

HURRICANE WATCH



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

January 2024

Monthly Newsletter



WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

- Head of School Update
- January Calendar
- School Happenings
- The Cultivation of Character
- Athletic Hall of Fame
- Advancement Updates
- High School Counseling

Head of School Update

By Dr. Justin Mitchell

Greetings, First Baptist Community!

Happy New Year! As we usher in 2024, it brings me great joy to welcome each of you back to another exciting semester at First Baptist School. The beginning of a new year is a time for fresh starts and renewed commitment to our shared goals. I am filled with gratitude for the wonderful community we have built together, and I am optimistic about the incredible possibilities that lie ahead.

Continued on Page 2...

In the spirit of new beginnings, let us reflect on the words of Isaiah 43:19 (NIV): "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." As we embark on this new year, let us embrace the opportunity for growth, positive change, and the promise of a bright future. Our faith teaches us that through God's grace, each day is a chance for a fresh start.

Our commitment to "Academic Excellence with a Christian Perspective" remains unwavering. We are dedicated to providing a nurturing environment where students can excel academically while developing a strong foundation in Christian values. As we move forward into 2024, let us continue to instill these values in our students, preparing them not only for academic success but also for a life filled with purpose and compassion.

The spring semester is an exciting time for our Fine Arts programs. Months of preparation and process will soon yield robust student products and performances. Our first performance of the spring semester will be our 1st-12th grade production of "Peter Pan," on March 14th & 15th in the JI Auxillary Gym, directed by Mrs. Kelsey Nelson in partnership with Mrs. Reagan Lethco. We are looking forward to seeing our students take the stage together in this collaboration across our two campuses.

On the athletics front, basketball is off to a busy start as all ten of our 5th grade-12th grade girls and boys teams are competing throughout the Charleston area and beyond. Our JV Girls team remains undefeated after finishing up a challenging Christmas schedule in the Carolina Invitational. The Varsity teams began competing regionally with big wins at Pinewood last week. A highlight includes a winning buzzer-beating 3-pointer by Taye Robinson for the Varsity boys! Please follow our social media and game schedules as all of our teams will have a busy January, including showcase games for the Varsity girls and boys. Also, do not forget that Spring sports are just around the corner as many of our teams will get started at the end of this month. Please contact our Spring sports coaches or athletic director if your child(ren) would like to participate.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of completing re-enrollment by the due date of January 19th. Your timely response ensures a smooth planning process for the upcoming academic year. After this date, we will be opening enrollment to students outside of First Baptist School, so I encourage you to secure your child's place at our institution before the deadline.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the positive momentum we have built together. First Baptist School has always been a beacon of educational excellence and Christian values, and I am confident that 2024 will be a year of continued growth, achievement, and success for our school community.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and may this year be filled with blessings, growth, and joy for each member of the First Baptist School family.

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

JANUARY 2024

JAN
02

Professional Development - **No School**

JAN
03

School Resumes

JAN
15

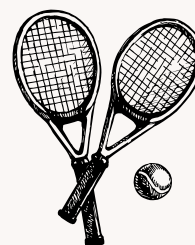
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - **No School**

JAN
22

High School Info Night for 8th Grade



[View Athletic Calendar](#)





GET READY FOR SUMMER FUN!

HURRICANES SUMMER CAMP JUNE 3-JULY 26, 2024 (8 WEEKS)

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.

Location: Downtown Campus

Tuition:

- Full week - \$230
- 3-day week - \$190
- Sibling discount

Registration fee: \$30 (includes camp t-shirt)

Summer camp registration opens for FBS families on Friday, January 20th!



IN THE KNOW

school happenings



Father Daughter Dance (K5-8) on February 10

Save the date for the 2024 Father Daughter Dance! We are currently looking for volunteers, so if you are interested, please sign up [here](#)!

Peter Pan Auditions (3rd-8th grade)

Peter Pan auditions for 3rd-8th graders not already enrolled in drama will take place Tuesday, January 16th right after school. To sign up, please fill out [this form](#).



Kids Heart Challenge Kicks off on Jan. 29

Join us in learning about heart health and raising funds to protect all hearts – especially other kids! Through fun activities we'll discover ways to take care of our hearts and brains while practicing kindness, gratitude and learning ways to de-stress. Plus, we have the chance to earn PE equipment for our school!

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!



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



FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL OF CHARLESTON



11TH BIENNIAL LIVE

—◆— AND —◆—

SILENT AUCTION



please join us on

04.13.2024


AT SIX FIFTEEN IN THE EVENING

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



Save the date!

TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON



The Cultivation of Character

I regard my interest in developing an institutional roadmap for character development driven by the school Mission and integral to the school culture as the culmination of my career.

