

HURRICANE WATCH



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

June 2023

Monthly Newsletter



WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

- Head of School Update
- Class of 2023
- Important Dates
- Summer Camps
- School Happenings
- Supply Lists & Summer Work
- High School Counseling
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Head of School Update

By Dr. Justin Mitchell

Greetings, First Baptist Community!

As we bid farewell to another remarkable academic year, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to our graduating class of high school students. Your hard work, determination, and resilience have paid off, and you should be immensely proud of your accomplishments.

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It has been an honor to be a part of your educational journey, and I have no doubt that you will continue to achieve greatness in the next chapter of your lives as you head off to college.

Over the summer break, our dedicated faculty and staff will be diligently working to enhance the educational experience for all our students. School-wide continuous improvement initiatives, curriculum development, and professional development opportunities for our teachers are just a few examples of the efforts that will be taking place behind the scenes. We are committed to providing an exceptional learning environment that fosters Academic Excellence with a Christian Perspective, personal growth, and a sense of community.

To our incoming students, this summer is an excellent opportunity to familiarize yourselves with our school community. We encourage you to explore our website, connect with our social media platforms, and reach out to current students or alumni for any questions or advice you may have. Additionally, don't forget to check your emails regularly for updates on orientation programs and other important information.

For our returning students, summer is the ideal time to reflect on your achievements from the previous year and set goals for the upcoming one. Consider engaging in educational and extracurricular activities that align with your passions and interests. Reading books, attending summer camps, volunteering in your community, or pursuing internships are fantastic ways to stay intellectually stimulated and develop important life skills.

Parents, I encourage you to engage in open dialogue with your children during this time. Discuss their aspirations, academic goals, and any concerns they may have. Together, we can provide the necessary support and guidance to ensure their successful transition into the next grade level.

As we eagerly anticipate the start of a new school year, I would like to express my gratitude to the entire school community for your unwavering commitment and support. The partnership between our dedicated educators, involved parents, and motivated students is what makes our school truly exceptional.

In closing, I wish our high school graduates the best of luck in all their future endeavors. Remember to cherish the memories you've made here, and know that you will always have a place in our school community. To all our students and families, have a safe and enjoyable summer, and return in August refreshed and ready for another year of exciting learning opportunities.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS!



2023
Graduates



IMPORTANT DATES

SUMMER 2023

JUNE 11	Last day to order from School ToolBox for school supplies to be delivered directly to school.
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JULY 17-23	Summer Enrichment Camp (1st-6th)
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AUG 13	Snoball Social from 4:00-6:00 pm Downtown Campus
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AUG 14	Meet the Teacher (K2-8th)
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AUG 15	First Day of School for K2-4th Grade Half-Day, No Aftercare
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AUG 16	First Full Day of School for K2-12th
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Hello Summer

FBS SUMMER CAMPS



Seas the Day Summer
Enrichment

June 12-August 4, 2023

[Register](#)

NEW



FBS Summer Enrichment Camp

July 17-21, 2023

[Register](#)



FBS Sports Camp (August
Session)

August 7-11, 2023

[Register](#)

Save The Date: VIP Back-To-School Savings!

20% OFF + 1¢ LOGO Application

Save 20% on orders placed between 6/16 - 7/21
Save more with 1¢ LOGO Application* 6/16 - 6/23

Mark your calendars! Discounts apply ONLY between these dates.

VALID: June 16 - July 21, 2023
CODE: BACKPACK PIN: 6994



landsend.com/get-started



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LANDS' END SCHOOL

landsend.com/myschool 1-800-469-2222

*Receive your school logo applied for \$0.01. Offer available to all schools with a logo currently on file with us (excludes monogramming, Lands' End Camp and Lands' End Business Outfitters purchases). Discount will be applied at checkout. Offer valid from June 16 to 11:59p.m. Central, June 23, 2023.

*Receive 20% off your order online or by phone (excludes buy more and save pricing, embroidery and monogramming, gift boxing, gift cards, shipping, taxes, duties, Lands' End Business Outfitters purchases, and excluded items as marked). Discount will be applied at checkout. This offer has no cash value. Promotional savings may be deducted from returns. 5-7 business day delivery to most addresses. Free standard shipping is valid on orders of \$99 or more (after promotions and discounts are applied) shipped to US and Canada addresses only. Offer valid through 11:59 pm, Central, July 21, 2023. Not valid on previous purchases or when combined with any other promotional offers.

IN THE KNOW

school happenings



Welcome Back Snoball Social

Save the date for Sunday, August 13th, for our annual back-to-school Snoball Social! More information to come!

