

# HURRICANE WATCH



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

September 2022

Monthly Newsletter



## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

- Head of School Update
- September 2022 Calendar
- School Happenings
- Charleston Wrap Fundraiser
- 2nd Grade Service Project
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- Health & Wellness

## Head of School Update

*By Dr. Justin Mitchell*

Greetings, First Baptist Community!

Welcome to First Baptist for those who are joining us for the first time this year. Welcome back to those of you who are returning. In either case, we are delighted that you have chosen to partner with us for the education of your children. The choices you make regarding

*Continued on Page 2...*

your child's education are among the most important decisions you will make in their lives. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve your family.

As a school, we remain steadfast in our commitment to providing Academic Excellence with a Christian Perspective. We look forward to seeing the things God will accomplish in our school and community this year. This year's verse is Ephesians 3:20-21:

*Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.*

We are blessed to have many new faces on campus, including faculty, staff, and students. Our opening day enrollment for the 2022/2023 school year was 513 students. This is the highest enrollment our school has seen since the 1999/2000 school year. We have waiting lists in a number of grade levels due to space limitations, which is a good problem to have, as we look to our future and consider how we expand our footprint within our community. We continue to seek ways in which we can continue to provide excellent educational opportunities for our students. We thank you for sharing the great things that we are doing in our school and community.

At our Downtown Campus, we have undergone a significant transformation as the new building has been completed and we have been able to move in and get settled. We are grateful to First Baptist Church for providing us with this beautiful space for learning and growing. We also appreciate your patience as we established new pick-up and drop-off patterns for our students. Like all changes, there were challenges in the beginning, but now things seem to be going smoothly, so thank you for your flexibility as we worked through those procedural revisions. Our students Downtown are learning and thriving already, we look forward to seeing all that they will accomplish this year.

Our James Island Campus is also off to a great start this school year. As we continue to grow as a school community, we are continually working to expand our learning opportunities and course offerings. For example, this year in our high school, we are offering three new dual credit courses including Dual Credit: Physics, Technology, and US History. We are also offering a new AP European History course. Other courses we have offered in the past that we are currently offering include Dual Credit: Biology, English, Calculus, Pre-Calculus, and Statistics. Additionally, we have returned to including a community service component for our high school students, which is essential for our students to understand the importance of giving back to the community in which we live.

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Our Fine Arts department is in full swing with classroom music, art, photography, choir, band, dance, and theatre. We are excited to have nearly 100 K-12 dancers this year, including 35 middle and high school students who are currently working on halftime performance material for our home football game against Porter-Gaud next month. Be on the lookout for our choir students singing the anthem at an athletic event or two this year! Our high school art students are busy brainstorming their giant greeting card contest entry at the James Island Holiday Festival of Lights and the lower school after-school theatre program, consisting of nearly 30 students, has begun rehearsals for their production of "Seussical" in November. Our Fine Arts students work hard to represent our school well on campus and in the community!

First Baptist Athletics is off to a fast start this season for our Fall Sports teams. The varsity football team saw their first game washed out in the first few minutes due to lightning storms but were not deterred in their first full game of the season as they defeated Bishop England 23-10. Our high school girl's tennis is back at First Baptist after a long hiatus, and they are filled with talent and in high hopes to make their presence known in SCISA. The cross-country team got off to a great start this past weekend at their first meet of the year. Eleven of our varsity swimmers made a state cut in their very first meet of the year this past weekend! Our youngest volleyball team in years has shown tremendous grit and determination early in the season and our volleyball participation is as strong as ever with high numbers from lower school to the varsity level. The varsity cheer squad is working hard and preparing for their first team competition in two years.

We are so excited for the things to come this school year. Thank you, families, for your commitment and the trust you have placed in us to serve your children. We look forward to serving your family this academic year!

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 with a large initial 'J'.

# SEPTEMBER 2022

## School Calendar

1	Labor Day - <b>School Closed</b>	
13	PTO Meeting (James Island Media Center)	6:30 pm
23	Family Friday & Dress Down Day	
28	"See You at the Pole" Prayer Event	
30	Homecoming, FBS vs. Hilton Head Christian	7:30 pm

[Click here](#)  
for Athletic  
Schedule



*Save the Date!* **XC Hurricane 5K happening Oct. 8!**



**FIRST BAPTIST**

*Homecoming*



**Friday, September 30 at 7:30 pm**  
**FBS vs. Hilton Head Christian**  
**James Island Campus**

# IN THE KNOW

## school happenings

### Extended Care & After School Clubs

If your Lower School student attends Extended Care, please don't forget to download the Remind App for communication and updates! The class code is earedne.

