



# FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL



HURRICANE ANNUAL REPORT ● 2022-2023



FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL ADVANCEMENT OFFICE

Published by the First Baptist  
School Advancement Office

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Graham Haley

On the Cover: FBS Graduates; Alaina Heidt,  
Meagan White, Anyla Mikell, and Jack McLeod

Right: The Class of 2023 celebrates  
commencement.



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# LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear First Baptist School Community,

I am thrilled to present the First Baptist School's Annual Report for the 2022-2023 Academic Year, celebrating the tremendous achievements of our students, faculty, and staff. It is with great pride that I share the remarkable progress and growth we have witnessed over the past year.

Our dedicated students have once again proven their exceptional abilities, exhibiting outstanding performance, leadership skills, and a commitment to serving their community. We are proud to announce that our students have excelled in academic, artistic, and athletic competitions, with a number of them earning top honors at the regional and state levels. Their commitment to Academic Excellence with a Christian Perspective is truly commendable.

Additionally, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the forty members of graduating class of 2023. This exceptional group of young individuals has demonstrated perseverance, dedication, and a passion for learning throughout their time at First Baptist School. As they



**Dr. Justin Mitchell**  
Head of School

prepare to embark on the next chapter of their lives, it brings me great joy to share the impressive list of colleges and universities our seniors will be attending in the fall. Our graduates have been accepted into esteemed institutions such as the College of Charleston, Clemson University, Tri-County Technical College, Midlands Technical College, University of South Carolina, Ole Miss, Anderson University, Trident Technical College, Carson-Newman University, The Citadel, Newberry College, Charleston Southern University, Coastal Carolina University, Sewanee, Georgia State University, Georgia Southern University, Erskine College, Furman University, Palm Beach Atlantic University, Converse College, and Wingate University. This diverse range of educational paths reflects the remarkable achievements and potential of our graduating class, and we are immensely proud of their accomplishments. We wish them every success and know that they will continue to shine brightly as they pursue their higher education goals.

Our esteemed faculty and staff have continued to provide an exceptional educational experience, nurturing and inspiring our students to reach their full potential. Their tireless dedication to delivering quality instruction, fostering a nurturing environment, and embracing innovative teaching methods have played a crucial role in shaping our students' success. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each member of our faculty and staff for their unwavering commitment to our students' academic and spiritual growth and development.

Furthermore, I am delighted to announce that the 2022-2023 Academic Year marked a significant milestone for First Baptist School. We reached a 20-year high in beginning school enrollment, with an impressive 513 students

either returning or joining our school community. This achievement is a testament to the trust and confidence parents place in our school, recognizing our commitment to providing a well-rounded education that emphasizes academic excellence, character development, and spiritual growth.

The growth of our school continues to surpass expectations. As we look ahead to the 2023-2024 Academic Year, I am delighted to share that we have already exceeded last year's enrollment figures. With 557 students enrolled for the 2023-2024 school year, we anticipate a thriving and diverse student body that will undoubtedly contribute to the rich tapestry of our school community.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the unwavering support of our parents, alumni, and the wider community. We are deeply grateful for your continued trust, involvement, and generous contributions that enable us to provide an exceptional education to our students.

As we reflect on the past year's successes and look forward to the future, I am filled with excitement and optimism. The First Baptist School community remains committed to nurturing our students' potential, fostering a love for learning, and equipping them with the skills necessary to excel in an ever-changing world. Together, we will continue to strive for Christ-centered academic excellence, embracing challenges, and seizing opportunities.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers, support, and partnership. With your continued involvement, I am confident that the coming years will bring even greater achievements and blessings for our school and its cherished community.

# Congratulations

CLASS OF 2023







## COMMENCEMENT 2023

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Commencement exercises for the Class of 2023 were held on Friday, May 26, at 7:30 pm at the First Baptist Church of Charleston Sanctuary. The commencement speaker was The Honorable John W. Kittredge Associate Justice, South Carolina Supreme Court

John W. Kittredge is an Associate Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court. He was born in Greenville, South Carolina in 1956. After graduating from the University of South Carolina, he pursued a successful legal career before being elected to various judicial positions. Justice Kittredge has been actively involved in community and state service throughout his career.