Hurricane Drop-In Meeting & PTO Used Uniform Sale

Please join us on August 10th for the annual Back-to-School Hurricane drop-in meeting between 6:00-7:30 pm! Parents will be able to meet with coaches, our fine arts program, purchase athletic parking spaces, Hurricane Association memberships, and more! Food will be available and the PTO will be hosting a Used Uniform Sale!



Tommy Hilfiger Summer Uniform Sale

Tommy Hilfiger will be offering 10% during 07/03 - 07/09/23 (details will be sent out once available). For uniform ordering details, please visit [this link](#).

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

#WeAreFB

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



LISTEN, LEARN, AND LOVE

The 2023 Commencement Speech as given by The Honorable John W. Kittredge
Associate Justice, South Carolina Supreme Court



2023 COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

I am honored to be with you this evening. Dr. Kupersmith and I began a discussion more than a year ago. I have been looking forward to being with you. I have thought a great deal about you, the graduates... Dr. Kupersmith has told me a lot about this class, all that you have achieved and especially the promise you represent for the enduring legacy of this wonderful school. There is so much I wanted to share. But as I thought about different topics, the topics seemed to lend themselves to a lecture. The last thing you need or want is for some old judge to give you a lecture. So, no lecture tonight.

What I want to share with you with are three simple words—listen, learn, and love. It is my sense that the three words—listen, learn and, love—already form a part of you who are, from the solid foundation you have received here at First Baptist School of Charleston. I am impressed by Dr. Mitchell's words from the school website. Dr. Mitchell writes about the school this way: "Academic excellence with a Christian perspective. We aim to provide a rich and rigorous educational experience for each student while presenting the content through a Christian lens." Those are powerful words. Equally impressive is the following comment from Dr. Kupersmith: "The culture of the school integrates academic substance, social propriety, and spiritual nourishment." How blessed you are to be part of this school, and may I add, this family. I can assure you that to the school's wonderful leaders, the teachers, the coaches... you are family.

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ABOUT THE SPEAKER

The Honorable John W. Kittredge Associate Justice, South Carolina Supreme Court, was born in Greenville, South Carolina in 1956 and is the son of Elwyn Herbert, Jr. (deceased) and Marian Jeffries Kittredge. John married Lila Graham Hewell on June 20, 1981. John and Lila have three children, Lila Marian, Will and Zay. The Kittredges are members of First Presbyterian Church in Greenville.

The Honorable John W. Kittredge Associate Justice, South Carolina Supreme Court graduated from the University of South Carolina, summa cum laude, in 1979. He graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1982. Academic honors include Phi Beta Kappa, Order of the Coif, and Wig and Robe.

The Honorable John W. Kittredge Associate Justice, South Carolina Supreme Court began his legal career as a law clerk to The Honorable William W. Wilkins, Jr. He practiced law in the firm of Wilkins, Nelson and Kittredge. Justice Kittredge was actively involved in community and state service: Governor's Committee on Crime and Delinquency; Governor's Juvenile Justice Task Force; Greenville Technical College Foundation (Vice-President); City of Greenville Civil Service Commission (Chairman); Greenville County Crime Stoppers (President); Board of Directors of Child Evangelism Fellowship. In addition to his admission to the South Carolina Bar, Justice Kittredge is also admitted to practice before the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, United States Court of Military Appeals, United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, United States Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court.

The Honorable John W. Kittredge Associate Justice, South Carolina Supreme Court was elected to the South Carolina family court bench in 1991. He was elected to the circuit court bench in 1996, and the Court of Appeals in 2003. Justice Kittredge was elected to the Supreme Court in 2008.

I serve as a judge. I share a story from a case years ago in court. It was a case where the accused pled guilty to a crime—the crime was possession of cocaine. When someone pleads guilty, you need to make sure the person pleads guilty freely and voluntarily, fully aware of the consequence of admitting guilt. I asked a standard question—sir, are you in fact guilty of possessing cocaine? The answer was, “no sir, I did not possess cocaine; it possessed me.” While I did not impose a maximum sentence, I did sentence the young man to jail and I encouraged him to turn his life around. That story, as you will see, has a lot to do with the message of listen, learn and love.

I begin with listen. Be a good listener. So, few people today are interested in listening. In the Bible, James, chapter 1, verse 19, it says, “be swift to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger.” That’s good advice. Most folks look for the first opening in any conversation to talk about themselves. A conversation is not a monologue one person inflicts on another. You be different—be a good listener. When you find someone who is genuinely interested in you, with the gift of listening, you have found a real treasure. You be that person with the gift of listening.