Fall After School Clubs are also starting soon. This semester we have LEGO Robotics, Creative Writing, Karate, and Art Club. If your Lower or Middle school student is interested in any of these clubs, please [visit our website](#) for registration information.



### See You at the Pole | September 28 at 7:15 am

"Never let the fire in your heart go out. Keep it alive... Pray!" These words from Paul are a reminder and a call. They are a reminder of the special relationship that we have with God through Jesus and a call to go boldly before God in prayer. See You At The Pole is a time for First Baptist students to respond to Paul's words together. On September 28, along with Christian students all across the country, we will gather to lift up our friends, families, teachers, school, and nation to God.



5th-8th grade students will gather in the breezeway from 7:15-7:40 to pray. At 7:40, students are welcome to go up to the fellowship hall for donuts and snacks.

Kindergarden-4th grade students will be brought to the breezeway throughout the morning for prayer.

## 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



# BACK TO SCHOOL



Teacher Wishlists

LOWER & MIDDLE SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL

Thank you for supporting  
our teachers!



# THE CHARLESTON WRAP FUNDRAISER IS HERE!

**SHOP FOR GIFT WRAP, FOOD, AND HOME GOODS WHILE RAISING MONEY FOR FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL!**

Dear FBS Families,

Our biggest Fall fundraising campaign starts today, and your help is essential!

With the funds raised this year we can look forward to supporting the FBS partnership with The Social Institute.

We need your help! Simply put, we are asking you to reach out to your friends and family and encourage them to shop for products in our fundraising catalog or online. The proceeds of every purchase will make a BIC difference in our fundraising efforts this year. There's a lot of great stuff in this year's catalog; with over 2,500 great products you can be confident that everyone you know will find something they like.

Our fundraising sales only last a few short weeks! So do these quick, easy things today and let's get our momentum going!

1. Register your participant online by going to [registercw.com](http://registercw.com) and enter our Organization ID 16651
2. Invite friends and family to shop and support! Send emails, share on social media, and text the fundraising link to your friends & family to quickly spread the word!
3. Look out for the Charleston Wrap fundraising information coming home today!

Thank you for your support!  
Lindsay Loewer on behalf of the FBS PTO

P.S. We will be giving \$20 Chick-fil-A gift cards to the top selling high school students in each grade (9th - 12th)!

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**REGISTER**







## Dear FBS Families,

Second grade is collecting pop tabs as a community service project! Please save your pop tabs and send them to school. Ask neighbors, relatives, and friends to save theirs, too! The children can bring their tabs to the library where there is a collection jug. We will collect the tabs until May 2023.

Collecting pop tabs is a fun and easy way to give back to RMHC Charleston! Every tab you donate helps them provide a temporary "Home-away-from-home" for families of critically ill children. Pop tabs are found every time you open up a soft drink or soup can; sometimes you even find them when you feed your pet!

We are excited to help make a BIG impact for the families at RMHC Charleston.

### WHY COLLECT POP TABS?

People take great pride in collecting thousands of aluminum pop tabs for the following reasons:

- Appeals to all ages
- Ecologically smart
- Simple to start
- Clean
- Convenient
- Helps build awareness of RMH cause
- Promotes recycling
- Encourages teamwork
- Teaches charitable giving
- Instills a sense of community

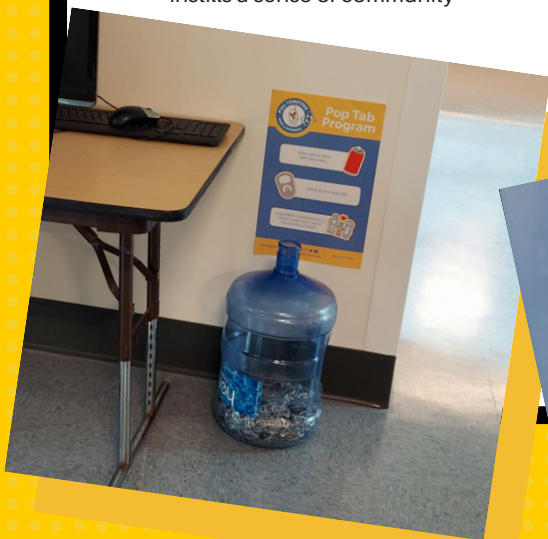
### HOW DO THE POP TABS HELP RMHC CHARLESTON?

