

# HURRICANE WATCH

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

August 2021

Monthly Newsletter



## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

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- Summer Camp Highlights
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## Head of School Update

*By Dr. Justin Mitchell*

Greetings, First Baptist Community!

Welcome back, First Baptist students and families! We are so excited for you to be joining us for the 2021/2022 academic year! Our faculty and staff have been working hard all summer in preparation for your return.

*Continued on Page 2...*

We are also delighted to be able to resume so many of the opportunities for student engagement that we were unable to accommodate last year due to the unknowns of Covid-19. While we recognize everyone's desire to get back to business as usual in the wake of Covid-19, we also place the safety of all within our First Baptist Community of paramount importance. In addition to safety, our primary objective is to maintain in-person learning while maintaining the integrity of First Baptist School's rigorous academic excellence with a Christian perspective.

First Baptist School is a very special place and has roots that run deep within our community. More times than not, when I am speaking with members of our community, I hear of how First Baptist School has made a positive impact in the lives of either the individual or someone they know. We are living in times of great division and we must unite as a community to preserve and promote the legacy of First Baptist School. I am reminded of the words of Abraham Lincoln during a time of great civil division within our country, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." This sentiment is also found in the scriptures in II Corinthians 13:11, "Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you." As we move forward together as a community, let us not be a house divided against itself, but a house that joins together despite external conflicts so that we may live in peace and perseverance.

This summer, our teachers have worked very hard to develop and refine robust curriculum guides to clearly identify what students need to know and be able to do for each grade level and content area.. While much of this work has been done prior to this summer, creating a consistent format that also integrates an intentional Christian perspective from grade to grade promotes our mission statement of, "Academic excellence with a Christian perspective."

On August 10th, we hosted our inaugural Integrating Faith in Learning Conference. The conference was a huge success and provided our faculty and staff opportunities to strengthen their faith, encourage them as they integrate Biblical truths into the curriculum, provide concrete and actionable tools for the classroom, and develop a network of support with local teachers and administrators.

As God directs our path into this next chapter of First Baptist School's history, we are thrilled that you have chosen to join us for this journey. 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, sweeping initial "J".

# AUGUST 2021

## School Calendar

9-13	Staff Development	
12	New Student Drop-In K3 - 3rd	9:30 am - 10:30 am
	New Student Drop In 4th - 6th	11:00 am - 12:30 pm
	New student/Parent Orientation 9th - 12th	9:00 - 10:30 Aux Gym
	Meet the Teacher K2-K5 Parents	6:00 - 7:00 pm
16	Middle School Orientation 7th Grade and New 8th Graders	9:00 - 11:00 am
	Meet the Teacher 1st-3rd Grade	6:00 - 7:30 pm
17	First Day School for K2-3rd Grade Half-Day	
18	Full Day of School for K2-12th Grade	
20	Varsity Football vs. North Florida Christian Home Game, Faculty & Staff Night	7:30 pm
24	Golf vs. Pinewood at Oak Point	4:30 pm
27	Varsity Football vs. Cardinal Newman Home Game	7:30 pm
29	Cross Country at Pinewood Golf at Charleston Classic Invitational (Rivertowne)	

# IN THE KNOW

## school happenings



### INTRAMURAL SOCCER

Students in K5-8th grade can sign up for Intramural Soccer this fall!  
Click [here](#) for the Registration Form - Due August 25



### PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS

Miss Zippy, First Baptist's band and general music teacher, and Miss Jo, First Baptist's choir director will again be offering private instrumental, piano, or voice lessons  
Click [here](#) to sign up!

### AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

We have some awesome clubs open to our K5-8th Grade students! Please visit our [Extended Care](#) webpage for club offerings for this fall!



### HIGH SCHOOL HELP DAYS

Help days in the High School will normally take place Monday and Thursday, however from September 16 through Oct 21, help days will be on Wednesdays rather than Thursdays.



### SEE YOU AT THE POLE 2021

Join us for this annual morning of prayer on September 22, 2021!