What about learning. Do you already know a lot? What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom? There’s a saying that school is a great repository of knowledge—you enter knowing everything; you leave knowing nothing. That is learning reaching to wisdom. Learning is a lifelong process. Dr. Mitchell, Dr. Kupersmith, your teachers and coaches—they are all still learning. I am still learning. Let me challenge you to approach learning as you approach growing in your faith. I borrow the phrase “Christian lens” from Dr. Mitchell. Learn through a Christian worldview, a Christian lens. Understand what your worldview is. Each of us has a worldview, usually acquired by default by simply yielding to cultural influences. If you live your life through the lens of the world, you will be controlled and possessed by the things around you. And those things, whether material things or status or a title or whatever it may be, can be alluring. If you let your guard down, those things will possess and control you instead of you possessing them. I suggest you be more conscious, more intentional about your worldview. Although it may not be the politically correct alternative in this increasingly secular society, I suggest to you a worldview based on faith in God and His truths will be the most liberating and will sustain you when times of difficulty come. And you will face difficulties and challenges—they are an inevitable part of life. In

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Romans, chapter 5, we learn that “suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” The worldview of the Christian lens produces true character. Character and integrity will define you. In every decision—especially including the smallest decisions—do what is right. If you show honesty ... integrity ... in the small decisions, you will have integrity in the big decisions. Every day we make many decisions. Every day we have opportunities to learn. As you graduate tonight, realize learning never ends. Never stop learning; never stop growing in faith. One more comment about learning. We live life forward, yet we understand life backward. It is not until we are down the road a way that we can appreciate the terrain that God has placed before us. There will be fun and joy, yet we all face struggles, and we must navigate the challenges that life places in our paths. This is not easy—life’s struggles are neither welcome nor fun. But they are part of life, and if viewed through a Christian lens, you will persevere and produce character. And on the backside, as you look through the rearview mirror, you will better understand and grow from the learning experience. In faith, you will take that knowledge, and apply it wisely in your future decisions.

And now I come to love. Listen, learn and love. Your success, satisfaction and joy in life will come from relationships. John Donne’s “No Man Is An Island” teaches that no one is self-sufficient. Relationships are so important. If your source of information and affirmation comes from the media or social media, you may well be led to believe that relationships are to be treated as disposable. That is wrong and that is not love. Think of parents who have guided you—and loved you every step of the way—so that you could reach this milestone. Think of your teachers and coaches and others who have supported and encouraged you. That support and encouragement is love. I tell you, very confidently so, that when you turn 30, 50, 70 and beyond, some of your best friends in life are sitting with you this evening—lifelong friendships that were forged right here. Most of my dearest friends in life I made during my high school years. True relationships are not disposable; they are enduring. That is love. Remember the familiar words: Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. Love is not self-seeking; love builds up; it encourages. Love is not acquiring or possessing things.

Remember the fellow who pled guilty to possessing cocaine. I sentenced him to prison for just enough time that I hoped would get his attention. Years later, I was approached on the street. Judge, do you remember me? I didn’t. He reminded me. It was him. My first thought was this is not going to end well. But he thanked me. We talked a long time. He had read the Bible in prison and came to faith in Christ. He was engaged to be married.

He had a job and was doing very well. He said, “by the way, I have learned a lot. I used to never have love in my heart when the world was possessing me. But I listened to God’s word; I have learned how to make better decisions and I have learned to love.”

So, we come to the end. Listen, learn and love. Please understand that to listen, learn and love properly, it takes discipline ... intentionality. Living life on autopilot or cruise control does not end well. But if you do any of the three—listen, learn, love—with purpose in the right way, you will be doing all three at once. Leave this evening proud of what you have accomplished; leave this evening with hearts of gratitude for those who made this moment possible for you; leave this evening with respect and appreciation for the people ... the family ... of the First Baptist School of Charleston; you are leaving this wonderful school ... don’t ever let this wonderful school leave you; as you leave this evening, remain anchored to the Christian lens and go forth to listen, learn and love. Today is a great day to be a Hurricane. God bless each of you, the distinguished graduating class of 2023.

FROM DR. KUPERSMITH

Dear Seniors,

Judge Kittredge summoned you at commencement to “listen, learn, and love.” He’s a smart guy who has seen many casualties over many years on the bench. He has also seen dramatic examples of resilience, as he noted in his remarks. Resilience is a necessary ingredient of good health. Cultivating this quality will pay massive dividends over a lifetime. Everyone will face disappointments and unforeseen hurdles. Surmounting obstacles and setbacks require a mindset that allows for failure. A wise friend of mine proposes that we regret most the things we did not do, rather than the things we did. First Baptist has been a community that stretched you and inspired you to go beyond your comfort zone. Please don’t forget that the teachers and staff that prodded and praised you remains in your corner. Please stay in touch. Send an email when you have a story you want to share with people who are interested in you, as we are. We also remain mentors to you. If we seemed to be able advisors when you went to school here, we probably have not lost our touch. Come to ball games, visit classes, hang out at lunch. On returning, you will have privileges that accrue to graduates you can wear non-branded clothing and park in an open spot. All kidding aside, our investment in your success and well-being did not cease on May 26th. We are lifelong fans of the Class of 2023.



