gaming scholarships. Previous student athletes from the GSE League have found success during and after their high school Esports careers, with nine students receiving college scholarships in 2022.

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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 or visit our information video [Why Kingsway?](#)