Dr. Kupersmith and his wife, Nancy

## Get to Know Dr. Leonard Kupersmith

*Dr. Kupersmith joins us this year as our High School Principal*

My name is Leonard Kupersmith, and I have a story. I started teaching in Missouri 53 years ago and never stopped until I retired as a headmaster in the Upstate a year ago

I hated retirement because I was missing my calling: working in schools. Through God's grace and human kindness, I was led to First Baptist to return to what drew me originally into schools: working directly with students and teachers who do noble work.

Everyone at First Baptist School also has a name and a story. I will do my best to know your name and hear your story.

So, please talk to me about yourselves as we get to know one another.

My sole message to everyone today is THANK YOU. Thank you for being here to allow us to have school again together, and thank you in advance for staying healthy and safe so that we can have a year unbroken by health threats. This aim has to be a team effort, or it won't succeed.

I believe that we do best when we know our purpose, our why, our motivation for what we do. I like to tell my students in advance of studying a piece of literature why we are reading it out of the myriad choices

School in my view has two general functions: building social attributes that will shape us as friends, neighbors, and workers and acquiring self- knowledge—discovering who we are and what animates us to achieve particular goals.

Outer directed and inner directed—social behavior and insight into self.

In regard to the second and more important pursuit, I want to leave you with a poem that I have shared with many students over the years. It's one of many great poems by a recently deceased American poet named Mary Oliver - "The Summer Day":

*Who made the world?*

*Who made the swan, and the black bear?*

*Who made the grasshopper?*

*This grasshopper, I mean -*

*the one who has flung herself out of the grass,*

*the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,*

*who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down -*

*who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.*

*Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.*

*Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.*

*I don't know exactly what a prayer is.*

*I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down*

*into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,*

*how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,*

*which is what I have been doing all day.*

*Tell me, what else should I have done?*

*Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?*

*Tell me, what is it you plan to do*

*with your one wild and precious life?*

# SUMMER CAMP

## *highlights*



### **Hurricanes Summer Camp 2020**

We had an amazing summer at camp! Field Trips were Bee City, Splash Zone, Summit Adventure, Aqua Park... just to name a few. Check out some highlights of Summer Camp 2021 in our [slideshow!](#)

Summer Camp 2022 information will be released in the spring. We'd love to have your student join us next year for all the summer fun!

Please contact [summercamp@fbschool.org](mailto:summercamp@fbschool.org) with any questions.

# Advancing First Baptist School

*By Mrs. Beth Switzer, Director of Advancement & HS Admissions*

You might be asking yourself, what is the Advancement Office? The advancement office is responsible for fundraising for the Loyalty Fund, day-to-day expenses, endowments and other initiatives. But, at its core, advancement is about authentically connecting with parents, families, alumni and friends of FBS. It's about engaging with you in meaningful ways for the long-term, so you're giving because you want your philanthropy to enhance your child's experience during their time at FBS and after.

You'll soon be receiving information about our 2021-2022 FBS Loyalty Fund and how you can give. Our Loyalty Fund is designed to fill in the gaps that tuition alone does not cover.

## **GIVING** to First Baptist School

*If you feel led to give, please visit our [Giving](#) page on our website to view our giving options.*

One of the exciting events the advancement office is planning is the 10th Biennial FBS Live and Silent Auction on Saturday, March 5 at The Charleston Marriott Lockwood (time TBA). This is an event that needs a lot of volunteers, and is a lot of fun! I'll be sending out information soon about volunteering for the auction committee.

If you have any questions about the loyalty fund, the Advancement Office of the FBS Live and Silent Auction please contact me at [switzerb@fbschool.org](mailto:switzerb@fbschool.org).



## INFORMATION & UPDATES FROM THE

# PTO

### What is the PTO?

The PTO uses its resources, both manpower and monetary, to support the efforts of the staff and to provide learning and enrichment opportunities for our children.

#### This year we're raising money for:

- *Big Ticket Item* - Campus security (new gates and an automated gate at the downtown campus and upgraded security system/cameras at the high school campus)
- Continuing education for teachers
- Classroom supplies
- Accelerated Reader Program
- Teacher breakfasts and luncheons
- And other teacher requests throughout the year!

