



## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

- Head of School Update
- November Calendar
- School Happenings
- PTO Updates
- Advancement Updates
- Admissions Updates
- High School Counseling

## Head of School Update

*By Dr. Justin Mitchell*

Greetings, First Baptist Community!

As we enter November, a season of reflection and gratitude, we are reminded of Psalm 107:1, "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!" This verse calls us to focus on God's goodness and steadfast love, which surrounds us every day. No matter the challenges we encounter, the blessings God provides fill our lives and hearts with peace, joy, and hope.

*Continued on Page 2...*

This month, we celebrate the blessings in our school community and invite everyone to join us in counting these gifts, knowing they far outweigh any struggles or obstacles we may face.

### **Our Students: An Abundant Blessing**

Our students bring such joy and energy to First Baptist School! Each child is a unique expression of God's love, and watching them grow academically, spiritually, and personally is a daily reminder of the blessings we have been entrusted with. We are grateful for their laughter, curiosity, and the way they care for one another, a testament to the strong foundation of faith and community we are building together.

### **Supportive Families: A Community of Blessings**

Our families are a pillar of support and encouragement, contributing to a thriving school environment filled with love and grace. Your involvement, whether through volunteering, attending events, or simply cheering from the sidelines, strengthens our community and makes our school feel like home. We are truly thankful for each of you and the way you reflect God's love in every interaction, reminding us all of the steadfast support we have in one another.

### **Faithful Faculty and Staff: A Constant Blessing**

Our teachers and staff are dedicated, compassionate, and faithful leaders who pour their hearts into guiding our students every day. Their commitment to nurturing our children's minds and hearts is a blessing that helps shape the future of our community. We are profoundly grateful for their devotion to the mission of our school, knowing that their efforts and prayers are a foundation upon which God's blessings continue to grow.

In the spirit of community and compassion, we ask that you continue to join us in prayer for those impacted by Hurricane Helene in the Upstate of South Carolina and the mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee. Many families are still facing significant challenges as they recover from the effects of this storm.

As we go through this month, let's continue to count the blessings God has placed in our lives. Remember, His steadfast love endures forever, and His goodness is greater than any challenge. We are thankful for each of you, and we pray that you feel the warmth of God's love and the support of our school community this season and always.

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 style with a large, prominent initial "J".



# CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2024

- 5 Election Day - No School
- 25-29 Thanksgiving Break - No School



[View Athletic Calendar](#)





# IN THE KNOW

## school happenings



### Gobble & Gather Camp (K3-4th)

K3-4th are invited to join our Gobble & Gather camp on Nov. 25 & 26 during Thanksgiving Break! Campers will enjoy holiday games and activities over two days of fun! Registration is available through [CampBrain](#).

### Day of shopping - Saturday, Dec. 7th

Take the stress out of the holiday season by getting your Christmas shopping done while your children enjoy a morning filled with fun activities catered specifically for K5-6th graders! This event is designed to keep the young ones entertained and engaged while you take care of your holiday errands. [Register here!](#)



### Baseball Oyster Roast - Saturday, Dec. 7th

Join us for an evening of fun with an Oyster Roast, Chili Cook Off, Silent Auction, 50/50 Raffle and more! All proceeds benefit the Baseball program at First Baptist. Grab your tickets [here!](#)

## 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





# BAND CONCERT

On Thursday, October 24th, the First Baptist 5th/6th Grade Band held their inaugural concert. Band students invited their parents to join them, sitting side-by-side to share in the musical experience. The students excelled in guiding their parents through playing their first notes on an instrument!







**ATHLETICS**

# HURRICANES



## *Hurricane Association Fall/Winter Raffle*

The Hurricane Association is having a Fall/Winter sports raffle which will support the Hurricane Association and the FBS Athletic Department!

Raffle tickets are \$5 each or \$20 for 5. You are allowed to purchase an unlimited amount of tickets. Winner will be announced on October 18th at the final home game! You do not have to be present to win. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the concession stand/merchandise table during sporting events.

The items will include:

- Yeti Cooler, provided by John Acker with State Farm
- Wood Burning fire pit + 2 bundles of wood, provided by Pools of Charleston
- S'mores kit + 2 Yeti cups + \$250 Publix gift card, provided by the JV and Varsity Volleyball team families
- \$100 Amazon and \$100 Walmart gift card, provided by Rob Marchant with Marchant Chevrolet
- Blackstone Table Top Grill, provided by Shoreline Mosquito Defense

Total Raffle bundle value: \$1200!!

