



HURRICANE REPORT

2023-2024

First Baptist School of Charleston





FBS 2024-25 LEADERSHIP

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High School Principal

Ms. Marshelle Grant
Assistant High School Principal

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Lower & Middle School Principal

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GET IN TOUCH

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01

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Our Charleston Tours elective was introduced last year. Students were able to visit historically and culturally important sites around Charleston, like the John Rutledge House.

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

by Mr. Justin Whaley

As we reflect upon the past school year and look forward to the year ahead, I would like to comment and take a moment to reflect upon our progress and acknowledge those who have made our success possible.

As a school, we have made great strides this year in adding additional resources for our students and our faculty.

This has been done through countless hours over many meetings throughout the school year, with detailed planning and feedback from stakeholders within the school.

As a board, we have taken all of the requests and comments into consideration and put forward plans to address the immediate needs of our school, as well as build for the future.

We have worked in tandem with Dr. Mitchell to help increase classroom space by adding classrooms to the second floor of our athletic building; relocating athletic training space; and purchasing new buses to upgrade safety, comfort, and efficiency for our school.

I would also like to recognize and thank the PTO and the Hurricane Association for their unwavering commitment to our school, faculty, and students.

We are truly blessed to have such dedicated individuals that help make First Baptist School of Charleston one of the top learning and athletic institutions in the Charleston area.

Another individual I would like to recognize is Pastor Marshall Blalock. Along with his busy schedule with First Baptist Church of Charleston and other commitments throughout our community and state, he has always made our school a top priority. His faith, devotion, and leadership have truly touched every initiative we have put forth this year. For him, I am truly thankful.

Finally, I cannot give enough credit and thanks to my fellow board members over this past year. Through their efforts in finance, personnel support, long range planning, and curriculum committees, they have provided critical support to help keep our school moving smoothly throughout the year.

Thank you all for trusting First Baptist School of Charleston with your children's education and Christian-based learning.

Our students have always been, and always will be, our greatest gift.

Best Regards,



Chairman of The School Board

Justin Dale Whaley, originally from Givhans, South Carolina, grew up attending Summerville Baptist Church. He and his wife, Amber, now live on James Island and are members of First Baptist Church with their two sons, Jackson and Rhett. Justin is an alumnus of several institutions, including Summerville High School and The University of Notre Dame. With over 20 years of experience in healthcare consulting and management, he currently serves as the Regional Director of Enterprise Sales-East for Tasso, a medical device company. He leads initiatives with organizations like the CDC and NIH. The Whaley family is actively involved in their church and community.

02

LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Head of School, Dr. Justin Mitchell, speaks at the 2024 commencement ceremony.



LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

by Dr. Justin Mitchell

Dear FBS Community,

It is with great joy and gratitude that I share the highlights of our extraordinary past school year in this annual report. Our school reached a remarkable milestone, welcoming 557 students—an enrollment record not seen since before 2000. We deeply appreciate your trust in us to nurture and inspire your children within our faith-filled environment.

This academic year was marked by excitement and anticipation. We introduced new courses in Theater and Arts Literacy, expanding our Fine Arts program. Additionally, we continue to offer high-school students a substantial menu of dual-credit courses, which give our graduates a significant advantage when they start at most of the public and private colleges and universities in South Carolina and save their parents thousands of dollars. Our athletic teams also demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication, with teams that challenged for state titles in soccer, girls basketball (went to OT against Heathwood Hall, having led in the fourth quarter), cheer, cross country, and an individual victory in state track (James Tyler). Softball came back with a large contingent of girls and several impressive victories. The revival of the softball program is in full stride.

The fall semester was bustling with activities. Our fine arts classes prepared for major performances, and students showcased their talents in various events. The holiday season saw cherished traditions like the Lessons & Carols service and the "Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown" performance. Our spring semester brought robust performances and showcases, including the "Peter Pan" production, High School Art & Photography show, and Spring Dance Showcase.

As the year ended, students prepared for final exams and end-of-year projects, culminating in the high school graduation ceremony on May 31st. We proudly celebrated Ms. Jenna Schmidt as the First Baptist School Teacher of the Year for her

outstanding dedication and innovative teaching. We are grateful for the team of esteemed educators we have at FBS.

Reflecting on this year, I firmly believe that we embraced the journey with gratitude, inspired by *Ecclesiastes 7:8*: "The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride." We celebrated both endings and beginnings, approaching each moment with humility and perseverance.

To continue strengthening and enhancing the work we are doing, we invite you to partner with us financially through the FBS Annual Fund. Your generous contributions will directly support our programs, facilities, and resources, ensuring that we can provide the highest quality education and opportunities for our students.

One of our core traits as a community is that each of us steps up when a call for support is sounded. To enhance the student experience, we are committed to hiring, supporting, and rewarding teachers fairly. We dedicate the proceeds of the Annual Fund to strengthening salaries, benefits, and professional development opportunities for our faculty and staff. Let's summon our charitable instincts to focus on just compensation for our employees. Thank you for your unwavering support and for being an integral part of our school community. Together, we continue to uphold our mission of "Academic Excellence with a Christian Perspective."

With heartfelt appreciation,



Head of School



03

CLASS OF 2024

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

by Dr. Elizabeth Davis



Furman University President, Dr. Elizabeth Davis, delivers the 2024 commencement address.

I'm delighted to be here this evening.

It's always nice to be in Charleston, a city very much like my hometown of New Orleans. They both have beautiful architecture, wonderful restaurants, and warm, friendly faces. I also grew up in a Baptist church and graduated from a Baptist university, so I feel right at home. I was going to suggest we all sign a hymn, but I don't believe we could do any better than the choir.

But enough of my nostalgia. Let's just say I know a little bit about the world you've been brought up in. It's special, and I'm sure it has prepared you well.

I understand that all of our graduates are going to college. That's terrific! College may not be for everyone, but a college education is still the surest path to gaining knowledge and learning skills that will help you succeed in your career, contribute to your community, and have a fulfilling life.

Several years ago, the global polling organization, Gallup, partnered with Purdue University to determine what experiences in college resulted in great jobs and fulfilling lives for alumni. Turns out, life in college affects life after college. The Gallup-Purdue Index found that students who were emotionally supported during college and who had experiential and deep learning were more likely to report that they were thriving in life after college. Emotional support included these three things: at least one professor made me excited about learning; my professors cared about me as a person; and I had a mentor who encouraged me to pursue my goals and dreams. Experiential

learning included these three things: I had a project that took a semester or more to complete; I had an internship or job that allowed me to apply what I was learning in the classroom; and I was extremely active in extracurricular activities and organizations.

Of the 30,000 alumni who participated in the initial Gallup–Purdue study, only 3% indicated they had all six. In some ways that’s startling, though in other ways it’s not. Universities aren’t ranked or rated on how happy or fulfilled their alumni are. Believe me, all presidents want their alumni to have adequate financial resources, but we know that’s not enough to thrive in today’s world. At Furman, we let this Gallup data inform how we conceive of a Furman education, and as a result, we ensure all of our students have the opportunity to experience all six of the factors that contribute to emotional and experiential support.

