

HURRICANE WATCH



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

February 2023

Monthly Newsletter



WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

- Head of School Update
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Head of School Update

By Dr. Justin Mitchell

Greetings, First Baptist Community!

I hope that your 2023 is off to a great start, it certainly is an exciting time for families of First Baptist School! There are lots of new and exciting things happening that parents and students alike can look forward to.

Continued on Page 2...

From innovative new learning programs to updated safety protocols, First Baptist School is dedicated to creating the best possible educational experience for its students and families. With a strong focus on **Academic Excellence with a Christian Perspective**, coupled with character development, and spiritual growth, the First Baptist is committed to providing an environment that is conducive to learning, exploration, and growth. Parents can rest assured that their children will be safe and well cared for, while also challenged and inspired in ways that will prepare them to thrive in college and beyond. With so many new and exciting developments, 2023 is sure to be an amazing year at First Baptist School!

Both campuses have so many exciting opportunities for students happening now and in the near future. Looking ahead toward spring, we can see how learning is a priority both in and outside of our classrooms. Our Downtown K4 and K5 students went to a performance at the Dock Street Theatre on January 25th. Our 1st and 7th graders are participating in Water Missions events on February 3. Our middle school students are taking a trip to the SC State House and then to Biltmore Estate from February 15-16. Additionally, our high school juniors are going to Boston in March. Our 9th and 10th-grade students will be participating in a variety of local service opportunities and field trips.

Our Fine Arts programs have a busy month in January. We are currently finalizing plans for spring concerts and showcases. We are excited to welcome at least one or two guest artists to our campuses this semester. Increasing artistic literacy is a primary goal for our Fine Arts department, and providing opportunities for creative expression and exploration is paramount to our strategies for reaching that goal. This semester, we are highlighting some of our recent FBS Arts Alumni on our Fine Arts social media accounts. We invite you to follow the Fine Arts pages to see the footprints that our arts programs continue to make on our campuses and beyond.

Our Athletic Department is also very busy. Our basketball season is approaching the end of their seasons and many of our teams prepare for the playoffs. Our teams from 5th-grade basketball to varsity basketball, have been working hard all season to improve their game and look to finish the season strong! Last week was capped off with an exciting 71-59 victory by our varsity boys over Porter-Gaud where senior Matty Foor scored 35 points! There are just a few more home games left for our high school teams capped off with two big home games to close the year. JV and Varsity will play Porter-Gaud at home on February 10 starting at 4:00 pm and we will host Senior Night for our basketball seniors on February 14 when we play Hilton Head Christian.

Spring sports are just around the corner! Many of our spring teams have been working out and lifting weights as they prepare for the start of their seasons in the coming weeks. We look forward to all of our spring teams starting strong!

Continued on next page...

As a reminder, Winter Break is February 17-20. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve our students, families, each other, and you, our First Baptist community. We invite you to stay up to date with current events by following First Baptist School's social media and our school webpage.
#WeAreFB

Be blessed,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

FEBRUARY 2023

School Calendar

7	PTO Meeting (James Island Media Center)	6:30 pm
16	Dress Down Day	
17-19	Winter Break	
23	Boosterthon Fundraiser Kick-Off	

[Click here](#)
for Athletic
Schedule





1ST GRADE WATER MISSION PROJECT

In order to bring awareness to the Global Water Crisis our world is currently suffering, First Grade has partnered with Water Mission! We plan to participate and recruit other students and their families to join us in the annual “Walk for Water”.

In some parts of the world, millions of women and children spend several hours a day collecting water, walking about 4 miles and the water is mostly dirty. Dirty water makes people sick and walking each day prevents children from attending school.

WHAT IS WATER MISSION?

Water Mission is a Christian engineering nonprofit that builds safe water, sanitation, and hygiene solutions in developing countries and disaster areas. Since 2001, Water Mission has served more than 7 million people in 57 countries. [Click here](#) to learn more.

WHAT IS THE WALK FOR WATER?