#### Past sponsored activities have included:

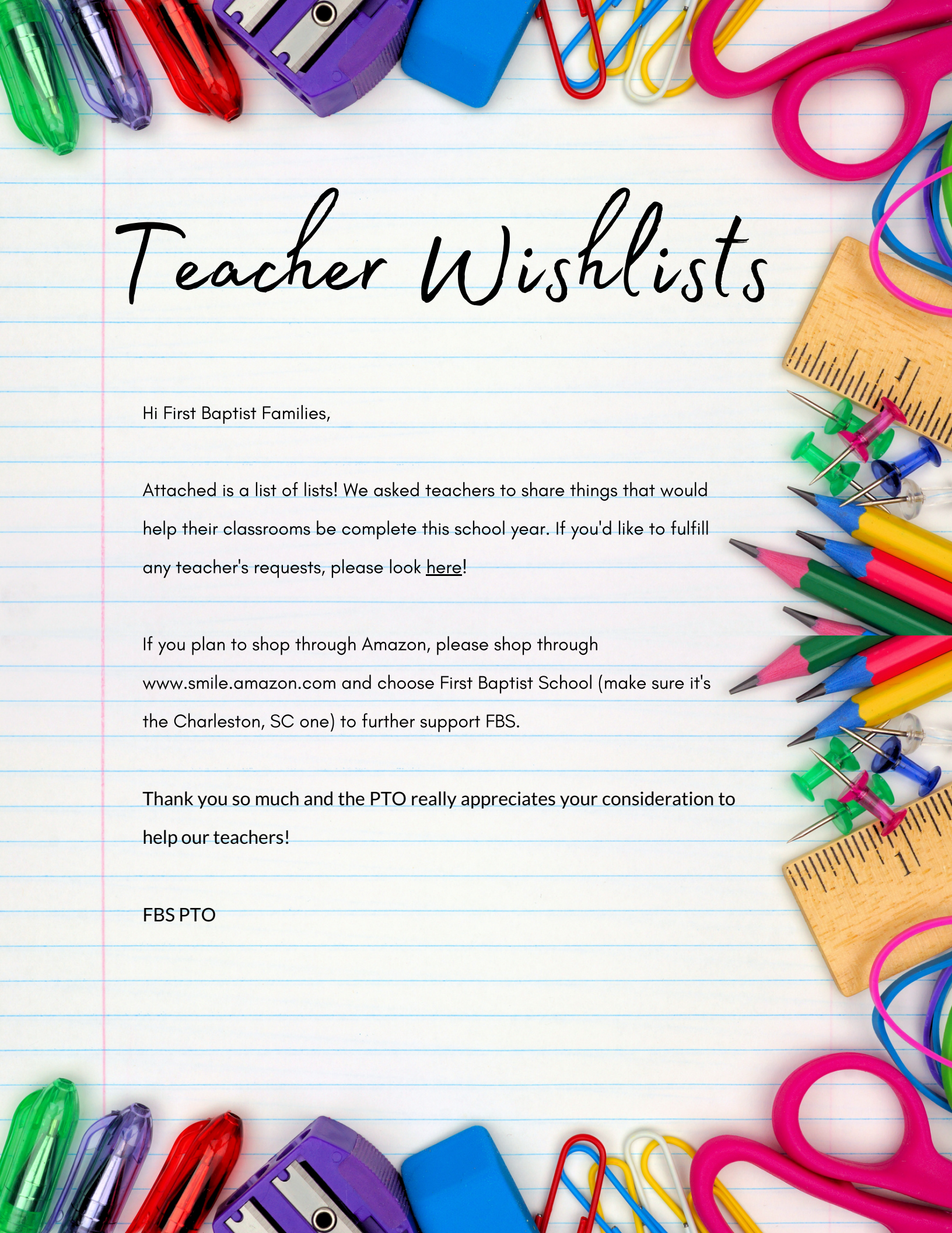
- Teacher Appreciation Breakfasts and Luncheons
- Polar Bear Plunge
- 2019 & 2021 Field Day
- Used Uniform Sales
- Teacher Appreciation throughout the year and the big Teacher Appreciation Week celebration
- Implementing the CharlestonWrap wrapping paper and catalog fundraiser (*this year's sale is August 31 - September 14!*)

Our PTO structure is set up so that it's not an overwhelming amount of time to volunteer, but we still need volunteers throughout the year. Please contact [ptoefbschool.org](mailto:ptoefbschool.org) for how you can get involved!