Since none of you are going to Furman, I can’t be sure that your colleges will make a point of helping you experience all six factors, but I am sure that each institution has the resources you need – you might just need to be proactive in finding them.

So here’s what I recommend you do when you get to college.

First, find your people. Students who join an organization or have a circle of friends within the first six weeks of school are more likely to stay in college than those who don’t. And when you find an organization or group that is meaningful to you – go deep. Take on leadership roles and hone your leadership skills. Employers would rather see a commitment to one or two priorities than superficial participation in a bunch of organizations just to fill a résumé.

Second, get to know your professors. Not only will they impart knowledge and challenge your thinking, but they will also help you understand the skills you are developing in their classes and how those skills can apply to a variety of careers. The summer after my daughter’s sophomore year in college, she worked for an insurance company. After a couple of weeks, I asked her what she had learned in her two years of college that prepared her for this summer job. She said, “Nothing, I haven’t taken an insurance class.” That answer made perfect sense to a college sophomore. It’s not uncommon to link skills and knowledge with course topics or majors. I pressed her further and asked, “What are they asking you to do?” As it turns out, she was assigned to edit

documents and create presentations. I asked her why, and she said it was because she had good writing and presentation skills. She didn’t have those skills before college. Her coursework made the difference. Your professors can help you understand what skills you’re developing beyond the content of a particular course.

Third, find a mentor. Mentors not only offer advice; they help shoulder burdens by lending an ear, sharing new ideas or different perspectives, and introducing you to others who can help. A mentor doesn’t have to be someone in a lofty position. Just find someone you admire, who does something you want to do, and who listens well. You’ll find that most people want to share their knowledge and experiences with you.

Fourth, engage in experiences that allow you to apply what you learned in the classroom. This is what we mean by experiential learning. More often than not, it will be an internship or job. As you are doing the work, reflect on how it reinforces and builds on what you learned in class. Did you know you don’t learn from experience? You learn from reflecting on experience. At Furman, reflection is at the core of the student experience. It can be a drag, I won’t lie. Writing a reflection takes effort. It’s easier not to reflect. But without reflection, the learning is lost, and we’re about learning, so we’re going to write reflections. For some of you, an internship may not be the right experience. Maybe you want to do research with a professor or study in a foreign country. There are many ways that you can put your classroom learning to work. Find as many opportunities as you can...and reflect.

Fifth, and this has nothing to do with the Gallup–Purdue results but it is a high priority of mine: learn to listen to various points of view and, when necessary, disagree civilly. It’s no secret that opinions on everything from borders to Beyonce, in our country and around the world, are strong and often divisive. In college, you will study, live, and work with many different types of people. Even for those of you who stay close to home. You’ll meet people whose ideas are different from yours because they come from different backgrounds, different countries, and different religions. So when you talk with people with whom you don’t agree, don’t react emphatically until you have listened empathically. Get to know your community, and do so with curiosity and an open mind. Ask questions. Don’t assume. In the words of 19th-century writer Walt Whitman, as told by modern philosopher Ted Lasso,



Dr. Leonard Kupersmith introduces
Dr. Elizabeth Davis.

“Be curious, not judgmental.” Listening with empathy is a skill, which means it improves with practice. So is engaging in conversations with respect, and engaging in a way that honors the humanity of everyone involved. Nobody wins if we cover our ears and shout our fears and frustrations. Learn to have respectful dialogue.

A few weeks ago, our ROTC cadets were commissioned as military officers. The guest speaker was Major General John Rafferty, chief of Public Affairs in the Office of the Secretary of the Army. General Rafferty said, “Training helps us manage the known; education helps us manage the unknown.”

Manage the unknown. What does that mean? Our world is changing rapidly. Some of it is of our own doing – think artificial intelligence. Some of it is not – think COVID. Your education will help you think through challenging circumstances that you have never seen. Why? Because you will be critical thinkers. You will know how to weigh evidence. You will know how to balance competing priorities and arrive at optimal decisions. But you will have to be courageous. You will need to have established your own values because when things get tough, a lot of people will stand on the sidelines and tell you why you are wrong.

Class of 2024, we are counting on you. No pressure. You have the opportunity to make a difference wherever you reside. You don’t have to cure cancer. You just need to decide that you are willing to be a part of the solution.

I want to leave you with an abridged version of the “Man in the Arena” speech by President Theodore Roosevelt: “It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles,

or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

Graduates, be the person in the arena. Engage with all your might, and with all you have learned until now, and all you are going to learn. You will have bumps and bruises, and you will fall short sometimes. But you will have proud mentors cheering you on. You will have allies among the opposition because you disagreed civilly and respectfully.

Finally, parents, families, and friends of the Class of 2024, congratulations to you. These students didn’t arrive here by themselves, and they are going to need your continued support.

And to the First Baptist School Class of 2024, I’m excited for you! Whether you’re eager or anxious about what lies ahead, I promise you that you are ready for it. Congratulations! I wish all of you the very best.

Elizabeth Davis became the 12th President of Furman University in 2014. She launched The Furman Advantage, a program linking education with real-world experiences, with over \$52.5 million in support. Dr. Davis serves on various boards and has been recognized as one of Greenville’s most influential people. She previously worked at Baylor University and is an advocate for liberal arts education. Dr. Davis holds a BBA from Baylor and a Ph.D. from Duke University.

VALEDICTORIAN & SALUTATORIAN ADDRESSES

VALEDICTORIAN ADDRESS

by Amelia Dausman

Hello everyone, and good evening to the families, friends, distinguished guests, and faculty in attendance here tonight in celebration of the First Baptist class of 2024. I would like to specifically congratulate this accomplished class standing before me. All of us have worked hard to be sitting where we are right now, moments away from turning our tassels and leaving here as First Baptist Alumni, rather than the students we have been for so long. These last four years will always hold a special place in my heart, as will all of you. It is an honor to represent this class as your 2024 Valedictorian.

Before I begin, I would like to dedicate this speech to my Nana, Becky Carroll Dausman, who although has not been physically here to watch me grow these last four years, has still made a monumental impact on my life. She is an everyday reminder to me to be present in every season of life.

Thinking of her as I was writing this speech also caused me to think about you all, the class of 2024, and the impact you all and First Baptist has had on my life. I want to thank you all for that. I have learned more about myself and the world through watching you all than I ever could have on my own. I truly wanted to deliver a speech that all of you could relate to. I know we weren't all athletes, academics, or artists. In fact I love that about this class: we are a diverse class filled with students of different backgrounds, talents, passions, motivations, and

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I want to thank you all for that, I have learned more about myself and the world through watching you all than I ever could have on my own.