Participating in The Walk for Water provides the opportunity for us to empathize for a brief moment, what so many less fortunate communities must do daily to survive. Each participant will carry an empty bucket of water, walk several miles to fill it up, and then walk back to fill a large pool of water with their contributions. This sends a powerful message to each participant of what it might be like if they had to do this day after day after day. This year’s annual walk is scheduled for Saturday, March 25th, 2023!

Join our team and walk with us! Follow the link below to register or donate to this beautiful cause.

[Join Our Team](#)



IN THE KNOW

school happenings



SchoolPass System

We are also very pleased to have our new visitor management system which adds another level of security! We are finally getting into a groove with the new program. The program can be used through the app or website: <https://fbschool.school-pass.net/>

If you would like us to send you your pin to easily sign students in and out, please let the main office know and we can get that pushed out to you. No need to download the app. Thank you all for your flexibility as we navigate this new program.



C.R.E.A.T.E. Valentine Grams

Purchase your Valentine's Grams to help support the FBS C.R.E.A.T.E. Club's Daffodil Project Fundraiser! Each Valentine's Gram gift bag will come with candy and a Valentine's note!

Each Valentine's Gram is \$2.00 and can be [ordered here!](#)



FIRST BAPTIST SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow along with our daily happenings on our social media pages! Below are the official school social media pages.

SCHOOL



FINE ARTS



ATHLETICS



WANT TO SHARE YOUR PHOTOS WITH US? BE SURE TO TAG US AND USE OUR SCHOOL HASHTAG!

#WeAreFB

GET READY FOR SUMMER!



*Registration is
filling fast!*

HURRICANES SUMMER CAMP

May 30 - August 4, 2023

The FBS Hurricanes Summer Camp is open to rising K3-5th graders. Campers do not have to attend First Baptist School of Charleston to attend. Younger campers must be potty trained to attend camp.

[REGISTER](#)



SUMMER ENRICHMENT CAMP

July 17-21, 2023

Summer may seem far away, but it's never too early to plan ahead! Our Summer Enrichment camp is back for rising 1st-6th graders to get a jump start on the 23-24 school year!

[REGISTER](#)

CANES

NEWS



First Baptist Welcomes Jamaal Birch as Varsity Football Head Coach

First Baptist is proud to announce the hiring of our next head varsity football coach, Jamaal Birch! We are so excited to welcome Coach Birch to our Hurricane family where he will also serve in a full-time academic role at the high school campus. Coach Birch has an infectious energy that is evident the first time anyone meets him. He is a man of strong faith and high moral character who has a passion for molding young people. His leadership skills, commitment and desire to win on and off the field are a perfect match with the culture of First Baptist. Please join us in welcoming Coach Jamaal Birch to First Baptist!



Coach Jamaal Birch

Jamaal Birch was born in Rodalben, Germany and later moved to Aviano, Italy before making Charleston, South Carolina his home, where he spent the majority of his childhood. He later moved to San Antonio, Texas where his father was stationed while serving in the military. Coach Birch attended William Howard Taft High School where he ran track and played football. He went on to play football for the MacMurray College Highlanders in Jacksonville, Illinois where he received a Bachelor's of Science in Sport Management and a minor in business. He began his coaching career as the varsity wide receivers coach, pass game coordinator, and junior varsity head coach at Oceanside Collegiate Academy under Coach Chad Grier for three years. He also served as a Student Concerns Specialist at OCA. Coach Birch then moved to Charlotte to work at Providence Day School where he served as the varsity wide receivers coach, the junior varsity head coach, and the offensive coordinator. He also served as a learning coordinator and academic advisor at PD. While coaching at Providence Day, the varsity football team won back-to-back NCISAA Division 1 State Championships in 2021 and 2022. Coach Birch has developed college wide receivers who are now playing collegiately at UNC, Livingstone College, Western Carolina, and East Carolina. Six of his wide-receivers at PD currently have multiple division one offers. Coach Birch is also pursuing his masters in organizational leadership.



