

HURRICANE WATCH



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

May 2022

Monthly Newsletter



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Head of School Update

By Dr. Justin Mitchell

Greetings, First Baptist Community!

Last summer, we selected our verse for the 2021/2022 school year: Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

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So much has changed in our world over the last year, but this verse still rings true for FBS. Despite the changes in our world, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to providing Academic Excellence with a Christian Perspective. We have continued to grow and thrive as a school community over the last academic year. We are hosting visitors daily who want to be a part of the FBS Community because they see God's hand on our school and they see the blessings He has bestowed upon us. I cannot wait to see how God will continue to move within our school community next year.

Our Downtown Campus is a center of activity between awards and recognition celebrations, promotion ceremonies, and annual end-of-year activities. We were thrilled to be able to host the Kindergarten's annual play based on Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* on April 28th. We are looking forward to the time-honored tradition of Kindergarten Graduation in the church sanctuary on May 20th at 9:00 am. The 8th Grade Promotion ceremony will be in the church sanctuary at 9:00 am on May 25th at 9:00 am. We have award ceremonies and field days also scheduled by grade levels. Please see communications from Mrs. Brooks regarding the specific dates and times. We plan to begin moving some of our classrooms into the new building the week of May 23rd. If you are interested in providing a helping hand, please contact Mrs. Brooks as we will have a coordinated transition plan for moving the library and classrooms out of 48 Meeting Street and moving other classrooms into 48 Meeting Street. This process requires careful coordination and we would love to have help, if you are available. We cannot wait to get settled and begin preparing for next school year.

The James Island Campus continues to be active with the final weeks of instruction, exams, end-of-year events, and preparation for high school graduation. Our students are still working very hard to finish the year strong. The month of May is important to all high school students, especially for our seniors. In just a few weeks, our seniors will emerge from the hallowed halls of FBS and enter into their chosen colleges and careers. We are pleased to announce that we will be returning to the tradition of having the Senior Walk, in which seniors, dressed in their caps and gowns, walk hallways of our Downtown campus. This exercise is symbolic for those who have invested their entire educational career into FBS. This exercise is also symbolic for our younger students in the lower and middle school to have a tangible look ahead to their future as FBS graduates. We are also delighted to return to the First Baptist Church Sanctuary for graduation this year. Since 1959, Dr. Hamrick's vision to bridge the sanctity of the church into the fiber of the school concluded annually with graduation in the sanctuary. Unfortunately, due to Covid, we were unable to have graduation in the sanctuary for the last two years. We will be returning to this cherished location after the past two years of being away.

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We are so proud of our students, faculty, and staff, for the tremendous work they have done this year to make the 2021-2022 school year a success! Thank you, families, for your commitment and the trust you have placed in us to serve your children. We look forward to continuing to serve your family in the coming 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 style with a large initial 'J' and 'M'.

MAY 2022

School Calendar

1	Spring Dance Showcase	4:00 PM
5	Spring Band Concert	
10	Spring Choir Concert	
17-20	Exams	
20	Kindergarten Graduation	9:00 AM
	Last Day of School	
22	Baccalaureate Service	5:00 PM
23	Exam Make Up Day	
	Teacher Workday	
24	Teacher Workday	
25	8th Grade Commencement	9:00 AM
	Teacher Workday	
26	Senior Brunch	
27	High School Graduation	7:30 PM
30	Memorial Day – School Offices Closed	

[Click here](#)
for Athletic
Schedule





FBS SUMMER CAMPS

Enrichment Camp

JULY 18-22, 2022

Helping our rising 1st-6th graders prevent the "summer slide"! Learn More and register [here!](#)

Sports Camps

DATES VARY

We will be offering a variety of sports camps this summer! Please visit [our website](#) to learn more and how to register!

IN THE KNOW

school happenings

Field Days | K3-K5, May 6th & 1st-8th Grade, May 13th

Our Field Days this year will be Friday, May 6th for K3-K5 and Friday, May 13th for our 1st through 8th graders. **View our wonderful Field Day sponsors [here!](#)**

- 1st-4th grade will be having field day from 9-11:30 on May 13th and students can be dropped off on JI or DT that morning. They may leave after field day or go back DT. Please let your teachers know your plans.
- 5th-8th grade will be bused from the DT campus to JI for lunch at 11:30 and will start Field Day around 12:00. Students can be picked up on JI or ride the bus back DT. Please let your child's homeroom teacher know your plans.
- PTO will be serving up hamburgers and hotdogs. Order forms were due today but if you turn it in on Monday (May 9th), we will honor that order. Please see attached form here.
- If you ordered school lunch in grades 1-4 it will not be able to be picked up until you return DT. If you ordered in grades 5-8, we will try to grab before we depart but it is not definite if it will arrive on time. So please plan accordingly.