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Valedictorian, Amelia Dausman, delivers her speech.

goals. What I know, however, is that all of us, all fifty-one, have spent these last four years in high school. We have all been freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and now, finally, seniors. In total, we've spent over 5,000 hours in high school—some of us a little less. Either way, we assuredly know more than we began. We've experienced a lot in what feels now like a short amount of time. I'd like to share a passage from Ecclesiastes with you that I think articulates the moments we've shared during these last four years better than I ever could:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.”

As much as I would like to stand up here and reminisce on four years of shared laughter, resounding high fives, and many, many state championships, this verse along with the reality of life, is proof that these past four years have not been full of static blissful moments. Both I and the writer of Ecclesiastes would agree that in any moment of time, there are ups and there are downs, there are sunrises and there are sunsets, there are beginnings and there are endings. This class has experienced it all, and more. So, I took some time to recall some of these special moments we’ve experienced as a class over the years, with respect to a few of the moments in time mentioned in Ecclesiastes.

First, Verse Three: there is “A time to plant, and a time to pluck up.” I found this to be a fitting overarching description of the class of 2024’s time here at First Baptist. There is a culture of ambition, dedication, and desire for legacy in this class. We have strived to be involved and remembered. Whether that through was our dedication to have Mrs. Lant teach us some geometry freshman year, or our desire to bring back homecoming dances our junior year, or even just our will to make lasting memories in our senior year, this class has been one that has looked for opportunities to plant here at First Baptist. It has been an honor to witness the impact we have all made not only on our school corporately, but more importantly, on our school culturally.

This cultural impact this class has had on First Baptist led me to include verse seven: “A time to dance.” This class knows how to dance and celebrate, whether that be on the back of a Friday Night Light win, in the middle of a slightly over chaperoned prom, after an impromptu wiffle ball game, following a long awaited pep rally lip sync battle win, five long days into Disney after finally making it on the infamous *Guardians of the Galaxy* ride (side note to any underclassmen here, it is always worth the \$17) or during Mrs. Gomez’ freshman year Spanish parties (shout out to those of you who actually chipped in to bring food to those, I have a feeling it was Sami). This class is one that has

spent the last four years laughing at everything and forgetting to celebrate nothing. To those students in this grade who have specifically cultivated this culture of joy, thank you, and never stop being that light that others so often need.

This light is something our class can not take for granted, as these last four years have not been entirely celebratory. This leads me to read the other half of verse seven: “a time to mourn.” This class knows first hand what it means to mourn. At this time, I would like to honor Kaiea Batts and the members of her family here in attendance tonight. Kaiea’s spirit graduates with us tonight and reminds us never to take life for granted. Many of us are thinking now, more than ever, about that extra ticket or tickets we wish we had needed from Mrs. Marti. To those students here who are experiencing what it means to mourn an empty seat, know that you are not alone in your pain. Those that we have lost will always be a part of our story.

Many of us here who have mourned know, just as the writer of Ecclesiastes did, that on the other side of mourning, is often embracing. Verse Nine: there is “A time to embrace.” A lot of us here like a good hug, Rainey, I’m looking at you. Some of us do not, Rainey, I’m also still looking at you. Whichever category each student in this class falls in, I have never seen more hugs or high fives given than after our basketball team beat Porter Gaud back at home “#bet dat,” or for the female athletes in here—any win against Ashley Hall has always been cause for celebration. However, I don’t think any win can top this class’s excitement for when the plane to Boston finally made it to the terminal after ten hours in the Charleston airport. I have loved being a part of a class that knows how to embrace one another, and experience things together.

These experiences reminded me of verse 10 “A time to seek.” This class has sought out so many opportunities to seek out knowledge, wisdom, and understanding these past four years. Thank you to the teachers of First Baptist, who so often encouraged us and sometimes literally pushed us to truly learn in and out of the classroom. Some of us in this class pushed ourselves to take harder classes, shoot for those As and Bs, and finish each semester strong, while others often stated, “Cs get Degrees.” Clearly whatever category you fell in, maybe you were both, worked out in the end, because here we all are. What I appreciate about this class is how we so eagerly sought out knowledge in different ways as well, whether that was all the way out in Boston or

just fifteen minutes after the final bell rang talking to Mr. Lambert about our own ethical dilemmas. This class certainly learned a few things these past four years.

Finally, Verse 11, “A time to keep and a time to cast away.” Like with all parts of life, our chapter in high school is coming to a close tonight. Never again will we walk through those big double doors at 8:25—or if we’re realistic, 8:35. Sorry, Ms. Grant—never again will we put on a First Baptist polo or jersey, never again will we play Wordle with Mrs. Blalock, never again will we walk through the halls next to our best friends, and never again will we be freshmen, masks on, anxiously entering our cohorts for the first time. We’re being cast away, not in the sense of being thrown out or abandoned, but in the sense that we are being sent out into new seasons of our lives. There are many unknowns ahead of us, but there are parts of these past four years that we will keep forever. Some of us will be keeping our friendships, our knowledge, our learned skills, or maybe just our memories.

I’ve spent most of my life living in this divide between keeping and casting away. When I was younger, I remember always wanting to be older, wanting to move on to the next step and leave my youth behind. I vividly remember turning six, and the first thing I could think about was how close I was to seven, and how close seven was to double digits. I remember my first day of middle school, thinking about how close the ninth grade was. At that point becoming a senior one day didn’t even feel real. But it is, and here I am, and here we all are. What I learned is that time will always move faster than we think it does, wishing we were somewhere else in time will only keep us from being present in the here and the now. It will keep us from witnessing the ups and downs, the mourning and dancing, the planting and plucking, the crying and the laughing, the keeping and the sending. Instead, my encouragement to this class is this: whether you are beginning another four years of school, a new job, or even taking a break for a little while, be specifically present in the next four years, 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028. Allow yourself to be a freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior again. Meaning, allow yourself to be new at something, allow yourself to get the hang of it, allow yourself to feel prepared, and finally allow yourself to let go. As Ferris Bueller once said, “life moves pretty fast, if you don’t stop and look around once in a while you could miss it.” Take note what kind of season you’re in. You may be in a time of growing and learning, maybe a time of planting and imparting wisdom, maybe a time of listening, or

maybe a time of reflection and mourning. Whatever seasons we most assuredly will encounter in the next several years, be careful not to miss them. Don’t let another four years fly by without stopping to be grateful for whatever season you are in in the present moment. In light of that, I’d like to start us off by being present right now, in this moment, because I don’t want us to miss it. So graduates, teachers, parents, family, guests and friends, I’d like to ask you to stop, look around, notice what you have, whom you have, what you’ve accomplished and picture who you’re going to be.

The years ahead of us will be full of trials and celebrations. They will feel scary, and then they will feel safe. They will feel hard then they will feel easy. They will feel overwhelming and then they will feel just right. However you feel during these next four years, remind yourself that there is a season for everything, a time for all things, and a place for you in all of it. But for the First Baptist Class of 2024, right now is the time to graduate. Congratulations to you all and Go Canes.