The tab of an aluminum can is pure aluminum unlike the rest of the can, which contains paint and other residue. Once their pop tab dumpster is full, RMHC will take the pop tabs to a local aluminum recycler. According to the price of aluminum at that time and the weight of the tabs the recycling center gives RMHC a check. The price of aluminum fluctuates anywhere between 35 to 85 cents a pound. This money is used for their general operating expenses- it truly helps in keeping the doors open to continue to serve more than 900 families annually.

While the whole can is valuable as a recyclable, RMHC Charleston does not have the storage capacity to collect the whole can. The aluminum tabs are smaller and easier to handle when large volumes are delivered.

We thank you in advance and look forward to donating to such a special organization!

Blessings,  
First Baptist 2nd Grade





# High School

## **CAMPUS MINISTRY**

I'm so excited to reveal the theme for High School Chapel this school year: Spiritual Growth through the Psalms. This week, we heard testimony from Mrs. Blalock about how God supports us through our anxieties using Psalm 94:18-19, and I got to share a brief message from Psalm 5 about how God gives us new life. Throughout this school year, we will host many amazing guest speakers who will all be sharing about how God is helping them grow spiritually through the lens of the Psalms. We are looking for parents to sponsor homeroom classes to bring snacks and treats on chapel days this year. If you would like to participate in that, please email me at [blalocka@fbschool.org](mailto:blalocka@fbschool.org) and we can get that going. We have some other exciting things coming up this year that we will be announcing at a later date as well. I'm very excited about how God is at work on the high school campus!

Mr. Andrew Blalock



# ADVANCEMENT OFFICE NEWS

*Sustaining Academic Excellence with a Christian Perspective  
for generations to come*

## Welcome Back!

**Beth Switzer**, [switzerb@fbschool.org](mailto:switzerb@fbschool.org)

Director of Advancement  
& High School Admissions

The FBS Annual Report for the 2021-2022 school year can be viewed online [here](#).

Stay tuned for upcoming Advancement Events including the FBS Friends and Family Oyster Roast and Grandparents/Special Friends Day!

### ADVANCEMENT EVENTS

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**FBS FRIENDS AND FAMILY  
OYSTER ROAST**  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2022  
4:30 PM - 7:00 PM  
THE ISLAND HOUSE, 2658  
SWYGERT BLVD., JOHNS ISLAND  
29455

**GRANDPARENTS/SPECIAL  
FRIENDS DAY**  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2022  
K2 - K5 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
1ST GRADE - 4TH GRADE  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**[GIVE ONLINE](#)**

## FBS HIGH SCHOOL

# DISC GOLF COURSE

The upper school of First Baptist now has a challenging, scenic, nine-hole disc golf course in the wood east of its academic building. In a way, we owe this course to the Pandemic of 2020. But we also owe this course to the generosity and selflessness of many friends of First Baptist who made it possible; parents, business leaders, designers, students, and faculty.

As the pandemic rolled into a second year, many adopted new activities outdoors. One of mine became weekly doubles match of disc golf with friends. The more we played area courses, the more we saw current and former First Baptist students playing those same courses. This planted the idea to build a course at the school for our students, considering the amount of land available. Two members of our weekly doubles match—Jason Williams, operator of the Folly Rd. Chick-fil-A, and Evan Brandon, a First Baptist parent and landscape architect whose firm designed the brickwork in the breezeway at our downtown campus—quickly pledged to be sponsors. Rob Marchant, schoolboard veteran, parent of three alumni, and deacon in First Baptist Church, became the first actual donor. Others soon followed, and we began designing, shaping, and building the course in the spring of 2022.

A chance encounter with Ken McCullough, a local real estate agent and designer of the disc golf course at Four Poles Park in North Charleston, led to invaluable advice in utilizing natural pathways through our woods. Ken donated multiple hours in making the course as balanced and diverse as possible. Tom Bryce, retired naturalist and First Baptist volunteer, and Erin Jackson, FB parent and science faculty member, provided guidance in preserving native, diverse species as we cut trails and widened fairways. Erin also helped us map and measure the course. Brad Truluck, head of the Hurricane Association, FB parent, and husband to lower school faculty member Jodi Truluck, allowed us to commandeer his machinery and equipment whenever it was needed. And student Hollis Haynes (class of 2024) gave us multiple days of his talent with a tractor and rotary cutter. He is the reason the course was built as quickly as it was.