6

1. Valedictorian Avery Selander
2. Graduates, Hailey Switzer and Zoe Lant
3. High school faculty and staff
4. Commencement speaker, The Honorable John W. Kittredge
5. High School Principal, Dr. Leonard Kupersmith and graduate Gerad Louis
6. Graduate, Kate Conforatta
7. Graham Haley speaks to graduates



7



*Class of 2023*

## OUR GRADUATES

Ethan Atwell, Lauren Benson, Maisie Black, Capers Cauthen Jr., Aaron Cavanagh, Kate Confarotta, Sylus Enter, Robert Evans, Doveverreal Fishburne, Matthew Foor, Wilson Garner, Cecilia Gruber, John Gunst, Jamarion Harrell, Alaina Heidt, Paul Hooker, Francesca King, Preston Landrith, Ian Laney, Zoe Lant, Gerard Louis, Curtis-Henry Magwood Jr., Robert Maybank, William McCombs IV, Jack McLeod, Daniel Mengedoht III, Anyla Mikell, Jaiden Morrison, James Pisano III, Robert Powers, Frazier Roberts III, Patrick Roberts Jr., William Roumillat III, Bradley Sadler Jr., Avery Selander, Hailey Switzer, Wyatt Van Liew, Max Wachowicz, Kaleb Washington, Meagan White

FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU," DECLARES THE LORD, "PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE.

JEREMIAH 29:11

# MATRICULATIONS

Anderson University

Carson-Newman University

**Charleston Southern University**

Clemson University

Coastal Carolina University

**College of Charleston**

Converse University

Erskine College

Furman University

Georgia Southern University

Georgia State University

**Midlands Technical College**

Newberry College

**Palm Beach Atlantic University**

Sewanee: The University of the South

**The Citadel**

The University of Mississippi

**The University of South Carolina**

**Tri-County Technical College**

**Trident Technical College**

Wingate University

\*Colleges/Universities in bold denote more than one FBS graduate attending

Members of the Class of 2023 were accepted to **44 different colleges and universities.**

Graduates of the Class of 2023 will attend 21 unique colleges and universities.

- 7 attending **faith-based colleges**
- 3 attending **military colleges**
- 7 attending **out-of-state colleges**

**6 graduates will play intercollegiate athletics:**  
**Charleston Southern University, Converse University, Erskine College, Newberry College, Sewanee: The University of the South, Wingate University.**





FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL  
FINE ARTS

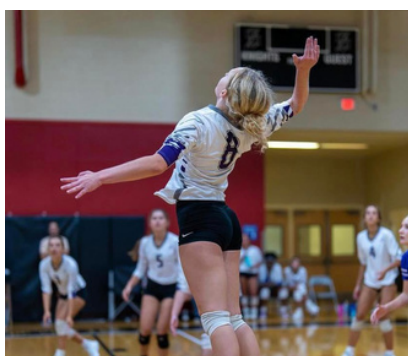
# HIGHLIGHTS IN THE ARTS



1. Seussical The Musical (1st-6th grade musical theatre production)
2. Heroes & Villains (7th-12th grade musical theatre production)
3. Lessons & Carols
4. Spring Dance Showcase
5. High School Dancers performed in Times Square as part of Project Dance NYC
6. Austin Hooker qualified for Region 4 Senior Honor Band
7. High School Art and Photography Showcase



# HIGHLIGHTS IN ATHLETICS

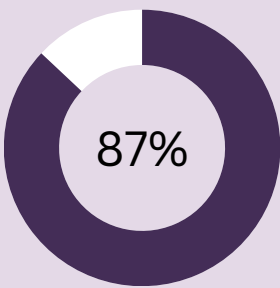


First Baptist Athletics had twelve varsity teams compete at their respective state tournaments during the 2022-2023 school year. In the Spring, the boys soccer team had its best finish since the 1990's by making a strong run to the state semi-finals. The Varsity Cross Country Teams also had one of their best finishes in years with Edings Walpole finishing 9th in the state and the boys teams coming in 7th place overall. The Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball teams continued their strong runs over the past several years as both teams reached the state semi-finals. 88% of the First Baptist National Honor Society played at least one sport and one-third of the First Baptist National Honor Society were multiple sport athletes during the 2022-2023 season. 228 First Baptist athletes participated in middle school, JV and varsity sports during the 2022-2023 season. 76% of high school students at First Baptist play at least one sport and one-third of our high school student-athletes play multiple varsity sports at First Baptist.