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

Out of Many, One

*By Dr. Leonard Kupersmith
High School Principal*



This penultimate newsletter is a thank-you to parents, colleagues, and students for their contributions to a productive and restorative school year. I am grateful to everyone in our community who cooperated to make the 21-22 school year a normal school year. Despite differences of opinion and political leanings, our FBS high-school family came together around a common cause: the preservation of in-person school. From my standpoint, we did fantastically well in accomplishing that aim. In fact, our cooperation embodied the motto of the United States- *e pluribus unum*-“out of many, one.”

Nationally, the pandemic created paralysis among public school systems while highlighting the nimbleness and adaptability of non-public schools. One-third of the schools in our regional association, SAIS, have experienced significant upsurges in applications for admissions in 2021 and 2022: families that planned to defer consideration of non-public schools until the middle-school years (the time of great social temptation and vulnerability) enrolled earlier than originally planned, because non-public schools, especially in the primary grades, were able to adjust quickly and sensibly to the demands. Our schools were not exempt from some mandates and have always

regarded the health and safety of students as the highest priority. The scale of our schools, the personal connection that we have to one another, and the freedom to customize solutions to our respective communities set our schools apart from public districts in regard to preserving a semblance of reassuring routines that offset the absence of pace-to-face contact. Non-public schools did not have limitless freedom but had far more discretionary space to make decisions that fit our specific communities. Public institutions are inherently political, a condition that often leads to decisions that reflect political power and not the best interests of students. Non-public schools tailor their decisions to their culture, mission, and community. Public schools impose a one-size-fits all approach to practices and policies. In my previous setting, at Christ Church, in Greenville, Dr. Royster, Greenville County superintendent, and his leadership team do a commendable job of making decisions for a sprawling district from Fountain Inn to Travelers Rest and schools, like Berea and Riverside, with divergent demographics. Plus, management is accountable to public oversight, limiting the ability of leadership to apply “different strokes for different folks.”

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I am grateful to work with teachers and administrative colleagues who go an extra mile, support one another, and put students first. The can-do spirit of our faculty and staff reflects the considerable autonomy that non-public school educators have in guiding their instructional aims and classroom management.

Finally, I celebrate our students. Adolescence is always challenging. Our students will challenge boundaries. It comes with the territory of the time of their lives. But, they respond to reasonable authority and conform to school standards. Students like the culture of the school: it encourages them to have a voice and treats them as individuals. This benign adjustment to discerning and conforming to social norms is one of the most important legacies of a FBS education.

The 2021-22 year has been a growth year. The ascendancy will continue in 2022-23.

Boat Building PROJECT

with Lowcountry Maritime Center



First Baptist's 8th grade class celebrated a year-long boat building project with Lowcountry Maritime School by having a boat launch at Colonial Lake downtown. This past year, students have practiced science and math concepts through building a wooden rowboat called a Bevin's skiff. They have learned a lot about teamwork, communication, collaboration, and problem solving. Not many people can say they've built their own boat, but now these students can! We couldn't be more proud of their work!



ADVANCEMENT OFFICE NEWS

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

Summer Jubilee

Beth Switzer, switzerb@fbschool.org

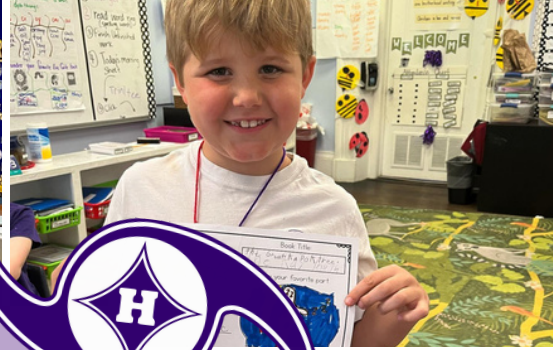
*Director of Advancement
& High School Admissions*

The Class of 1972, 50th Jubilee
Reunion will be held June 25, 2022!