Amelia is a freshman at Clemson University.

SALUTATORIAN ADDRESS

by Nathan Korotney

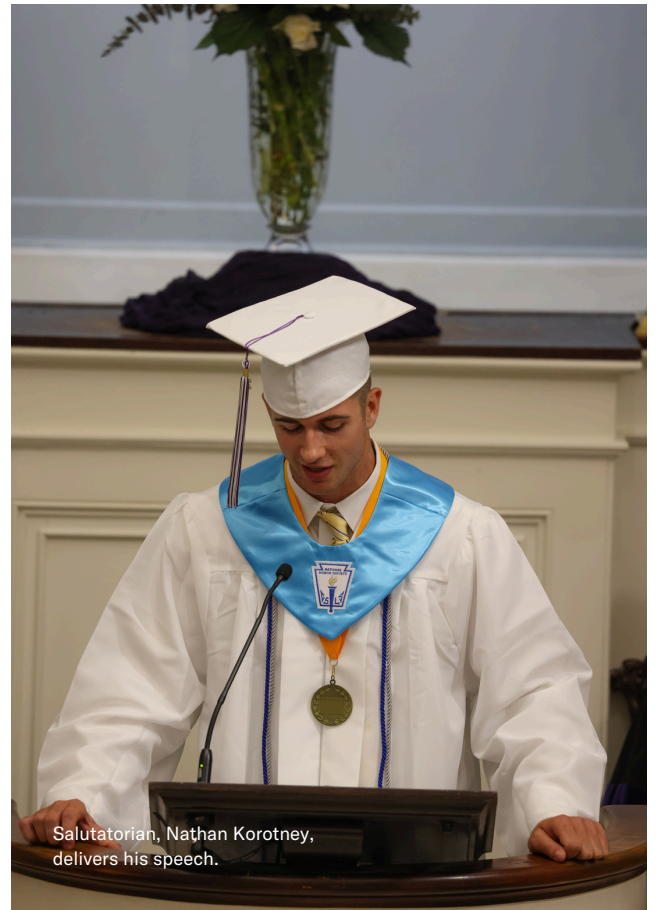
Good evening. When I came to First Baptist in my sophomore year from Michigan, I was a shy and quiet kid, and at first, I had a tough time adjusting to Charleston and First Baptist. But as I look back on my past 3 years here, I can confidently say that my time here has been nothing but a blessing. The biggest blessing that our class will take away is the memories that we have made. From watching Mr. Haley shag dancing or Thomas Utsey showing off his disco moves at Prom, to playing mafia in Mr. Lambert’s class. We also had to get married in our Family Project for economics, which gave us a small insight into the challenges of married life. Amid all these memories, it is also important to look back and remember all the people who have made it possible. So first of all, thank you to all our teachers, who have made our daily classes enjoyable and engaging, and have taught us many valuable lessons, some of which we will remember and take with us for the rest of our lives. Thank you for the tidbits of wisdom that

you guys tell us every day like Mr. Haley's saying "Don't be stupid" or Ms. Schmidt's reminder to "make good choices and be good humans." We will miss these little bits of wisdom. I would also like to thank Dr. Peebles for keeping me sane in my physics class which was composed of all girls, and me.

Thank you to all the coaches, who have put in countless hours training and coaching us so we could perform to the best of our abilities. Especially to the football coaches, who have turned us seniors into leaders. To the entire First Baptist staff, who have strived to give a safe and reliable learning environment. To Dr. Kupersmith in particular, who has taken numerous hours out of his days to help me with college prep. To all of the First Baptist parents who have put up with us year after year, and who continue to have our backs. Thank you. We will miss you while we are being so very studious in our freshman year of college.

And thank you to my entire family, who have been with me through thick and thin, and who have always encouraged me to pursue my dreams. I appreciate all that y'all do for me. I love you guys. And personally to my class, thank you for allowing me to be able to have called First Baptist home over the past few years. I consider myself blessed to have been part of this class. A final bible verse that I would like to leave with everyone is 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." Thank you

Nathan is a freshman at Clemson University.



Salutatorian, Nathan Korotney, delivers his speech.

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As I look back on my past 3 years here, I can confidently say that my time here has been nothing but a blessing.

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Class of 2024

COLLEGE PLACEMENTS
SCHOLARSHIP VALUE



Seniors enjoy the Senior Luncheon at Wingate Place.

College Placements

**Italicized names indicate college placements in which the Class of 2024 enrolled.*

Alfred University
Anderson University
Appalachian State University
Auburn University
Belmont University
Berry College
Charleston Southern University
Citadel Military College of South Carolina
City University of New York
Clafin University
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina University
College of Charleston
Converse University
DePaul University
Elon University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Fayetteville State University
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Franklin & Marshall College
Furman University
Grand Canyon University
Grinnell College
High Point University
James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University
Keene State College
Limestone University
Lipscomb University
Louisiana State University
Loyola University Chicago
Mercer University
Meredith College
Midlands Technical College
Montana State University
New York Institute of Technology
Newberry College
North Carolina Central University
North Carolina State University
North Greenville University
Northeastern Illinois University
Northeastern University
Palm Beach Atlantic University
Presbyterian College
Purdue University
Queens University of Charlotte
Rhode Island College
Rollins College
Scripps College
Sewanee: The University of the South
Smith College
South Carolina State University
Spartanburg Community College
Spartanburg Methodist College
St. Olaf College
Texas A&M University
The American University of Paris
The University of Alabama
The University of Tampa
The University of Tennessee
Tri-County Technical College
Trident Technical College
Tulane University of Louisiana
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Denver
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Kentucky
University of Mary Washington
University of Miami
University of Mississippi
University of North Carolina at Asheville
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rhode Island
University of South Carolina
University of South Carolina at Beaufort
University of South Florida
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Wake Forest University
Western Carolina University
Western Washington University
William and Mary College
Wingate University
Winston-Salem State University
Winthrop University
Wofford College

Scholarship Value

The Class of 2024 has earned \$1.6 million over four years in merit awards and \$220,000 in South Carolina Palmetto and Life Scholarships.





04

ATHLETICS

ATHLETIC REVIEW

by Mr. Graham Haley (FBS '03)



First Baptist Athletics had an exciting and immensely successful 2023-2024 school year. We congratulate Coach Erin Jackson and the Cross Country team as they had one of the best seasons in school history. We also want to congratulate James Tyler, who recently won the Cobra 5K Invitational, while setting a new school record of 16.44 - way to go, James! Our boys Cross Country Team finished as region champions and also finished third in the state and James Tyler finished 8th overall. We would like to congratulate the Hurricane football team on their win over Hilton Head Prep, which also gave Coach Jamaal Birch his first victory as a head coach. The football team worked hard all season and they look to build on their momentum for this coming season. Our varsity swim team made state cuts across the board, and the cheer team represented the school very well in the SCISA State Championships. JV Girls tennis, a recent addition to our athletics slate, is gaining momentum under coach Brook Griffin. Our volleyball program continued its historic tradition with another deep run through the SCISA State Playoffs.