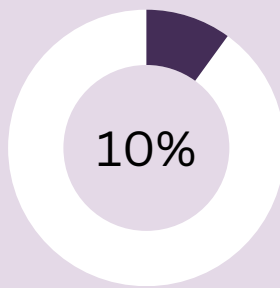
# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2022-2023

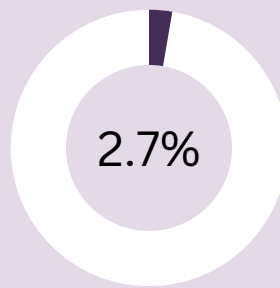
Total Revenue from Operations - \$6,667,180.70



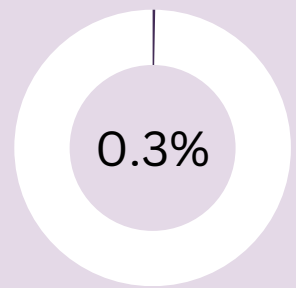
Tuition & Fees



Fundraising & Gifts

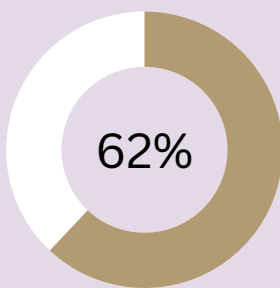


Other Programs/Revenue

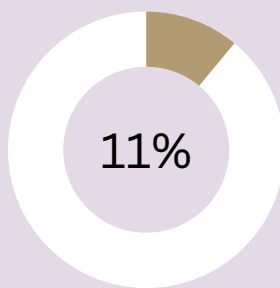


Dividend/Interest Income

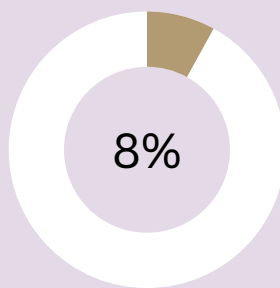
Total Expenses from Operations - \$6,547,598.73



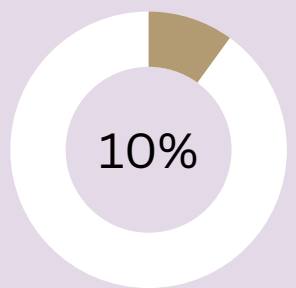
Salaries & Benefits



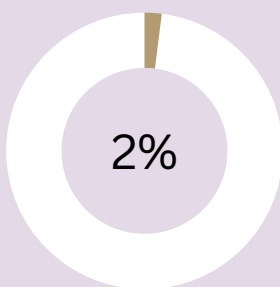
Instructional & Co-Curricular Expenses



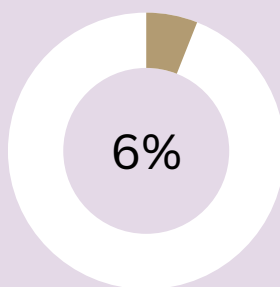
Physical Plant Operations



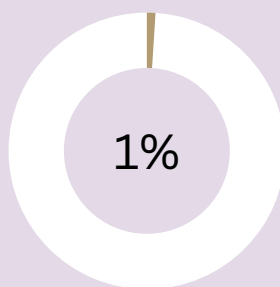
General Operating Expenses



Need-Based Tuition Assistance Program



Depreciation & Amortization Expenses



Other

# ADVANCEMENT REVIEW

## Loyalty Fund Contributions

Dr. John Hamrick, the founder of First Baptist had a vision of offering a quality, affordable Christian education. We are proud that after more than 70 years, First Baptist School is one of Charleston's best private institutions for quality education and affordability. In an effort to keep our tuition affordable, we rely on financial contributions to help us bridge the gap between tuition income and the actual costs of an FBS education. This year our dedicated financial contributors helped us raise over \$190,326.17. These funds include unrestricted donations to be used where they are needed most, and restricted donations to be used after a specific amount of time, or for a specific purpose. Thank you to our dedicated financial contributors!