WRITTEN BY DR. LEONARD KUPERSMITH

The resumption of school fires me up. Nothing quite matches the presence of two hundred enterprising and surprising adolescents. On January 2nd, the entire faculty and staff met downtown for a rare opportunity to discuss the main thing: instruction and ways to promote greater teamwork and deliver an ever improving experience to every child. My colleagues were thoughtfully and energetically involved in generating a menu of relevant and common concerns. What are the most widespread

deficiencies and how could elevate our level of play with one bold change? From my standpoint, all of our professional exchanges ought to bear on our charge to instill a 'Christian perspective. Irrespective of one's religious convictions or absence thereof, a Christian perspective lends clarity to what it means to be a good person in all of our relationships, personal and corporate. The most important impact that a school can have is the cultivation of character. Character and intellectual competence complement each other. The structure of sound academic

thinking enriches our growth as virtuous human beings; the moral perspective bolsters our application of our knowledge, of the utmost importance in the discomfiting advance of artificial intelligence into every nook and cranny of our lives. AI does more than fill cracks: the most unsettling aspect of AI is the main frame for our lives that it promises to create without our awareness or control. Like all technological advances, the impact relies on the engineers who design this eerie Creator, who can become a mechanistic sovereign or an instrument for life-improving solutions to erstwhile daunting challenges. Every aspect of character cultivation relies on the example that teacher set. What a lofty and inspiring role for a teacher!

A nimble committee of four teachers and two administrators has been working since the beginning of the year on a curriculum woven through the high school. We are moving in fits and starts, having difficulty finding our footing and protecting time for this critical work. In our discussions, we shun political advocacies and social media trends. At present, we are deriving the menu of character traits from the Baptismal Covenant.

I regard my interest in developing an institutional roadmap for character development driven by the school Mission and integral to the school culture as the culmination of my career. The dominant focus of my tenure as HOS at Christ Church and my current role at FBS has been designing a social curriculum containing explicit habits and values that the school promises to develop in all of its students. Our national history provides a rich and continuous tradition for moral/social education. It harkens back to the church schools of Massachusetts Bay in the 17th and 18th centuries, the intrepid settlement of Episcopal boarding schools in the 19th century from Ohio to California, the formation of the common school movement led by Horace Mann in the 19th century to provide universal public education, Bishop Moody's Social Gospel program best embodied in Northfield-Mt. Herman, an influential boarding school in Massachusetts, and in the 20th century, John Dewey's progressive education movement whose beachhead was and to a large

extent remains at Columbia Teachers College. The common thread in all of these platforms and movements is the school as a medium of moral education.

During the break, I read an op-ed by Bob Greene in the **Wall Street Journal**, Greene, an occasional contributor to the **WSJ** and for many years a staple on the sports page of the **Chicago Tribune**. This year-end bauble was a homily wrapped up in sports lore. On Lombardi Avenue, which runs past Lambeau Field, in Green Bay, where Coach Lombardi spent most of his legendary career, a large clock resides in front of the stadium. It is fifteen minutes early. Why? Because Coach Lombardi insisted that his players fifteen minutes early to practice or else be fined for late arrival. I will quote the punchline in Green's column: "His [Lombardi's] point was that people who want to succeed should have the discipline and courtesy not to keep others waiting. It's a matter of respect: respect for the people with whom you work, and respect for yourself. The way to guarantee that you're never late—that you're never in a flustered rush to begin a task—is to get there a quarter-hour early." Holding ourselves and our students to responsible behavior standards, many of which have fallen into disrepair out of indolence and lack of backbone, is an invaluable legacy that students can take from their school. It's a legacy that we are committed to providing.

SPRING SPORTS

» *Spring sports are just around the corner at FBS!
Please contact the coaches below if interested
in participating!*

Some seasons start as early as January 29th!

COACH CONTACT INFO

SOFTBALL (GRADES 6-10)

Katelyn Powell - k3powell97@gmail.com

BASEBALL (GRADES 5-12)

Alex Snider - snidera@fbschool.org

GIRLS SOCCER (GRADES 6-12)

Marc Simpson - marcs@fbschool.org

BOY SOCCER (GRADES 6-12)

Ralph Lundy - rlundy719@gmail.com

TRACK & FIELD (GRADES 7-12)

Tim Tyler - timtyler540@gmail.com

BOYS GOLF (GRADES 7-12)

Jacob Redmond - jaaredmo@gmail.com

CO-ED TENNIS (GRADES 1-8)

Ashley Timbes - atimbes@outlook.com



You must have all athletic participation forms completed online and uploaded to studentcentral.bigteams.com.

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

Start them young! Make it fun!

BY KATHERINE LADD,
FBS LEARNING SPECIALIST



It is a perfect time to create new habits in the new year! The more these moments can become a part of your daily schedule, the easier it is to remember to do them.