Second grade appreciates those of you who have sent in pop tabs for our Ronald McDonald House Service Learning Project! Together, we have filled a large container and have started on the second! This project supports the families of critically ill children, so please save your pop tabs and ask neighbors, relatives, and friends to save theirs, too! The children can bring the tabs to the collection station in the library. We will collect the tabs until the end of the school year.

Thank you for helping us support such a special organization!

First Baptist 2nd Grade

FEBRUARY 2023

PTO News & Updates

Lindsay Loewer, PTO President



Each year, the PTO hosts two major fundraisers. Charleston Wrap was our Fall fundraiser, and with your help, we raised over \$17,000! This money has been allocated towards the Social Institute Curriculum, an iPad for the high school SchoolPass system, computers for K-4th grades, the Accelerated Reading program subscription, and special supplies for several class projects!

For our Spring fundraiser, the PTO is excited to partner with Booster!

We will kick off our FBS Boosterthon Fundraiser on 2.23.23.

We will conclude the fundraiser with a Fun Run on 3.3.23.

We will need volunteers!

Our goal is to raise \$20,000 for a new sign for the High School campus, iPads for K-2nd grade, and a Library refresh for K2-8th grade!

Registration opens on 2.9.23.

Stay tuned for more details!

Upcoming Events

PTO Meeting
Feb. 7, 2023

Dress Down Day
Feb. 16, 2023

Boosterthon Kickoff
Feb. 23, 2023

Booster Fun Run
March 2, 2023

Teacher Appreciation
Week
March 6-10, 2023

Contact Us



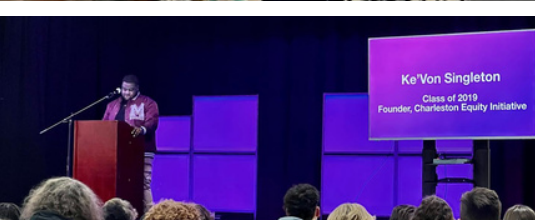
PTO website:
fbschool.org/pto



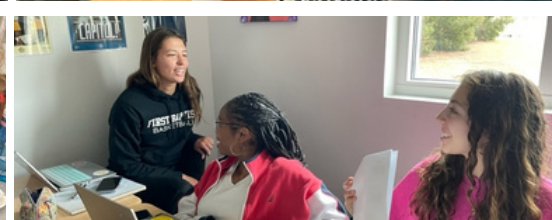
E-mail the PTO:
pto@fbschool.org



Around Campus

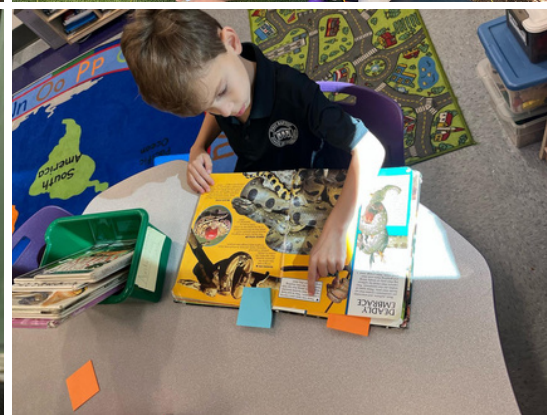


Ke'Von Singleton
Class of 2019
Founder, Charleston Equity Initiative



WORD for the year

work at it with
Today in English 7:30-8:00 Mon
8th Grade
3 Time Word Presentations
Journal 24 Write about it
15 min, back to the classroom



HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING

Welcome Shannon Roy!



SHANNON ROY

Happy New Year and Welcome Back! We hope your winter break was filled with all of the things that bring you happiness and that you are feeling refreshed in the new year. As we embark on the second semester, now is a great time for you and your student to do some self-reflection around the first semester and set some goals for the rest of the year. Setting goals and making small changes can turn into wellness habits that set the stage for joy and resiliency in the new year.

This month's newsletter is jam-packed with important information, so I wanted to highlight a few things, but first...

