

# HURRICANE WATCH

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

February 2024

Monthly Newsletter



## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

- Head of School Update
- February Calendar
- School Happenings
- "A Legacy of Leadership" by Dr. Leonard Kupersmith
- "What NOT to Do" by Crystal Hawkins
- High School Counseling

## Head of School Update

*By Dr. Justin Mitchell*

Greetings, First Baptist Community!

As we step into the month of February, we are filled with gratitude for the blessings of the new year and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead for our students and families. We hope this newsletter finds you well and ready to embrace all that this month has to offer.

*Continued on Page 2...*

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs." - 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 (NIV) As we approach Valentine's Day, let us reflect on the true essence of love and how it manifests in our relationships with one another, echoing the teachings of Jesus Christ.

This February brings a plethora of exciting events and activities on both our campuses. From academic competitions to sports tournaments and artistic performances, our students continue to shine brightly in their endeavors. We encourage you to stay updated with our school calendar for specific dates and times of these events, and we look forward to your enthusiastic support.

At First Baptist School, our mission of Academic Excellence with a Christian Perspective remains at the forefront of everything we do. As we navigate through the academic year, we are committed to providing a nurturing environment where students not only excel academically but also grow spiritually and morally. Together, we strive to instill values of compassion, integrity, and servant leadership in our students, preparing them to make a positive impact in the world.

Throughout February, Fine Arts classes are taking a closer look at the contributions of African Americans in the arts, including exploring Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and the ironwork of Philip Simmons. Our high school dance class recently traveled to Atlanta to see a performance of Alvin Ailey's "Revelations," celebrating 60 years since its premiere.

Our athletics department is also staying busy. Basketball is entering its final weeks of the season as our JV Girls and Varsity Boys will both compete for region titles later this week against Porter Gaud. Our varsity boys on television this week as they face Porter Gaud Friday at 8:00pm in the High School Hoops MyTV Charleston Game of the Week. State playoff brackets will be out next week and we look forward to watching our varsity teams make a big run in the playoffs. This past Friday senior, Cooper Kowalski, scored his 1,000th career point in a big region win! We would also like to congratulate our 7th grade boys on a great season finishing 11-1 and making the Trident League play-offs! This past Friday we celebrated all of our B Teams and they have proven that the future of FBS basketball is very bright. Spring sports are also around the corner so stay tuned on our athletics social media pages.

As the vibrant daffodils begin to bloom on James Island, we are reminded of the beauty of renewal and hope. These flowers, part of the international Daffodil Project, serve as a symbol of resilience and strength, particularly in remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust. We encourage members of our community who have not yet had the opportunity to witness this breathtaking sight to take a moment to visit James Island and be inspired by the message of hope that these daffodils convey.

As we begin a new month, let us continue to uphold the values of love, compassion, and faith that define our school community. Together, we can create a brighter future for all.

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, flowing style.



# CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2024

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FEB  
16-19

Winter Break - **No School**

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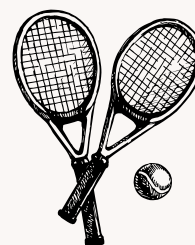
FEB  
26

Parent Teacher Conferences - **No School**

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[View Athletic Calendar](#)



# IN THE KNOW

## school happenings



### Father Daughter Dance (K5-8) on February 10

Please join us for the Father Daughter Dance on February 10th! The K5-4th grade dance is from 6:00-7:30pm and the 5th-8th grade dance is 7:30-9:00pm. [Register here!](#)

### Mother Son Kickball Game (K5-8) on March 9

Save the date for our first Mother Son Kickball game at the James Island campus on March 9! More information will be sent out soon!



### Congrats Boys B-Team Basketball!

The 7th grade boys basketball team is headed to the playoffs in the Trident League!

## 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

FBS FINE ARTS PRESENTS

# Peter Pan



MARCH 15 & 16, 2024

6:00 PM





WATER MISSION

# WALK FOR WATER

March 23, 2024

In order to bring awareness to the water crisis our world is currently suffering, First Graders have partnered with Water Missions International! 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. During this walk, we will be asked to carry a bucket of water in order to get a glimpse of what it is like to walk in less fortunate shoes. The walk will be held in North Charleston on Saturday, March 23rd! To join our team, please visit the link below: We are FBS HELPING HURRICANES!