## FBS Friends and Family Oyster Roast

On Sunday, October 23, 2022, the FBS Friends and Family Oyster Roast was held on the banks of the Stono River. Attended by over 200 people, the Island House provided the perfect setting for the event, and the oysters and chili provided by Tracy Bentz were delicious. It was a great evening and we can't wait to do it again!



FBS Friends and Family  
Oyster Roast held in  
October 2022.

## 11th Biennial Live and Silent Auction

We are excited to announce the FBS 11th Biennial Live and Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at The Harbour Club at WestEdge. The school auction is always a wonderful time of great fun, food, music and raising much needed funds for our school. Mark your calendar and be on the lookout for more information.

If you are interested in sponsoring the event, or donating an auction item, please contact Beth Switzer at [switzerb@fbschool.org](mailto:switzerb@fbschool.org).

## First Baptist School Board of Visitors

This past spring we were pleased to reboot our FBS Board of Visitors, kicking off with the annual BOV Spring Brunch. The Spring Brunch, held on April 19, 2023, at The Harbour Club at WestEdge, gave BOV members a chance to hear from FBS administration about the happenings and achievements of the 2022-2023 school year, and plans for the upcoming year. Members also had the chance to hear from Senior, Zoe Lant, about how FBS has shaped her educational career, and prepared her for college. BOV members serve as ambassadors of First Baptist School in our community, expanding the presence of FBS within the Charleston area to invite both public and private support, as well as partnering with our school to advance the opportunities for students to benefit from all FBS has to offer.

## CIRCLES OF GIVING

### *Hamrick Circle*

\$5,000+

### *Sustainer's Circle*

\$2,000-\$4,999

### *Builder's Circle*

\$1,000-\$1,999

### *Church Street Circle*

\$500-\$999

### *Meeting Street Circle*

\$200-\$499

### *Purple and White Club*

\$1-\$199

# LOYALTY FUND CONTRIBUTERS

## Hamrick Circle

---

Mr. T. Furman Brodie  
Sarah Christopher  
Mr. Daniel Legare  
Mr. and Mrs. Rob Marchant  
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Maybank

## Sustainers' Circle

---

Allison and Foster Freeman, Turkey's  
Towing  
Mr and Mrs. Kip Hooker  
Mr. and Mrs. William Sudyk

## Builders' Circle

---

Mrs. Gloria Askins  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Askins  
Zahia Bird  
Mr. and Mrs. Furman Brodie  
Mrs. Georgia Cornell  
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Durrence  
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Frenz  
Mr. Ryan Harrison  
Mrs. Trudie Hicks  
John Acker State Farm

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Koopman  
Mrs. Hope Lant  
Mr. Kenneth Luther  
Mrs. Marjorie Mengedoht  
Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Sanders  
Carrol and Judy Suggs  
Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Thigpen  
Elizabeth and Shawn Willis  
Willis Speech Therapy, LLC

## Church Street Circle

---

Mrs. Caroline Clum  
Mary Nelle Floyd  
Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Jackson, Jr.  
Dr. and Mrs. Leonard Kupersmith  
Mrs Debbie Mack  
Sarah Marshall  
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Newton  
Dr. John Peeples  
Susan G. Renfrew  
Dr. Linnea Roumillat  
Mr and Mrs. Tommy Sessions  
David and Ann Westerlund  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Wiland