If you would like to receive further
information about the reunion,
please send your name, phone
number, and email address to Beth
Switzer at switzerb@fbschool.org!

ADVANCEMENT EVENTS

[GIVE ONLINE](#)



Around Campus



10TH GRADE

Olivia Acker
Reagan Bozarth
Liam Buckingham
Iris Bullock
Amelia Dausman
Ellie DeLuca
Sami Durham
Caroline Greenhill
Daulton Hagan
Emma Harle
Drew Harrison
William Haynes
Remley Hooker
Rainey Kapeluck
Nathan Korotney
Russell Lee
Gracie McNeill
Evie Moncure
Jasmin Pederson
Blaze Phipps
Kennedi Ray
Lily Weatherholtz
Cidney Wilson
Fiona Yang

11TH GRADE

Mason Figel
Preston Landrith
Ian Laney

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Welcome New Inductees!



We're excited to announce our newest members of the National Honor Society. The induction ceremony was held May 3, 2022.



To Our Athletics Volunteers,

As the 2022-2023 Athletic season begins to wrap up, I want to give a sincere, heartfelt, thank you to the people who we would not survive without - our volunteers. We are incredibly fortunate to have a legion of dedicated parents, grandparents, faculty, community members, and more who help make our athletes feel special and help their teams succeed on and off the field. I have witnessed so many volunteers spending precious time well into the evenings and on weekends after long days at their own jobs. Our volunteers coach teams, work the concession stand, run press boxes, raise money, provide manual labor, paint fields, cook meals and do so many other little things in between that really do help lay the foundation for First Baptist Athletics. We want you to know that your hard work and time does not go unnoticed. It is with our most profound gratitude and love that we thank all of you who give up your time to make Hurricane Athletics the best it can be.

Graham Haley
Athletic Director

Self-Regulation

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



When our children were babies, we were taught to let them self soothe, and not to coddle them every time they cried. We taught them to count to three and take a time-out. We have new roles now as parents, but one of them is to continue to teach and instill ways to self-regulate in an age-appropriate way. When a child has a problem with a friend, a sibling or a teacher and we solve it for them, they may begin to rely on us as an external self-regulator. If it happens over and over again, they may develop a habit of outsourcing self-regulation.

The best way to teach self-regulation skills is not to avoid the situations that are difficult and cause the meltdowns but to face them head on by coaching them through it whilst providing a supportive framework. Clinicians call it “scaffolding” the behavior until they have all of the tools or until it is in their mental muscle memory to handle it on their own. If you frame it as a skill to be learned rather than a bad behavior, they will often begin to see it in a different light and be more apt to want to work on it.

We don’t want to shield them from the things that challenge or upset them. We want to teach them with our expectations that they can do it, and we will help them when they need us. One example would be a particularly difficult math problem that is causing a child to become distressed. Scaffolding would be helping the child with one problem, and then asking them to get a drink, take a breather or ask a friend for help with further ones. Once they have exhausted all of the other resources, we can re-assist, but they need to know that they can face, endure and conquer difficult things on their own. If they need to try other resources, they can figure those out as well by us saying “have you tried all of your options” rather than directing them with what to try next. As soon as they know that they can depend on their own sensibilities, they will have a sense of self that is much more reliant and resilient than before.

If you have any questions about this content or anything else pertaining to the counseling department, please feel free to reach out to me by phone at the respective campus or at cummings@fbschool.org.

FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

RESOURCES



RENWEB
LOGIN



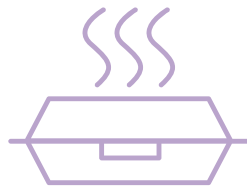
STUDENT
HANDBOOK



COVID POLICY



SMART TUITION
LOGIN



SCHOOLHOUSE
FARE LUNCH



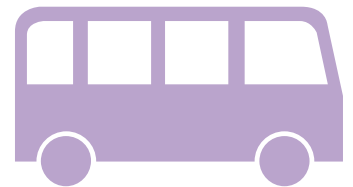
DRESS CODE



FACULTY/STAFF
DIRECTORY



ACADEMIC
CALENDAR



TRANSPORTATION

These resources can always be found on the [Resources](#) page of our website.