Walk with us!



# KIDS HEART CHALLENGE KICKS OFF FEB. 5TH!



We are so excited about our school's American Heart Association Kids Heart Challenge kicking off! We are asking you to register for our Kids Heart Challenge team and help us reach our goal of 100% of our families learning the lifesaving skill of Hands-Only CPR. Last year, 5-year-old Phil and his mother, Megan, saved a life because they watched the Hands-Only CPR video (part of Finn's Mission).



Get started today and be the first at our school to complete Finn's Mission!

- [Click Here to Register](#). or download the free "AHA Schools" app.
- Complete Finn's Mission: Watch the 2-minute Hands-Only CPR video featuring cardiac arrest survivor, Damar Hamlin, and watch a music video on the warning signs of a stroke (F.A.S.T.).
- Share with Family & Friends: Send messages via social media, text messages and/or email.

Help our class win the classroom challenge by registering today!! The top classes will earn their teacher a \$25 Amazon Gift Card! We can create a community of lifesavers!

Thank you!



AHA SCHOOLS APP



## 2 EASY WAYS TO REGISTER:

DOWNLOAD THE APP **OR** VISIT OUR WEBSITE

HEART.ORG/SCHOOLS





# A Legacy of Leadership

*Strong, positive, and consistent senior leaders can transform the school year for the entire high-school student body.*

**WRITTEN BY DR. LEONARD KUPERSMITH**

**A** high-school year ebbs and flows with the leadership of the senior class. The senior class is the polestar for the entire high-school student body. The senior class sets the tone and the social order. Optimally, the class self-regulates the conduct of their peers. Everyone does better when seniors motivate and direct their peers. The senior class leads the way as the keeper of school values and customs. Senior leaders send a message to the student body that they have a stake in the ownership of *their* school. A “that

isn’t cool” admonition can turn bad behavior around in an instant. Administration and senior class teachers and sponsors develop a sturdy bond for a common purpose: the good of the school. Strong, positive, and consistent senior leaders can transform the school year for the entire high-school student body. Each senior class provides a material legacy for successive senior classes.

Leadership in a high school generally falls under two headings: built into the infrastructure like the role of



the class president. The second category is self-appointed, exercised through personal initiative. A perfect example of this second sort, which presents itself only in tight knit, fairly small communities, came up on Friday night at the home games against Northwood Academy, a traditional rival. The gym was packed, SRO in the student section, the same in the Home stands. The scene was made for an historic moment, one that our student section knew would happen. They flashed posters created for the game congratulating Cooper Kowalski on reaching 1,000 career points, a sure thing in the varsity boys game wrapping up the evening. Cooper did not disappoint his fans; in fact, he scored his thousandth career point on a spectacular alley-oop perfectly timed above the cylinder by Dame Junior, the point guard. Our crowd went wild, celebrating a milestone with a talented senior who has drawn serious looks from college recruiters. At half time of the game, I had walked down from my perch against a wall and encountered three senior girls, who proudly and jubilantly showed me their sweet poster anticipating the gleeful moment. It stood out across the gym: we all had seen it energetically displayed. They were thrilled for their fellow senior. The encounter with the girls was icing on the cake for Cooper's accomplishment and the team's performance. Our students do a great job of stepping up on behalf of a fellow student's achievement or recognition.

My teammates and I are working on enhancements in the senior year to promote the visibility of our seniors. We already have willing and capable students and a scale and culture that endorse close relationships. With this platform, our administrative leadership team is instituting measures to give seniors more abundant means to be seen and heard. One critical adjustment is enriching the senior year curriculum to give seniors a compelling reason to be on campus. We are planning to offer a growing number of electives, some dual-credit, to allow students to deepen their inquiry and widen their scope. Two dual-credit elective classes that we anticipate will interest our students are: Psychology and Sociology, the former taught by our own Mrs. Roy and the Sociology course by a tenured Citadel professor. The curricular enrichment should result in seniors' retaining a modified version of their current

mobility but bolstered presence on campus. We are giving ourselves greater flexibility to offer additional electives by scheduling one semester, ½ credit electives.