SCHOOL SUPPLY LISTS

2023-2024

Lower School & Middle School

We are thrilled to be partnering with [School ToolBox](#) for the upcoming school year. School Tool box offers an affordable option for purchasing supplies that are handpicked by our teachers. For every box purchased, one meal is sent to [Feed My Starving Children](#).

We are asking that K2-4th grade purchase their supplies through this site. The teachers will receive all the items and have them labeled and ready for the first day of school. This ensures all supplies are consistent for students. We highly encourage all 5th-8th to purchase their box through School Tool Box and it will be waiting for them on the first day of school.




Orders placed by June 11, 2023, will be shipped directly to the school. Orders placed after this date will be shipped home.



[School ToolBox](#)

High School

Click the link below for the high school supply lists for the upcoming school year.



[High School List](#)

SUMMER WORK

DEFEAT THE SUMMER SLIDE!

Below are the links for summer work for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year for grades 1st-12th, including optional work for rising K5.

[Lower School](#)

[Middle School](#)

[High School](#)



Around Campus





FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

High School Counseling Updates

Shannon Roy, High School Counselor

I can't believe we just finished the 2022-2023 school year. I'm sure this has been a whirlwind for a lot of you as parents and caregivers. Like many of you, I'm looking forward to the summer.

May marked a special time for the Class of 2023 (Seniors). May 1st was College Decision Day. This is the day that students have officially enrolled in the University of their choosing. It's an exciting time and we wished all our seniors a blessed send off. Here is an overview of colleges that our Seniors will be attending in the fall.

- College of Charleston
- Clemson
- Tri-County Tech
- Midlands Technical College
- University of South Carolina
- Ole Miss
- Anderson University
- Trident Tech College
- Carson-Newman University
- Citadel
- Newberry College
- Charleston Southern College
- Coastal Carolina University
- Sewanee

Continued on next page...

- Georgia State University
- Georgia Southern University
- Erskine College
- Furman University
- Palm Beach Atlantic University
- Converse University
- Wingate University

Congratulations to our Class of 2023!!!

Our Juniors are busy researching colleges now and will be visiting throughout the summer months. Summer work will be posted on the website soon for what they have to do for me. I appreciate your help as parents/caregivers to gently nudge your student to take care of this so we are ready to rock and roll come August when they return as Seniors.

Scheduling is underway. I'm actively working through all the scheduling forms and will be preloading them into RenWeb over the next few weeks. If you have any questions about anything related to college counseling or scheduling, please email me over the summer at RoyS@fbschool.org.

Shannon Roy
College Counseling

FBS Counselor
Rose Cummings



TRANSITIONS

As our children and students transition from their current grade year to Summer, they are excitedly told about what to expect next year from their teachers. They anticipate summer work, dream of summer plans with friends and family and begin filling in their social calendar. While most of these thoughts are positive, there is often a light underlying anxiety of the unknown. There are several things we can do to help our children with some consistency and reliability at home. A few ideas to keep some continuity from one school year to the next is to keep a few of your daily routine items the same. Some to consider are:

Rise Time

Most look forward to sleeping in so that likely shouldn't be one, but an hour range to be up and moving would be beneficial.

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Wake-up Routine

It is helpful when school reconvenes if your child is used to a morning routine. It might include getting up, brushing their teeth and hair, washing their face, getting dressed and eating breakfast. The nice part is there's no rush!

Schoolwork/Reading/D.E.A.R. Time

Consider having a similar time each day for your child to do summer work and/or read throughout the summer weekdays. To keep the consistency, if there isn't summer work to be done, you can do D.E.A.R., "Drop Everything and Read" time.

Bedtime Routine

Similar to the morning routine, there would be a few items to consistently do each evening before bed.

I am also embarking on a big transition as well as I conclude my final year at First Baptist. This is my 16th year with First Baptist church and school. I will pursue my private practice full-time for the coming years. It will be bittersweet as I say goodbye to my career here at First Baptist but begin embarking on a long-term goal of mine. Thankful doesn't adequately describe the gratitude that I have for the lessons, the friendships, the support, and knowledge I have gained in my years here. My children will still attend First Baptist and my family will remain deeply invested with academics and school activities so it is certainly not goodbye but hello to a new role here. I thank each of you for the opportunity to serve you and your precious children. It has been a true blessing.

FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

RESOURCES



RENWEB
LOGIN



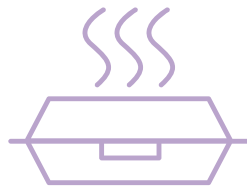
STUDENT
HANDBOOK

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.