## Meeting Street Circle

---

Mr. and Mrs. Waitus Avant  
Mrs. Dale Barnett  
Ms. Rhett Baynes



Mrs. Amy Baxter  
 Mr. and Mrs. John H. Blich, III  
 Mr and Mrs. Robert Brust  
 Mrs. Bernadette Chilcote  
 Mrs. Taylor Conrad  
 Mrs. Christina Crawford  
 Na'Tasha Farr  
 Mrs. Deanna Fuller  
 Mrs. Anna Gervais  
 Mrs. Paula Gomez  
 Mr. John Hart  
 Mrs. Lisa Hartman  
 Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Hills  
 Mrs. Erin Jackson  
 Mr. Will McCombs  
 Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Mintz  
 Mrs. Beverly Rawls  
 Dr. and Mrs. Ed Rodelsperger  
 Mrs. Kristen Schwiers  
 Delores & Joe Stevenson  
 Mrs. Beth Switzer  
 Beverly Tankersley  
 Mrs. Jennifer Walpole  
 Darcus Wise  
 Mr. Peter Withington

## Purple and White Club

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Patrice Alexander  
 Francis Atkinson  
 Mr and Mrs. Boykin Beard, Jr.  
 Mr. Andrew Blalock  
 Mrs. Kelly Blalock  
 Ms. Debbie Bowers  
 Mrs. Christine Brandon  
 Ms. Sheree Bridges  
 Ms. Susan Bridges  
 Ms. Brandy Brown  
 Mrs. Helen Brown  
 Mrs. Julie Cavaroc  
 CharityVest Inc.  
 Mrs. Bailey Clark

Mr. Leondas Cole  
 Dr. Larry Cousineau  
 Mrs. Susan Cram-Smith  
 Fran Mappus Cross  
 Dan and Peggy Cross  
 Mrs. Rose Cummings  
 Tommy and Sharon Davis  
 Mrs. Joy Demarest  
 Dr. Gail Dismuke  
 Charles and Rebecca Eberhardt  
 Ms. Linda Falls  
 Mrs. Cynthia Fleming  
 Mr Willie Foxe  
 Mrs. Courtney Fuller  
 Mr. and Mrs. Perry Gervais  
 Mr. and Mrs. Russell Goudelock  
 Mr. Thomas Graham Haley  
 Robert and Jane Hart  
 Mrs. Kayla Hatchell  
 Ann Durrence Hess  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hicklin  
 Mrs. Alice Hills  
 Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Holderness, Jr.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hooker  
 Janet Hopkins  
 Mrs. Jennifer Hughes  
 Ms. Jennifer Joseph  
 Helen Joy  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jim Huffham  
 Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Knapp  
 Mrs. Julie Kroeger  
 Amanda and Joe Kropiewnicki  
 Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Lake  
 Mr. Matthew Lambert  
 Mrs. Lorena Lannie  
 Mrs. Laura Lempesis  
 Fran Mappus  
 Mr. and Mrs. Tony Marconi  
 Mrs. Judith McCoy  
 Dorothy McEniry  
 Mrs. Nancy Moorer  
 Mrs. Aurelia Muller  
 Dr. Melanie Murphy  
 J. Musselman Construction, Inc.  
 Mrs. Kammi Pisano  
 Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Putney

Mrs. Mara Redmond  
Ms. Anne Redner  
Mrs. Lynn Rivers  
Dr. Paul Roof  
Mrs. Shannon Roy  
Ms. Jenna Schmidt  
Mr. Brice Sharpton  
Mrs. Lauren Shorter  
Mrs. Natalie Simpson  
Mr. Alex Snider  
Mrs. Tammy Speer  
Jean Timbes  
Mrs. Jodi Truluck  
Anna Wallace  
Kenneth Wiland, Architect. LLC  
Mr. and Mrs. Wilber Wise

## In Kind Gifts

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The Island House  
Ms. Caroline Sinkler, Frametastic  
Mr. Peter Withington

## Memorials

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### *In Memory of Dr. Art Earp for the Dr. Earp Legacy Fund*

Fran Mappus  
Dan and Peggy Cross

### *In Memory of Kaye Willingham*

Patrice Alexander  
Francis Atkinson  
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Goudelock  
Dorothy McEniry  
Mrs. Lynn Rivers  
Mr. and Mrs. Wilber Wise