Aiming to spotlight the seniors for the rest of the student body, we launched a daily routine in which every senior presented the "Word of the Day" and the "Quotation of the Day" twice during the year. This year we completed one rotation of WOD/QOD in the fall. This semester each senior presents a 350-500 word statement of a core belief. The program is designed on the model that NPR created on a weekly basis, in its first iteration inviting celebrities to present deeply-held beliefs and in its second incarnation, in recent years, featuring ordinary listeners. We begin Week Three tomorrow. The presentations have been thoughtful and touching, providing often a new perspective on the senior presenter.

Faculty and staff have been invited to present statements. We will produce professionally bound editions for the school archives and the HOS office as well as bound copies for each senior. I think that seniors who received this initiative politely but with muted enthusiasm have enjoyed writing their statements.

# THE DAFFODIL PROJECT

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In the winter of school year 2021-2022, the students of First Baptist School planted over 1,000 Daffodil bulbs to remember the children of the Holocaust. Since that time, we have planted 250-500 more bulbs each winter in our Daffodil bed behind the Academic Building on our James Island Campus. Through the laborious efforts of the C.R.E.A.T.E club to maintain the bed each school year, the tolerance of our spectators and community when the bed is dormant and weed-ridden most of the year, and the patience of our maintenance team and administration, we are once again pleased to welcome back new growth in the 2024 emergence of the Daffodils! This is an important project as partners of the worldwide Daffodil Project to not forget the Holocaust or other incidence of genocide around the world. We encourage you to take a look at the beautiful bed full of yellow stars as a reminder to never forget the atrocities played out in human history and those that may be currently playing out against people around the globe.

For more information on the Daffodil Project, visit [www.daffodilproject.net](http://www.daffodilproject.net).



**VOTING NOW OPEN!**  
**CLOSES SEPT. 1, 2024**

FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL OF CHARLESTON

# ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

**2025**

*Vote!* →



The First Baptist Athletic Department is proud to announce that voting is now open for the second class of the First Baptist Hurricane Athletic Hall of Fame. Voting will close September 1, 2024.

\*Student nominations must have graduated by 2018 at the latest. \*Coaches/contributors must have completed their time (at least 5 years) at FBS prior to the Fall of 2018.



## Hurricane Association's Winter Sports Raffle

supporting the First Baptist students and athletic program includes:



**-Propane Heater**

**-Solo Stove Bonfire Pit**

**-Oyster Cooker**

**-Sonos Outdoor Speaker**

**-58 in Smart Roku TV**

**-Heated Camping Chairs**

**-\$100 Freely Gift Card**



**Raffle Tickets**  
**\$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20**

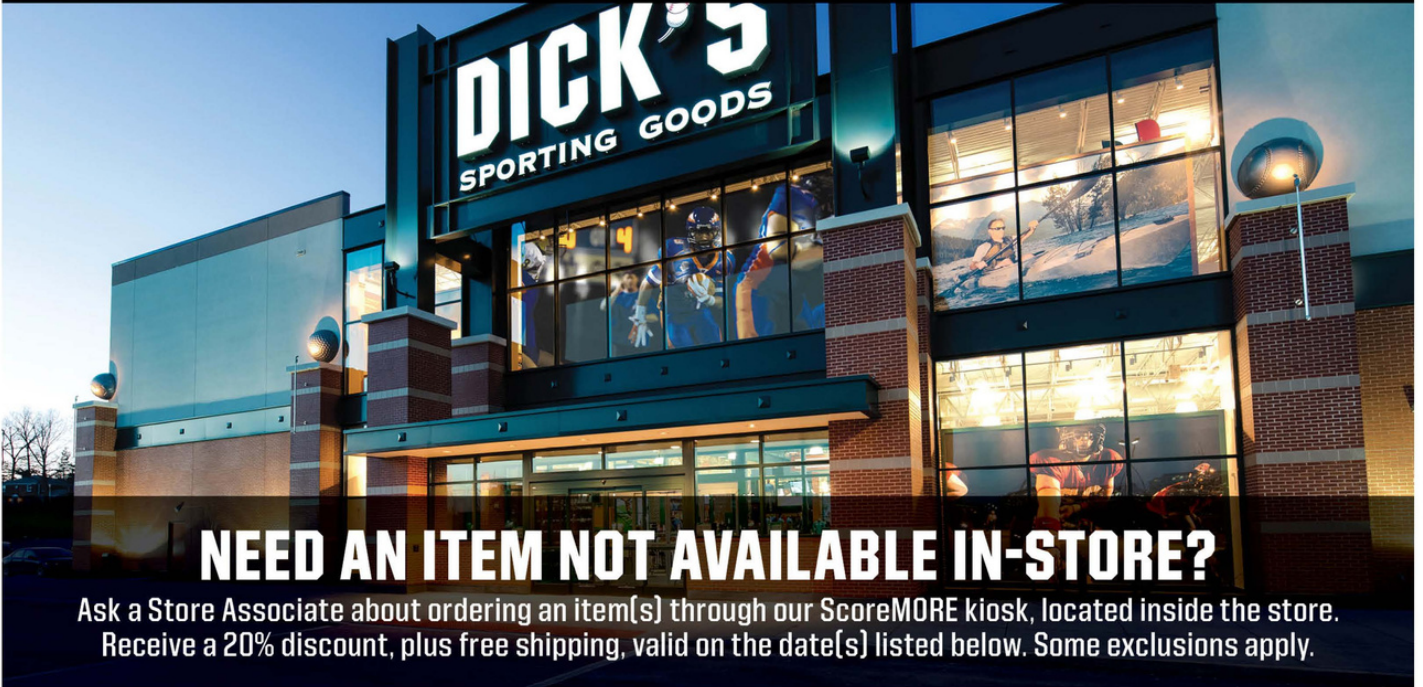


Tickets are being sold at the home games and the winner will be announced at the end of the basketball season



# EXCLUSIVE SHOP EVENT

## 20% OFF YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE



### NEED AN ITEM NOT AVAILABLE IN-STORE?

Ask a Store Associate about ordering an item(s) through our ScoreMORE kiosk, located inside the store. Receive a 20% discount, plus free shipping, valid on the date(s) listed below. Some exclusions apply.

## SCISA

Offers valid 2/9/2024 - 2/11/2024

SCISA

Valid 2/9/2024 - 2/11/2024

Offer valid at any South Carolina DICK'S location.

# 20% OFF THROUGHOUT THE STORE



**VALID IN-STORE ONLY.** Limit one coupon per customer. Excludes: taxes, prior purchases, gift cards, extended warranties such as No Sweat Protection Plan, licenses, store credit, services or excluded items detailed in-store or at [DICKS.com/Exclusions](https://www.dicks.com/Exclusions). Cannot be combined with other offers. No reproductions or rain checks accepted. Offer not accepted at DICK'S Warehouse Sale or Going.Going.Gone! locations.



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[Print Coupon](#)

# What NOT to do.

BY CRYSTAL HAWKINS,  
LOWER SCHOOL SPANISH



Being a parent is oh so hard! After my first child was born, I remember the panic I felt as the hospital let me leave with him. That seemed really irresponsible on the hospital's part. I had never kept a human alive before. What if he cried? What if he was cold? What if he spit up? What if he refused to eat? What if I messed things up?

I had no idea how to be a mom. My mother left when I was five, and I had a step-mom who did not love me as her own. I had no earthly example to draw from. I was familiar with the sting of abandonment and the feeling of being a burden. I knew I never wanted my children to experience that version of a mom.

As I cried out to God for help, I heard a whisper deep in my heart: "You may not know what to do, but you know what NOT to do, and that is a great place to start."

That is how I started my parenting journey. I started by NOT doing the things that would hurt my children, and I found that what filled the empty spaces was love and nurturing.

As I enter a new season of parenting teenagers, I feel the same panic creep in. I've never raised teenagers before! I have no idea what I'm doing! I'm just making things up as I go along. What if I mess things up?

I have to remind myself of that whisper I heard many years ago: "You may not know what to do, but you know what NOT to do, and that is a great place to start."

That is how my family landed at FBS. I knew the school options I was NOT going to take, and that led me to the school we would call home. Just like before, God has filled the empty spaces with love and nurturing.