Tickets available [here](#) and at home game concessions.

Join the Hurricane Association!

[MEMBERSHIP FORM](#)





# Parent Teacher Organization



## Here come the holidays!

FBS Families,

As the holidays quickly approach, I want to ensure that all families have access to the lists of Favorite Things for our amazing staff and teachers! You can find their lists of "Favorite Things" [here](#).

Save the date: The PTO will be hosting a holiday shopping pop-up in early December at Charleston Candle Company! Mrs. Hannah Salters, FBS 3rd grade teacher and author, will be on site to sell and sign her recently published book, *Sonny in Paris*. Plan to stop by and get some holiday shopping done! Stay tuned for more details coming soon.

Wishing you every blessing this holiday season!

*Lindsay Loewer*

PTO President



## Dress Down Days

If you would like to sign up for a whole year of Dress Down Days (K5-12), you can register and pay in advance [here](#).

# Parenting Guilt is Real

AND WHAT HELPS ME LET IT GO

by Crystal Hawkins, Lower School Spanish



Parenting guilt is real. No matter what I do, I can second guess myself and feel like I'm doing the wrong thing. The pressure to get it right is heavy. The timeline is short. You get eighteen years per kid, and then they have to fend for themselves in this big, bad world.

What if I miss it? What if I get it wrong? Each tiny decision can feel so crucial. It can feel like the impact will last forever.

What if I give them too much game time, and their brains turn to mush? What if I don't give them as much game time as their friends, and they are socially awkward because of it?

What if I give them too much responsibility and it crushes them? What if I don't give them enough responsibility and they turn into free-loaders?

What if I limit their sugar intake so much that they miss out on the simple pleasure of a sugar rush? What if I let them eat too much sugar, their teeth rot, fall out, and they have to get dentures at the age of 12?

Sigh! This parenting thing is heavy. HEAVY.

We were raised in a different generation. Parental hovering was not a thing. We were told to play outside, and not come home until dark. If we came home too early, we'd have to watch the sunset from our porches before we were allowed to come in. Too hot? Play in the shade! Too cold? Wear a jacket. Thirsty? Drink from the water hose. Bullies? Play by yourself. Lonely? Play with a friend. But coming in before sunset was never an option.

When I look back on my childhood, it's not the individual decisions that my parents made that I remember. It's the emotional temperature of my home. And I'm sure you are the same way. Did you grow up in a warm, loving home? Or did you grow up in a cold, harsh home? Unfortunately, for those of us who grew up in the latter, it can make the pressure to get this parenting thing right even more debilitating.

Sometimes I can be so consumed with getting each tiny decision right, that I miss the most important thing... love. Our children don't need us to



be perfect. They just need to be loved and known. They need to feel warmth coming from us, not stress and anxiety.

Sports or no sports?... It doesn't matter. I can make either decision in love.

Public, Magnet, Charter, Private, or Homeschool?... Who cares, as long as my child knows that love radiates from our home.

There's an ancient proverb that says, "Love covers all offenses." When I remember this, I can breathe again.

As parents, we are not going to make all the right calls. We are going to miss some things. We are going to have to apologize to our kids and try again. But that's okay. Our children will look back on their childhoods one day, and if they remember love, none of the other things will matter. Because love truly does cover all offenses.

So let go of the parenting guilt today. It's not your friend. Instead, choose love. Because in the end, it's all that matters.

# College Counseling

SHANNON ROY  
COLLEGE COUNSELOR

Hello FBS Students and Families,

As we step into November, there are many important steps in the college planning journey for all our high school students. Here's a grade-by-grade overview of what each class should be focusing on this month:

## **Class of 2028 Updates:**

This month, I'll be meeting with our freshmen to start building a foundation for success. We will review transcripts, discuss academic planning, emphasize the importance of extracurricular involvement, and set personal and academic goals. Parents, please encourage conversations at home about your student's strengths and interests to help them start thinking about potential next steps. These discussions can be the beginning of a meaningful journey toward identifying potential career and college goals.

## **Class of 2027 Updates:**

Sophomores should reflect on the classes they enjoy and excel in, as this can provide insight into possible career paths. In March, I'll begin meeting individually with 10th graders to help further develop these ideas. For now, exploring hobbies and career interests through extracurricular activities, job shadowing, or volunteering is highly encouraged.

## **Class of 2026 Updates:**

Juniors, take advantage of the ongoing college representative visits this fall. These events are an excellent opportunity to learn more about different schools and establish connections. Campus visits are another great step to take this year.