If you make learning fun, use games and use all 5 senses, a child is more likely to retain the information and crave more! These experiences also create a bonding connection between the child and adult.

Phonemic Awareness and Phonological Awareness are important to practice to become a strong reader. These activities include practice with both.

Here are a few examples you can add into your daily routine:

1. Breakfast/Carpool: Willaby, Wallaby Woo. This game practices rhyming, which is extremely important for early readers. You can watch a video of me playing this game with my daughter here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXE8WILfS4>

1. BathTub or Shower: You can use steam on the shower, suds from the soap, shaving cream, or the store-bought foam letters. Pound out the syllable. Finger tap each sound. You can watch a video of me playing this game with my son here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qa-rvLFCAUo>

1. Popcorn Reading: All levels! This is a fun way to keep your child engaged while reading.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2TPpYOCWsl>



Feel free to reach out to me with any questions. It is my passion to guide and encourage budding students, and families.

College Counseling

SHANNON ROY
COLLEGE COUNSELOR

As we embark on the new year, the college counseling department is committed to ensuring that every student is equipped with the resources and information needed for their unique journey toward higher education. In this newsletter, I'll address crucial steps for our junior and senior students.

Individual Junior Counseling Sessions (with Parents/caregivers)

As we embark on an exciting phase in your student's academic journey, I am pleased to inform you that individual counseling sessions for juniors have been scheduled to discuss and plan for the steps leading to post-high school success. These sessions will be conducted with both students and parents/caregivers, offering a comprehensive overview of the necessary preparations.

Preparing Juniors for the SAT and ACT

For our junior students, the upcoming months are pivotal as they prepare for the SAT and ACT. It's essential to start early, create a study plan, and utilize available resources. Encourage your junior to explore prep courses, practice exams, and study materials both online and in-person. If your student has specific learning needs, consider exploring accommodations available for standardized testing.

Exploring Colleges with Strong Learning Support

Juniors, in addition to preparing for standardized testing, it's also the ideal time to explore colleges that provide robust support for students with learning disabilities. I've compiled a list of such colleges that offer specialized services and resources. You can find the list here:

[Learning Supportive Colleges List](#)

Encourage your junior to consider factors such as academic support services, disability accommodations, and mentorship programs when researching potential colleges. This proactive approach ensures a smooth transition to higher education.

Continued on next page...

Financial Aid - FAFSA for 2024-2025 School Year

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2024-2025 school year is now open. We encourage parents of Seniors to complete the FAFSA promptly to secure federal and state financial aid. If you need assistance with the FAFSA process, please contact me.

Scholarship Season in Full Swing

Seniors, it's time to actively search and apply for scholarships. I am here to assist with the application process. If you have questions or concerns, reach out for personalized guidance. Thank you for your continued collaboration in guiding our students toward success.

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

ADVANCEMENT

UPDATES



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. Mark your calendar and be on the lookout for more information.

If you are interested in donating an auction item, please contact Beth Switzer at switzerb@fbschool.org.



FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS

UPDATES AND EVENTS



Re-Enrollment

Re-enrollment for current students is now open and must be filled out by **January 19, 2024** to guarantee your child's spot for the 2024-2025 school year.

Sibling Enrollment

If a sibling of a current student is interested in applying for the 24-25 school year, **please be sure to submit an inquiry** if you haven't already done so. Applications for siblings and current church members will open January 20-24.

FBS Admissions Team

Debbie Mack
Director of Enrollment
mackd@fbschool.org

Sally Casias
Director of Lower and Middle School Admissions
casiass@fbschool.org

Beth Switzer
Director of High School Admissions
switzerb@fbschool.org

 FIRST BAPTIST
SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL INFO NIGHT

For current FBS 8th Graders

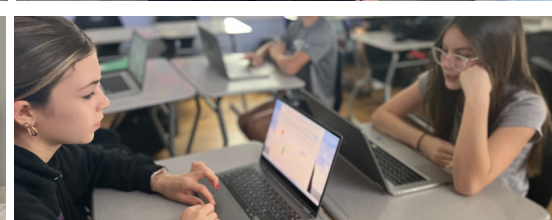
MONDAY, JANUARY 22
5:30 - 6:30 PM

JAMES ISLAND MEDIA CENTER

Parents and students will hear from Administration, Athletics, College Counseling, FB High School Teachers, and a panel of FB High School Students.



Around Campus



FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

RESOURCES



FACTS
LOGIN



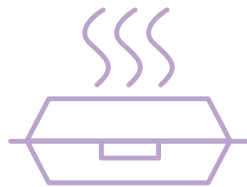
STUDENT
HANDBOOK

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.