If the pressure of parenting is crushing you, may you find peace and hope in starting with what NOT to do. We don't have to have all the answers. It is God who fills in the gaps. **"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."** Romans 15:13

# College Counseling

SHANNON ROY  
COLLEGE COUNSELOR

Dear First Baptist School Parents and Caregivers,

As we navigate through the exciting journey of college preparation, I want to keep you informed about the latest updates and opportunities available to your high school students. Here are some important updates for the month of February:

## **Individual Junior Visits**

- The individual junior visits have been going well, and I'm thrilled to have met with about half of the juniors and their parents/caregivers. If you haven't signed up for a session yet, please find my schedule below and sign up at your earliest convenience.
- [Junior Meeting Sign Up](#)

## **SAT Preparation**

- Juniors, it's time to start preparing for the SAT/ACT. TestInnovators has provided us with an additional option to enhance your preparation. Information is being handed out during the Junior Visit.
- We are also excited to announce that we will be offering the SAT Day here at First Baptist School on Monday, March 18th. A survey has been emailed out to all juniors and parents/caregivers to gauge interest. Your feedback is crucial, so please respond to the survey promptly.

## **SCOIR - A Tool for College Readiness**

- SCOIR is a valuable tool for juniors and their parents/caregivers to explore college options and plan for the future. If you're having trouble getting registered for a parent account, please reach out to me, and I'll be happy to assist you.

Continued on next page...

### **Attention Seniors**

- We are now fully immersed in the scholarship application season, and completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is of utmost importance. Even if you believe you won't qualify for financial aid, filling out the FAFSA is a crucial step in the college application process. The information provided in the FAFSA is used by colleges to determine scholarships within the institution.
  - [FAFSA Form 2024-2025](#)
  - [Guide for filling out the FAFSA](#)
- Seniors and senior parents, take note that you have the opportunity to work with the financial office at your student's top-choice college. Don't hesitate to take advantage of this resource. I am also here to support you – please feel free to utilize my expertise for scholarship guidance and college direction.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and active participation in your student's educational journey. Together, we can ensure a smooth transition to the next chapter of their academic and personal growth.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon Roy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

College Counselor  
First Baptist High School



FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL OF CHARLESTON



**11<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL LIVE**

—◆— AND —◆—

**SILENT AUCTION**



*please join us on*

**04.13.2024**

**AT SIX O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING**

**THE HARBOUR CLUB AT WESTEDGE  
22 WESTEDGE STREET, SUITE 700  
CHARLESTON, SC 29403**

*to view and purchase ticket options, please visit*

**EVENT.GIVES/FBSAUCTION2024**

# ADVANCEMENT

## UPDATES



Thank you to our sponsors!

## 11th Biennial Live and Silent Auction

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. **Ticket sales will open the week of February 20th!**

### Event Schedule

- 5:45 PM - Registration
- 6:00 - 7:30 PM - Hors d'oeuvres
- 6:00 - 8:30 PM - Silent Auction
- 7:30 PM - Dinner
- 8:30 - 10:00 PM - Live Auction

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



# FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

# ADMISSIONS

## UPDATES AND EVENTS



**Thank you** to our current families that speak so highly of our school. We had an amazing amount of inquiries and applications for the 24-25 school year, and a large part of it is due to our current families recommending us.

### **FBS Admissions Team**

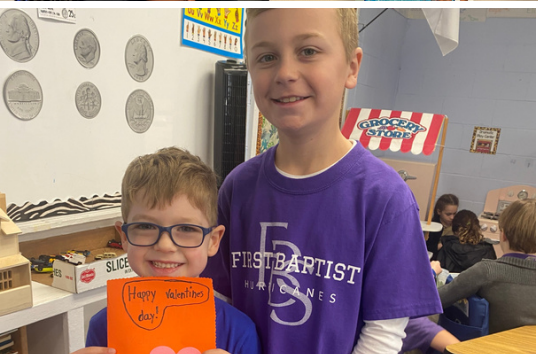
Debbie Mack  
Director of Enrollment  
[mackd@fbschool.org](mailto:mackd@fbschool.org)

Sally Casias  
Director of Lower and Middle School Admissions  
[casiass@fbschool.org](mailto:casiass@fbschool.org)

Beth Switzer  
Director of High School Admissions  
[switzerb@fbschool.org](mailto:switzerb@fbschool.org)



# Around Campus



FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

# RESOURCES



FACTS  
LOGIN



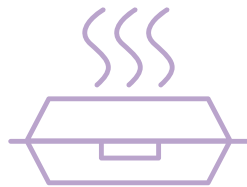
STUDENT  
HANDBOOK

## 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.