FBS Homecoming '23 was a joyous week with excitement throughout. On Tuesday, our lower school donned their craziest socks while the high school doubled their fun with Twin Day. Wednesday, the lower school dressed like their favorite teachers and coaches and for many, we could barely tell the difference! The high school students showed their immense creativity and brought in some of the most exotic bookbags we have ever seen for "Anything But a Backpack" day. Thursday we took a tour across many decades on both campuses, and Friday the entire school showed out in their purple and white from head to toe!

Homecoming is also a time to give back to our community. This year we chose to donate many critical needs items to our friends at James Island Outreach. These canned and packaged food items will benefit our neighbors in crisis. Thank you to everyone who donated items for this worthy cause.

Our 5th-12th grade pep rally kicked off with some popular stadium anthems from our FBS Band, and the cheerleaders kept the excitement going with a

stout performance on the mats. Our cheerleaders and faculty members showed off their new dance talents, and our middle and high-school students rocked the gym with some rousing lip sync performances (shoutout to the senior class for bringing home the lip sync trophy). Taye Robinson showed off his musical chair prowess, and the 5th and 12th grade team brought home the relay race trophy. Many of our cheerleaders and football players faced the consequences of talking on Friday by eating some delicious baby food for our annual "hush day." The cheerleaders led the crowd in an ear-piercing "Red Hot" cheer that shook the rafters! Congratulations to FBS Homecoming 2023 Queen Sami Durham and King Till Tersteegen

Homecoming is a special time for students, faculty and staff, coaches, parents, and all of our alumni to join together in celebration of our school and our incredible athletic success over the years. This school would not be what it is without the foundation the alumni paved to get us to where we are today. We are all so proud of the success our students achieve upon graduating from First Baptist. We are a strong family and we can accomplish anything. We honor our past, we strive to excel in the present, and we are excited about what the future will bring for First Baptist School.

Congratulations are in order for our Varsity Girls basketball team advancing to the state semi-finals. The season ended with a heartbreaking overtime loss to the overall top seed in the tournament, but their incredible run was filled with passion, heart, and determination that will not be soon forgotten. We also want to congratulate Cooper Kowalski for being named the SCISA 4A Region III Player of the Year! Our boys basketball season finished with another berth in the State Playoffs.

Our boys soccer team had one of the best seasons in school history finishing as SCISA State Runner-ups. The state championship game ended in a 2-1 score, and we could not be more proud of the effort the Hurricanes displayed on the pitch. Our girls soccer team had another strong run, making the playoffs once again. Track and Field also brought home an individual state championship for James Tyler,

finishing first in the 3200. Our boys golf program was a young, but determined team, and we can't wait to see further success over the coming years. The varsity baseball team finished another strong season that ended with a berth in the state playoffs. We revitalized our softball program, and they did not disappoint, finishing the season undefeated! We can't wait to see what the future brings for this program!

Congratulations to Yannah Seaberry, recruited by Limestone, in Gaffney, SC, to play basketball; Cooper Kowalski, recruited by Charleston Southern to play basketball; and Ben Bessinger, recruited by the Citadel to play football.

They perpetuate the tradition of FBS athletes moving to the next level.





05

FINE ARTS

Theater students put on a two-night production of Peter Pan, Jr. for the spring drama production.

FINE ARTS

The Fine Arts Department at First Baptist School aims to produce artistically literate students who are educated in mind, body, and spirit. The arts programs guide students through the artistic process; integrate the Christian faith and the arts; and meet the National Core Art standards of creating, performing/presenting/producing, responding, and connecting.

Throughout the 2023-24 school year, our Fine Arts program flourished, offering exciting opportunities for our students. The theater department staged a captivating production of “Peter Pan, Jr.” in the spring. The Art & Photography department hosted its annual showcase, highlighting students' work from the year. Our Dance program presented a vibrant spring recital featuring dancers from K3 to 12th grade. Meanwhile, the Music Department delighted audiences with both fall and spring concerts, alongside the cherished Lessons & Carols service in early December.





06

TEACHER TALK

Mrs. Deanna Fuller (K4) reads to her class and their reading buddies.

TEACHER TALK

An Interview with Hope Lant

What originally attracted you to teaching?

Originally, I pursued a Master's degree in mathematics education because I had planned to have a family and wanted a career which would allow me more time at home with my children. I loved studying math and valued the thought of being able to share my passion for the subject with students.

However, I worked as a network engineer for many years prior to having my first daughter. When she was born, I quit working and stayed home to care for her. Eventually, I had my second daughter and continued to work as a stay-at-home mom.

Both of my daughters attended FBS for lower school. Over those years I was always room mom for their classrooms. I chaperoned all of their field trips and volunteered two or three days a week helping their teachers. I got to know the staff and students very well and enjoyed my time on campus.

A little over 10 years ago, I was approached with a need at FBS for a geometry teacher. I agreed to take on the position as long as I could work part time. The part time balance allowed me to still have the ability to be present and available to my girls while also being readily available to work with my students. I likely would not have taken a similar job at another school. The community, faculty and students at FBS were already a huge part of my life and factored heavily into my decision to take the job. I ended up taking on other courses, including the dual credit offerings which became my favorite to teach.

Did you teach before you arrived at First Baptist?

I had never taught in a high-school environment outside of student teaching, prior to coming to FBS. I did, however, have a teaching assistantship during my graduate studies at Georgia Tech. During that time, I taught several sections of Calculus III.

What attracted you to First Baptist? Cite the improvements that you have observed over the course of your career.

I originally came to FBS as a parent. I have an uncle who attended FBS and as we searched for a school for my older daughter to attend for K3, FBS was a good fit. We knew the lower school principal at the time, and her guidance played heavily in our decision to enroll with FBS.

I've seen many changes at FBS during my affiliation with the school. The facilities have improved drastically downtown as well as the addition of the James Island campus. The gym and the football and softball fields are not only higher quality, but they are much more convenient for student athletes and teachers who are coaching. There have also been vast improvements in the networking capabilities and technology available to the students. On the administrative side, I've watched the principals and head of school work to make the changes necessary to grow the school in a healthy and sustainable way and to attract and retain quality faculty and students.



What are the qualities of First Baptist that sustain your commitment?

I've always valued the family atmosphere of FBS. A lot of schools say they are like a family, but it's really true here. The teachers take time to get to know each of their students and families. Families are supportive of the teachers and the teachers support each other. I also greatly value the ability to share my faith with my students and hopefully help them in their individual faith journeys.

How did being a parent of an FBS student and a teacher work for you?

It was essential for me. It may not work for every family, but I would not have taken the job if I had not had a child at FBS. It gave me the ability to still attend almost all of her school events, as well as have the same holidays. We often rode to school together, even after she was able to drive and could have come in on her own. I will always cherish that time together.