I wanted to take just a minute to introduce myself and go over my role as the new high school counselor. As a lot of you know, my role at the beginning of the school year was the administrative assistant to Dr. Kupersmith after 9 years of being home with my girls (Evie, 9 and Anya, 7 who attend the Lower School at FBS). My career includes 7 years working as a school counselor at a regional high school (1200 students) doing many things with grades 9-12. As I step into this new role here at FB High School, I want you all to know what my role looks like going forward.



HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING

In a nutshell, the goal of the High School Counselor is to assist our students in making academic, personal, and career decisions that will allow them to reach their full potential. Every student is unique and as a counselor, it is my job to:

- Help our students recognize their individual strengths and talents.
- Work with students, teachers and families to plan an appropriate program of study that will allow the student to challenge his or herself to the best of their ability and explore their individual interests.
- Assist our students in finding post-secondary opportunities that will help them reach their goals and become productive members of our society.

I will also assist our students with the daily challenges they face as adolescents. Students are encouraged to make an appointment to discuss any concerns they may have, whether they are of an academic or personal nature. Anything more in depth (mental health concerns) will be encouraged to make an appointment with our school adjustment counselor, Rose Cummings.

The School Counseling Team is a resource for parents as well. Our goal as counselors is to work with you as you navigate your child's educational journey throughout the high school years.

Parent(s)/Caregiver(s) of juniors (and students!) are asked to SAVE THE DATE for our Planning for Life After FBS seminar that will be held on Thursday, February 9th at 6:30pm in the AUX Gym at the JI campus. I will be presenting on topics including communication tools and post-secondary options. The bulk of the presentation will cover college specific planning.

We're getting close to course selection/scheduling for the 2023-2024 school year! Please expect an email from me with more information coming soon on course registration for your student.

Have a great February!

Shannon Roy
High School Counseling

FBS Counselor
Rose Cummings



WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT?

In our Character Education classes, our kindergarteners learned all about their bodies that God miraculously made and how to take care of it while Mrs. Locklear's 1st grade class learned about Bravery & Accountability (and what those words mean). The Social Institute has been plugging away with our Intermediate and Middle School students. January's topic was "Protect your Privacy Like You're Famous" where they learned lots of ways to protect their devices and were surprised at some of these measures that work well and ones that surprisingly don't! February's topic is

"Find Your Influencers" when we will discuss the impact and importance of surrounding yourself with people that inspire you. The Counseling Department is also bringing back the Father Daughter dance after a hiatus during Covid. It will be March 18th so save the date and be looking for more information via email!

Did you know that recommendations for good brain health for children aged 2-5 is

Continued on next page...

no more than an hour a day of screen time, and no more than two hours (not including homework) for 6–17-year-olds? If you're like our family, some of those tough times are in the car, and in the grocery store or waiting rooms. Consider making a sensory fun box for your child with their favorite type of sensory putty or fluffy slime, miniature magnetic balls, sensory stretchy strings, and/or a miniature etch-a-sketch. This will keep those little hands and minds busy for a little while at least, cutting down that screen time. Find a cute bag or plastic personalized box with a handle for easy on-the-go fun! I attached some links for easy finds.

- [Fluffy non-stick butter slime](#)
- [Heat sensory putty](#)
- [Magnetic balls](#)
- [Sensory Strings](#)
- [Mini Etch-a-Sketch](#)

FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

RESOURCES



RENWEB
LOGIN



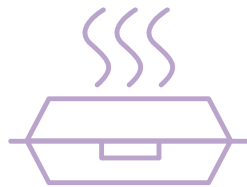
STUDENT
HANDBOOK

PTO

PARENT TEACHER
ORGANIZATION(PTO)



SMART TUITION
LOGIN



SCHOOLHOUSE
FARE LUNCH



DRESS CODE



FACULTY/STAFF
DIRECTORY



ACADEMIC
CALENDAR



ONLINE
GIVING

These resources can always be found on the [Resources](#) page of our website.