### *In Memory of Walter Brodie*

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Koopman

## Scholarships

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### *Brodie Scholarship*

Mr. and Mrs. Furman Brodie  
Mr. T. Furman Brodie  
Mrs. Georgia Cornell  
Mr. and Mrs. Billy Koopman

### *Melissa Legare Scholarship*

Astrid Investments, LLC  
Mr. Daniel Legare  
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Newton

### *Blanche Ellen Smith Fine Arts Scholarship*

Ann Durrence Hess

## First Baptist School Board of Visitors

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Mr. and Mrs. John Acker  
Mrs. Gloria Askins  
Mrs. Zahia Bird  
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Durrence  
Ms. Carrie Fabel  
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Frenz  
Mr and Mrs. Kip Hooker  
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Huffham  
Ms. Katie Hurtt  
Mr. Kenneth Luther  
Mr. and Mrs. Rob Marchant  
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Roles  
Mr. Bryan Sanders  
Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Thigpen  
Mr. and Mrs. Shawn Willis

OUR MISSION

*ACADEMIC  
EXCELLENCE  
WITH A  
CHRISTIAN  
PERSPECTIVE*





# A GRAND REUNION

## CLASS OF 1971

*The Class of 1971 commemorated 52 years since graduating from First Baptist School with a classic, Lowcountry celebration.*

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On Saturday, May 6th, the FBS Class of 1971 celebrated their 52nd Class Reunion. Held at the home of Doug Hardman, the reunion was attended by 20 graduates, their spouses, and some former teachers. Everyone had a great time with each other reminiscing about their days at FBS while enjoying ribs and BBQ sliders! The reunion committee worked hard on the event, and it was well worth the effort.

If you are interested in planning a reunion, please contact Beth Switzer at [switzerb@fbschool.org](mailto:switzerb@fbschool.org).



# KEEP IN TOUCH

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[fbschool.org](https://fbschool.org)



[info@fbschool.org](mailto:info@fbschool.org)



[@FirstBaptistSchoolCharleston](https://www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistSchoolCharleston)



[@fbschool](https://www.instagram.com/fbschool)



[@fbhurricanes](https://twitter.com/fbhurricanes)

## ALUMNI

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Please visit [fbschool.org/alumni](https://fbschool.org/alumni) to learn more about the Alumni Association, update your contact information, and send in class updates.

*Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the names listed in the annual report. If there is an error, please contact Beth Switzer in the Advancement Department at [switzerb@fbschool.org](mailto:switzerb@fbschool.org)*



## Administrative Staff

---

Head of School: Dr. Justin Mitchell

High School Principal: Dr. Leonard Kupersmith

Assistant High School Principal: Ms. Marshelle Grant

Lower School Principal: Mrs. Susan Brooks

Middle School Administrator: Mr. Will McCombs

Director of Enrollment Management: Mrs. Debbie Mack

Director of Lower School Admissions: Mrs. Sally Casias

Director of Upper School Admissions & Advancement: Mrs. Beth Switzer

Director of Marketing: Mrs. Kristen Schwiers

Director of College Counseling: Mrs. Shannon Roy

Student Minister & School Counselor: Mr. Jon Durham

Athletic Director: Mr. Graham Haley

Associate Athletic Director: Ms. Presley Singleton

## 22–23 Board of Directors

---

Shelley Clark Glidewell

Scott Dempsey

Kevin Dougherty

Tyler Graves

Curt Holcomb\*

Kip Hooker\*

Rosa Oswald

Martha Thigpen\*

Justin Whaley

Kenneth Wiland

Elizabeth Willis

Ex-Officio (non-voting members)

Dr. Justin Mitchell, *Head of School*

Rev. R. Marshall Blalock, *Pastor of First Baptist Church of Charleston*

\*Denotes last term





# FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

*Two Campuses, One Family*

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Downtown Campus  
48 Meeting Street  
Charleston, SC 29401

James Island Campus  
2055 George L. Griffith Blvd.  
Charleston, SC 29412