The course equipment was purchased through Educational Disc Golf Experience. EDGE is a non-profit organization that specifically helps schools build courses. Along with the equipment for the course, EDGE also provided a curriculum, over 100 discs, bags for carrying discs, towels to wipe down the discs, and even portable practice targets.

We plan to incorporate the disc golf course into other classes. Physics class can use the course and supplies to study trajectory, velocity, and flight. The Earth Science class can help maintain and manicure the course, which can easily get overgrown in the oak-and-pine wood. Physical education will use the equipment in outside units. And we now have a newly formed First Baptist Disc Golf Club.



## DONATE HERE

We are excited about this new way to enjoy our beautiful campus. It is a serene, relaxing walk. We have towering pines and expansive oaks throughout the course. Even if you do not play disc golf yet, please walk the route and enjoy the peaceful scenery when it is not being used by the student body. Include a detour around the pond (after hole 7) and the walk measures around one mile. If you do play disc golf, bring your discs and prepare for a challenge.

FBS is extremely grateful to everyone who brought this course to life. Future needs include signage, maintenance, and improvements. Please consider donating through our [donor page](#). Any amount is helpful. If you would rather contribute your time and energy, please email Matthew Lambert at [lambertm@fbschool.org](mailto:lambertm@fbschool.org) to enlist for one of our Saturday workdays.

### Donors:

ABC Awning Company  
Jon Acker State Farm  
Alderman, Laney and O'Brien, LLC  
Chick-fil-A, Folly Rd.  
Marchant Chevy  
Maybank Law Firm  
Outdoor Spatial Design  
Ravenel Ford  
Scott Hagan Properties  
Three Trees Dental

### Student Volunteers

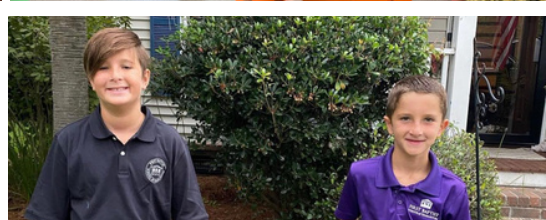
Wilson Garner, class of '23  
Hollis Haynes, class of '24  
Roy Maybank, class of '23

### Course Designers

Evan Brandon  
Danny Clark  
Matthew Lambert  
Ken McCullough  
Jason Williams



# Around Campus



# Time to Refocus

*By Rose M. Cummings, LPC  
First Baptist School Counselor*



Summer break is over and it's time to refocus and get back in the rhythm of a routine again. Some children are beyond ready to be back with their friends in a structured environment. Some are apprehensive but excited. Some are down-right unhappy about coming back. There are many different attitudes and feelings coming back into the classroom after a summer away. Here are some ways you can make your child's back-to-school experience even better!

- Be an example of a positive role model. Be optimistic about the year and what they will accomplish in it.
- Create a positive learning space for your child and get them excited about it. Notebooks, encouraging notes, keep a handful of sharpened pencils at reach.
- Help them create positive thinking patterns by using positive directives. Try "focus on the teacher and what matters today" instead of "don't get distracted talking", "try to stay organized, use your binders" instead of "don't be messy." These little changes go a long way for the psyche and what it remembers in a day.
- Eliminate or at least reduce negative talk. Try to keep those pesky thoughts that we all have away from the car ride or dinner conversation. Treasure that time and use it productively.
- Embrace the pause, especially in the morning. Mornings are hard. Whether your child is 6 or 16, that doesn't seem to change, but how you approach it and the example that you set is being watched and absorbed. Sometimes we have to pause ourselves, close our eyes for just a moment, and recalibrate.

We thank each and every one of you for blessing us with your little ones and look forward to what this year will bring to our school!



FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL  
**Health & Wellness**

Rose Cummings, MA, LPC

Laura Lempesis, RN, BSN

Caroline Clum, RN, BSN

Chelle Carter, RN, BSN

FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

# RESOURCES



RENWEB  
LOGIN



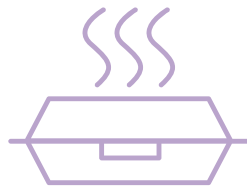
STUDENT  
HANDBOOK

## 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.