We'd love for you to join us!  
[PTO Membership Form](#)







# Teacher Wishlists

Hi First Baptist Families,

Attached is a list of lists! We asked teachers to share things that would help their classrooms be complete this school year. If you'd like to fulfill any teacher's requests, please look [here!](#)

If you plan to shop through Amazon, please shop through [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and choose First Baptist School (make sure it's the Charleston, SC one) to further support FBS.

Thank you so much and the PTO really appreciates your consideration to help our teachers!

FBS PTO

# Health & Wellness Tips for Heading Back to School

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



Navigating your child's feelings about back-to-school during the Covid season can be a daunting task. They may feel strongly about a number of issues and may or may not share these things with you, but they are likely having some natural or elevated stress concerning back-to-school this year. Always, but more this year than any, it is important to be aware of the example that we are setting as the adults in their lives during these formative years; as unconventional as the time period may be.

## Tips for Navigating Back-to-School

**Address their concerns but keep responses appropriate in length.** Don't spend too much time on the negatives and the worries. Some children may need 5-10 minutes, and some 20-30, but try not to spend an exorbitant amount of time on the negative aspects.

**Reassure them of the safety measures that we ARE doing.** There is lots of discussion on safety measures and while they are good and helpful, we are always assessing the situation and trying to make them better for our school community.

**Remind them that this is temporary.** While some things will stay, this period of unprecedented times will pass and we will have more stable measures to mitigate spread and continue to do all of the things that we once did.

**Encourage them to do anything that they can to protect themselves and others.** There are many measures that we can take to ensure a safe and healthy new year that are up to us as individuals. Give them some of that ownership and power to protect themselves. Some measures are reliant on others, but there are many that we can manage on our own.

*Continued on next page...*



**Most importantly, lead by example showing a positive attitude about the upcoming year.**

Engage in open, honest conversation but help them reframe things if they are feeling down. They will mirror what they see in us. If you say "I hate these things too. They'll be gone soon" considering masks, dividers, or any other precaution, it presents a negative connotation. If you say "Some of these things are not my favorite, but I trust our school community to do what is right to protect all involved and we will always do what we can." That gives off a very different feeling.

We know that there may be obstacles, but we are very excited about this new school year, and with your help it will be a great one!

Please reach out if I can help you with these matters, or any others concerning your child.

**Rose M. Cummings**, LPC

First Baptist School Counselor

[cummingsr@fbschool.org](mailto:cummingsr@fbschool.org)

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart and a humble mind.

1 Peter 3:8



FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL  
**Health & Wellness**

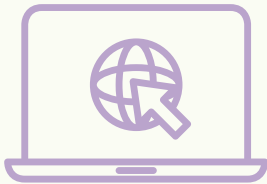
Rose Cummings, MA, LPC

Laura Lempesis, RN, BSN

Caroline Clum, RN, BSN

FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

# RESOURCES



RENWEB  
LOGIN



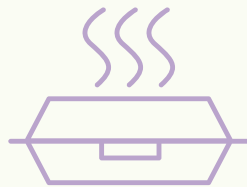
STUDENT  
HANDBOOK



COVID POLICY



SMART TUITION  
LOGIN



SCHOOLHOUSE  
FARE LUNCH



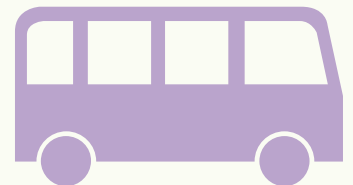
DRESS CODE



FACULTY/STAFF  
DIRECTORY



ACADEMIC  
CALENDAR



TRANSPORTATION

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

# Welcome back Canes!



We're looking forward to a wonderful year!