Discuss the highlights of your FBS career.

For several years, prior to teaching math at FBS, I worked as a volunteer in the library at the lower school. I love to read myself and thoroughly enjoyed helping our lower school students find joy in books. I had fun reading to the classes when they visited the library and helping students select books to take home and share with their families.

FBS students themselves are a highlight. I am forever grateful that we have a polite, engaged student body who you can enjoy teaching and spending time getting to know. It is really special when former students come back to visit or reach out via email to let me know how they are doing and how my class helped to set them up for success in college.

It was a lot of fun teaching at the same school as my father for the last two years. I enjoyed sharing a classroom with him and also hearing how our shared students began to realize how our courses relate to each other.

Likely my biggest highlight was being able to hand my daughter her diploma when she graduated. It was a special moment that I will never forget.

Describe a few students who stand out to you through the course of your FBS career.

Quinn Mann is a great young man. He was always kind, polite, and engaging. He was a swimmer at FBS and also with the local summer swim league. Quinn would always stop by and visit after graduating, and he really took college seriously. Last I heard from Mr. Haley that he's getting ready to begin law school.

Lexi Grant was one of the best math students I've ever had. She's incredibly intelligent and gifted mathematically but also an amazing basketball player. She was on campus this year and stopped by to tell me that she's graduating early from Appalachian State.

Mia Wysong also plays basketball and went on to play at North Greenville. Math was not her favorite class, but she challenged herself by signing up for my dual-credit college algebra class. She worked hard and it paid off because it fulfilled her mathematics requirements for college. I saw her this year as well and she is also going to graduate early.

Jacob Coln and Colin Mackenzie were so much fun to have in my class. They were always together and maybe talked a little more than they should have during class, but what great young men. They both worked hard and despite my class not being their favorite, they put in the necessary effort. Both being basketball players, they demonstrated a great deal of discipline to balance sports and academics.

I had Malachi Ancrum during our cohort year with COVID. School was weird for all of us that year. Still, I got to know him pretty well and was blessed that he reached out to me a couple of years after graduating to let me know how he was doing and that my class had meant a lot to him.

Jaiden Morrison was a senior year transfer to FBS. He was in my Calculus class and I was impressed with his innate ability. He was also a bit of a class clown and kept us laughing, which I appreciate at times. The last time I saw him it was a blessing to see his face light up when I walked across the gym to say hello.

There are so many more stories like this, but what it comes down to every time is the relationship you have with the students when you have time to get to know them. It's not just being their teacher. You sometimes make them lunch, or bring them breakfast. You sit on

the sidelines of their games and become one of their biggest fans. You go to their plays, musicals and dance recitals and watch them light up the stage. Those relationships made my time at FBS something special, which I will always cherish.

What do you consider your most significant accomplishments while at FBS?

The thing I am probably the most pleased with is how much our dual-enrollment program grew during the time I was at FBS. We not only added more students to every class we offered, but we also were able to add many new dual-credit classes. The fact that I had seven plus students taking Calculus with me during my last few years felt like a huge success. I'm proud to have been a part of a team who were able to build a sustainable and successful dual enrollment program which greatly benefits our students as well as the school.

If you had a magic wand and could add people, programs, equipment, or spaces without regard to funding, what would you add to the First Baptist experience?

I would like to see FBS teachers paid fair salaries comparable to what public-school teachers receive for the same work. I would also love to keep the student teacher ratio down by adding more teachers in each department. We have grown to a point that we need more classroom space; so, I would add a new classroom building with more science labs and space for each teacher to have a dedicated room.

It would be wonderful to have a pool and tennis courts so that we could expand our sports offerings without having to rent space from other schools or neighborhoods.

What are your plans for your first few years of retirement?

I have been working with my golden retriever, Charlie, to become certified as a therapy dog team. We have recently completed testing and received our certification. We are looking forward to visiting local hospitals, assisted living facilities and hopefully schools. I would love it if we could volunteer at FBS too.

I am working on regaining my fluency in French. I am taking a French course at the College of Charleston

and enjoying the challenge. I hope to keep taking classes across disciplines.

I look forward to traveling with my husband and spending time with my daughters.

Hope Lant holds a BS in mathematics from the University of South Carolina and an M.Ed. in mathematics education from Georgia State University. Hope retired at the end of the 2023-24 school year after teaching 11 years.

TEACHER TALK

An Interview with Deanna Fuller

What originally attracted you to teaching?

I was always the neighborhood babysitter and the church nursery helper. I knew that teaching young children was something I would actually enjoy as a profession.

Did you teach before you arrived at First Baptist?

Yes. My first job after college was teaching at a private school in Wilmington, NC and at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Learning Center.

What attracted you to First Baptist? Cite the improvements that you have observed over the course of your career.

I had a friend that taught Kindergarten at FBS and she loved it. A 4K position became available and I interviewed for the job. My children were headed to college, and I felt I was ready for a full-time career. The faith-based curriculum has never wavered over the 17 years I have been here. Administration has changed over the years, but the love of Christ is always at the center.

What are the qualities of First Baptist that sustain your commitment?

The FAMILY feel of the campuses, the friendships of co-workers, the love of families, and the support of administration.

What are the qualities of First Baptist that sustain your commitment?

There is not a day that I get up and dread coming to work. I love that I can plan a curriculum, implement plans and that I have the support of teachers and principals in new ideas.

Discuss the highlights of your FBS career.



There have been many highlights, but watching my first class graduate from FBS was very special.

Describe a few students who stand out to you through the course of your FBS career.

There have been many students that have exemplified the criteria of an excellent FBS student. I can think of two, from the same family, that stand out as hard-working, thoughtful, and have Christian values.

What do you consider your most significant accomplishments while at FBS?

Bringing the Christmas Play and the Very Hungry Caterpillar to FBS.

If you had a magic wand and could add people, programs, equipment, or spaces without regard to funding, what would you add to the First Baptist experience?

I would love to see a larger playground for Kindergarten, an outdoor classroom incorporated in that space with lots of hands-on experiences for young children to utilize.

Deanna Fuller was born in Jacksonville, NC, and raised in Asheboro. She studied at Wingate University and UNC-Wilmington, earning a degree in Special Education. After teaching for 8 years, she moved to Charleston with her husband, Hank, where she became a stay-at-home mom before working at Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Learning Center and then FBS. She has two sons and two grandchildren. Deanna is embarking on year nineteen at FBS teaching K4.

A photograph of a graduation ceremony. A young man in a white graduation gown and cap with a blue tassel is shaking hands with an older man in a purple and black academic gown. The background shows other graduates and a large floral arrangement.

07

STUDENT PROFILES

Hollis Haynes shakes Dr. Kupersmith's hand after receiving his diploma.

STUDENT PROFILE

Remley Hooker, Class of 2024

When did you start at FBS? Why did your parents choose FBS? Describe your first month at FBS. How did the experience differ from that at your previous school?