Starting in January, I will meet with each of you individually to focus on college selection and planning. This is a great time to ask questions and begin thinking about potential college applications. We will be diving into our SCOIR program to help build our college lists and begin organizing our information. Parents are required to attend the meeting as this is a team working together to help your student be successful in whatever they chose for after FBS.

## **Class of 2025 Updates:**

Seniors, you are deep in the application process, and soon we'll shift focus to financial aid, scholarships, and preparing for the transition to college. Pencil in your calendar for Thursday, December 12th from 6-7pm at FBS for our Financial Aid Planning Night. Remember, I am here to support you through each step, so please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or for guidance as deadlines approach.



# College Counseling

SHANNON ROY  
COLLEGE COUNSELOR

Parents, I am always just a phone call or email away. Whether it's understanding academic planning, exploring career options, or navigating college applications and financial aid, I'm here to help guide you and your student through this exciting and sometimes overwhelming process.

Warm regards,

*Shannon Roy*

Director of College Counseling  
First Baptist School  
843-410-1606 Ext. 1108

# ADVANCEMENT

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## UPDATES

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Dr. Leonard Kupersmith  
Director of Advancement

Dear Friends of FBS:

Within a week, we will send through the mail the FBS Annual Report for 2023-24 school year with gratitude for our precious students, dedicated teachers, tireless staff, and generous and prudent families. The focus of the Annual Report is the central relationship at a school: the impact of teachers and the accomplishments of students.

This year, we celebrate the 75th year of educating students to be thoughtful, faithful, and grateful. FBS has been built on the noble vision of Pastor Hamrick and the commitments of countless families. The current FBS continues to merge faith and knowledge seamlessly. We owe our success to the common efforts of past generations who stepped up to support the school in hard and halcyon times.

Now, we have the opportunity to propel our school to a new level of achievement. The school is prospering. Enrollment is

the highest in the last quarter century. The essential factor in the success of the school has always been our talented and devoted teachers. Our Mission focused success rests on the providential continuity of committed teachers, who have annually been extra-mile performers compensated in large measure with the satisfaction of working with like-minded colleagues, considerable autonomy, supportive parents, and the comfort of including God in their daily service to students.

Our Christian calling demands that we make a concerted effort to raise teacher salaries beyond the sturdy increases of the last three years (22% for teachers who have served five years or more). We cannot provide the compensation that our teachers merit with our tuition schedule, which preserves the aim of our founders to serve a socio-economically diverse community. We must enrich alternate revenue streams, the foremost of which is philanthropy. Annual giving is the training ground for giving.

The norm in annual giving is 3-4% of our expense budget. We need to move the needle from .5% to 1.5%, from \$40,000 to \$100,000. This goal can be expressed as double 75%, or 1.5% of last year's total. This goal is fully within our reach: we honor our seventy-five years of conscientious service and pledge support for the next seventy-five years by making an annual gift of twice 75%.





# Admissions Updates



What an amazing job you all do “advertising” our school! On the inquiry form we ask, “How did you hear about us?” and the overwhelming response is, “from a current family.”

Here are just a few quotes from potential families after touring our campuses:

*“...were genuinely impressed not only by the campus, but also by the strong sense of community at First Baptist.”*

*“... we felt very comfortable thanks to you and the beautiful atmosphere you all have created at FBS.”*

*“... I just really felt a sense of community as we walked the campus. I loved how even the K3 children knew your name.”*

*“... What a wonderful environment for the children, to be able to get a quality education and grow up learning in such an incredible and historic place. We look forward to (hopefully) becoming part of the family at First Baptist.”*

# Admissions Updates



Applications for all new students are scheduled to open November 15 and close December 15. If you are interested in applying for a sibling of a current student, make sure you submit an application during this time frame. Instructions on how to apply will be sent once the application is open and ready. Re-enrollment will open in January and families will have two weeks to enroll and secure their spot. At that time we will have a better idea of available space for each grade level, and may again open applications for specific grade levels as space allows.

Thank you for being a part of this wonderful school family!

We wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving full of blessings and peace.

Beth and Sally





# Around Campus





FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

# RESOURCES



FACTS  
LOGIN



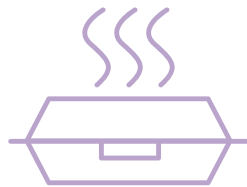
STUDENT  
HANDBOOK

## 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.