I attended First Baptist School from kindergarten through 12th grade. My parents, who met and fell in love during a young adult Bible study at First Baptist Church, had planned to send my brother and me to public school after preschool. However, due to the medical challenges I faced as a child, they decided FBS could offer the flexibility and support I needed.

My first year in kindergarten was challenging because I couldn't do everything the other children could due to my medical problems. My doctors didn't want me to participate in recess because I was bruised easily. My kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Fleming (currently the lower school librarian), ensured I still had fun with my classmates. On days I was tired, she let me nap inside, and on days I felt like playing, she let me bring a toy outside and play with her. I made friends easily and didn't feel different. I even got to be the Very Hungry Caterpillar in the end-of-year play, which made me feel supported and encouraged.

Tell a few stories about your fondest memories of your FBS school experience.

During the first week of High School each year, each student chooses a club to join. We have clubs for cooking, Spanish, even shag dancing. In my senior year, I joined Dr. Kupersmith's Leadership Club. It was a fantastic opportunity for one-on-one mentorship. I read classic literature about leadership and received valuable advice from Dr. Kupersmith. Through this club, I developed a new appreciation for works by Shakespeare and Chaucer, even though I plan to study engineering in college.

Another fond memory was when the senior class decided to skip school and go to the beach. Our widely loved student government president told Mr. Haley and Mrs. Grant our whereabouts. Both of them showed up at the beach an hour later with their beach chairs, ready to have a fun day with us. We were initially scared we'd get in trouble, and we did, but

after Mr. Haley told us that none of us got extra credit as Russell did for showing up to school, he and Mrs. Grant took selfies with us and played games before heading back to school. They were happy we included everyone and enjoyed that we were outside, and not on our phones.

Identify and illustrate the aspects of FBS that you value highly as you look back on your years at FBS. What qualities of FBS do you recommend to students thinking about entering the school?

First Baptist School values connection. If you want a school with teachers who empower you and push you, and students who inspire you, I encourage you to come to First Baptist. The students and faculty love the school, and everyone participates in chapels, service projects, and mentoring younger grades. These



activities open your world to learning about others' lives and experiences, cultivating empathy, love, and kindness. First Baptist teaches you to do everything for the glory of God, which helps each student to grow in their faith.

What's different about FBS from high schools that your friends attend: P-G, BE, JCHS, Ashley Hall, Pinewood, Northwood, and Academic Magnet?

At First Baptist, you can tailor your education to fit your goals. Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Roy ensure you can take advanced classes in your field of interest through the dual credit program. Starting clubs and teams is easy; I started the First Baptist Cyber Patriot Club in middle school by talking to the principal. Everyone is collaborative and not competitive with other students like at Academic Magnet, Porter-Gaud, or Ashley Hall. Our teachers frequently say that they believe in us and that we all have unique strengths and talents. One FBS student recently published a book, and the entire school supported him by buying and reading it. We celebrate other student's victories and know that they would do the same for us.

We are different from other Christian schools like Northwood or Bishop England because we require a religion-related course to be taken each school year at First Baptist, encouraging critical thinking about Christianity. My favorite was Comparative Religions, where we compared the problems, solutions, techniques, and exemplars of various religions to Christianity and learned what separates a cult from a religion.

Discuss the strengths that you bring to the next chapter of your education whose development you ascribe in large part to FBS.

Thanks to First Baptist's dual credit enrollment program, I will enter college with 42 credits. Even out-of-state, my credits transferred and will help me get my degree. Because I took Calculus I and II my senior year, I feel confident about tackling Calculus III as a freshman. I only have one general education requirement left, thanks to the many dual-credit public speaking, literature, and history classes at FBS.

Beyond academics, I am confident I will make friends in college and pursue my interests outside of class. I know if anything goes wrong during my first

semester, I can call anyone at First Baptist for support and advice.

Please add any comments, stories, or anecdotes that you remember with fondness and/or gratitude.

First Baptist School provided a nurturing and supportive environment that allowed me to thrive academically and personally. The connections I made with teachers and classmates are invaluable, and I am grateful for the opportunities and encouragement I received throughout my years at FBS.

What accomplishments in or outside of school are you most proud of?

Inside of school, I am proud that I took opportunities to be outgoing. In my sophomore year, I ran for student government. Unfortunately, I did not win, but I was very proud of myself for giving a speech in front of the whole school, and for campaigning so hard. My classmates were very supportive, and I developed deeper relationships with them through my campaign. I am very grateful that First Baptist High School has many opportunities for high schoolers to get out of their comfort zone. High schoolers can run for student council and homecoming court, audition for plays and musicals, and give speeches in the public speaking class.

Outside of school, I am proud of starting my non-profit organization Strong Stripes, because it has allowed me to do what I love, and give back to my community. Strong Stripes is a non-profit that I started because of the lack of resources for children and teens with rare diseases, disabilities, and medical conditions. First Baptist School has helped me to scale and build this non-profit because I have been able to do fundraisers and donation drives on campus. Four out of six members on the executive board are students at First Baptist, which is a testament to the culture of support and friendship at First Baptist.

Remley heads to Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN, where she plans to major in Computer Engineering with a concentration in software engineering or Electrical Engineering with a concentration in nanotechnology.

STUDENT PROFILE

Hollis Haynes, Class of 2024

When did you start at FBS?

I started at FBS in 6th grade.

Why did your parents choose FBS for you?

My parents chose FBS because some family friends' kids attended there, and it was the closest school compared to Haut Gap Middle School, where I was zoned to go.

Describe your first month at FBS. How did the experience differ from that at your previous school?

Not much was different; young kids are generally similar in interests. Many of us were new that year.

Tell me a few stories about your fondest memories of your FBS school experience.

One of my fondest memories was walking around downtown before and after school when I attended the downtown campus.

Identify and illustrate the aspects of FBS that you value highly as you look back on your years there. What qualities of FBS do you recommend to students thinking about entering the school?

I value the close-knit community at FBS where everybody knows everybody. Coming from a small rural community like Wadmalaw Island, that familiarity was comforting and made the transition easier.

What's different about FBS from high schools that your friends attend: P-G, BE, JCHS, Ashley Hall, Pinewood, Northwood, Academic Magnet?

Mainly, the Christian aspect and location proximity set FBS apart for me. It's the closest school, and there's generally less rowdiness, though things seem to be changing a bit.

Discuss the strengths that you bring to the next chapter of your education whose development you ascribe in large part to FBS.

Probably just some small things I can't exactly put a finger on. I mean everyday things that I learned at FBS I'll just know forever but nothing major.

Please add any comments, stories, or anecdotes that you remember with fondness and/or gratitude.

I think Dr. Cousineau was by far the best history teacher I ever had. The guy genuinely knew it and presented it in a way that was engaging. Although he may have offended some people at points, maybe history is offensive to a lot of people.



What accomplishments in or outside of school are you most proud of?

I've accomplished a lot of things that I'd say I'm proud of, but one thing that's like multiple accomplishments in itself is my jet boat I bought last summer for \$1000 not running. I taught myself how to weld aluminum, which is even harder when the aluminum's 50 years old. I taught myself how to rebuild the carburetors. Learned all about jet pumps. Painted the boat. Then everywhere I went someone would walk up and ask me about my boat and say how cool it was and that they'd never seen anything like it (I already knew they'd never seen anything like it). Just sold it a week ago for \$3000.

Discuss personal accomplishments that you are proud of, related to FBS or independent of it, such as clay shooting or your construction work.

I'd say I'm pretty proud of my work recently. No advertisements, just word of mouth and reaching out to people. I've locked in a 40-acre management account at a horse farm cutting grass, maintaining ditches, fence lines. I got a rather large erosion control job at a seafood distribution warehouse. I'm now doing some work at a 100+ acre pecan farm. Still working 40+ hours a week for my dad, not really trying to get side jobs but I still am. So. I feel pretty secure in the fact that when I shift my focus toward what I really want to do, I will do well.

Hollis has a packed schedule this coming year, balancing college with his passions. He is enrolled full-time at Trident Technical College for the fall, taking online classes. Alongside academics, he is deeply involved in developing a farm on John's Island, where a substantial barn is under construction. Although a contractor is handling the barn, Hollis is responsible for much of the site work, including clearing and drainage—a sizable endeavor.

Transitioning his focus from restaurant work, Hollis will take on site work and maintenance projects. Additionally, he holds a part-time position maintaining a 100+ acre pecan farm and a 70+ acre horse farm (CATR), which is more of a client relationship. He plans to continue managing both properties.

08

FINANCIAL REVIEW

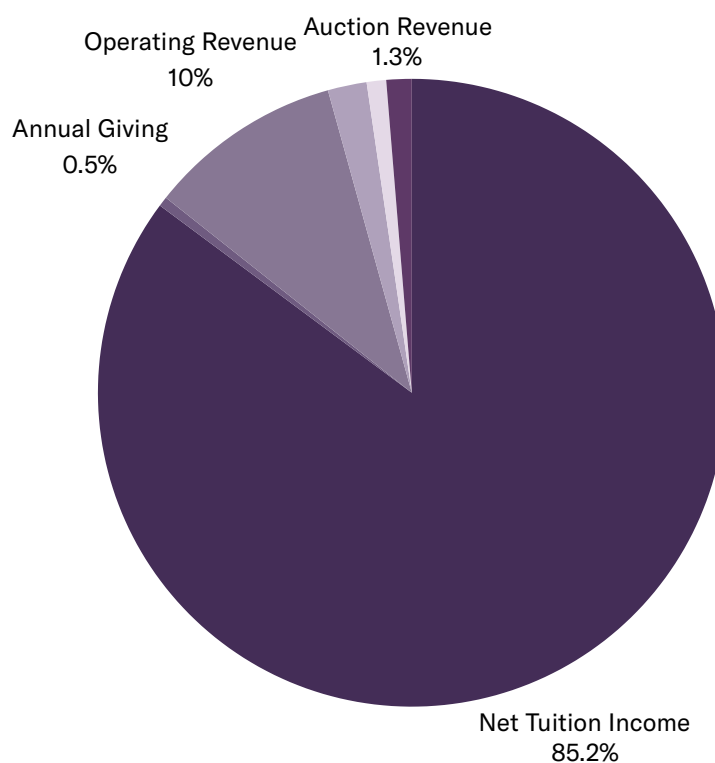
FINANCIAL REVIEW

2023-2024

Percentage of Total Expenses Covered by Each Revenue Stream

Total Expenses		\$7,044,000.00
Net Tuition Income*		85%
Annual Giving		0.5%
Auction Revenue		1.3%
Operating Revenue		10%
Restricted Gifts and Investment Income		2%
Miscellaneous Fees		1%

*After deductions for financial aid and sibling/prepay discounts





CIRCLES OF GIVING

The Annual Fund bridges the gap between net tuition income and operating expenses. Your gift translated directly into benefits for teachers and students. We are profoundly grateful to donors listed below. This list is not comprehensive of the total gifts to FBS during the past fiscal year. The PTO, Hurricane Association, and individual donors, several who also gave to the Annual Fund, donated tithes, time, and talents to support the needs of teachers, coaches, and staff to enhance the student experience.

We urge you to consider the extraordinary value proposition that First Baptist School of Charleston offers as you reflect on your willingness and capacity to support the 2024-25 Annual Fund.

Our aim is to move the needle from \$40,400 in 23-24 to \$100,000 for 24-25. The Annual Fund currently accounts for .5% of our total operating expenses. The goal for 24-25 would elevate the Annual Fund to 1.5% of our operating expenses.

Please consider where the 180 days of a FBS education stacks up against your other charitable priorities and stretch to enter the next rung of giving.

- Hamrick Circle
\$5,000 +
- Sustainers Circle
\$2,000—\$4,999
- Builder's Circle
\$1,000—\$1,999
- Church St. Circle
\$500—\$999
- Meeting St. Circle
\$200—\$499
- Purple & White Club
\$1—\$199

2023-24 CIRCLES OF GIVING DONORS

Hamrick Circle (\$5,000+)

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Mr. and Mrs. Rob Marchant
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Mr. and Mrs. Gaines Walker

Sustainer's Circle (\$2,000— \$4,999)

Mr. and Mrs. Shawn Willis
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Mr. and Mrs. Troy Herndon
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Builder's Circle (\$1,000— \$1,999)

Dr. and Mrs. G.E.
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Foundation
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Mrs. Jennifer Robinson
Turky's Towing
Ms. Marshelle Grant
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Mr. Will McCombs
Mrs. Holly Rodelsperger
Mr. Jamaal Birch
Mrs. Caroline Clum
Dr. Leonard Kupersmith
Ms. Pat Harris
Mr. Marty Walker
Barrier Island Engineering &
Consulting
Mr. Butch Cooper
Ms. Callie Cordray
Florence's Lowcountry Kitchen
Mr. and Mrs. George Harb
Holy City Linen
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jackson
Ms. Aniga Khan
Mr. Todd Lant
Ms. Eileen Mitchell
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Newton
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Pojani
Ms. Sally Rhodes
Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Sessions
Mr. and Mrs. Michael
Stavrinakis
Ms. Carrie Tamsberg
Veris CPA
Mr. and Mrs. Wilber Wise

Meeting Street Circle (\$200—\$499)

Mr. Robert Brust
Mrs. Allison Freeman
Ms. Ashley Hancock
Ms. Kari Messer
Ms. Jane Abbott
Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Beasley
Mrs. Jane Harper Dollason
Mrs. Marianne Allen
Mrs. Krystal Miller
Douglas Reasoner
Michael Schmeider
Mrs. Susan Brooks
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Mrs. Taylor Conrad
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Mrs. Erin Jackson
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Arbor Care
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