

HURRICANE WATCH



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

December 2023

Monthly Newsletter



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- December Calendar
- School Happenings
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- Hurricane Association
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Head of School Update

By Dr. Justin Mitchell

Greetings, First Baptist Community!

As we embrace the spirit of joy and reflection this December, I am thrilled to share the exciting developments at our school and extend an invitation to contribute to the continued success of First Baptist School.

Continued on Page 2...

Our school is buzzing with the warmth of the season, as students and faculty alike come together to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. The verse from Isaiah reminds us of the precious gift we have received, and our school community continues to embody the values of love, compassion, and excellence.

"For to us, a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." – Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

I am proud to report that our students are excelling academically and shining in extracurricular activities. Their dedication and enthusiasm are truly commendable, and it is a joy to witness their growth and accomplishments. Our commitment to providing a well-rounded education is reflected in their achievements both in and outside the classroom.

At First Baptist School, we believe in putting our faith into action. As we celebrate this season of giving, we are actively engaged in various community outreach initiatives. Your support in these endeavors is not only appreciated but crucial in making a positive impact on those in need.

We have several opportunities to support our students in the FBS Fine Arts in the coming weeks. On campus, our music program will be presenting our annual service of Lessons & Carols in the First Baptist Church Sanctuary on Sunday, December 3rd at 6:30 pm. This service will feature students from our choir and band programs, as well as a dance program soloist. Off-campus, we invite you to visit the James Island County Park's Holiday Festival of Lights to see our award-winning Giant Greeting Card, designed and created by our high school art program. Several of our dance program students will be performing in Nutcracker productions with the Dance Conservatory of Charleston at the Sottile Theatre Downtown, or with The Moscow Ballet in collaboration with the Ballet Academy of Charleston at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center. We hope you will seek out at least one of these opportunities to enrich your holiday season with the arts.

Our student-athletes have also been hard at work. Congratulations to our Cross Country Varsity Boys Team, finishing third in the state at the SCISA Cross Country State Championships! James Tyler led the way finishing 8th in the state with a time of 16:53. We are so proud of all of our runners and coaches who put together one of the best seasons in school history! The future is extremely bright for this team and we can't wait to see what comes next! Congratulations are also in order to our volleyball team for a great season where they remained fiercely competitive to the very end at the State Playoffs. We are incredibly thankful to seniors Maddy Hawes, Caroline Greenhill, Talyn Savage, Reagan Bozarth, Cidney Wilson, and Amelia Dausman for their leadership and dedication to FBS Volleyball over the past several years. Varsity Cheer has had a successful season of competitions where they improved with each performance, including a brilliant performance at the State Competition. Our basketball season is in full swing with six middle and elementary school teams competing starting this week, and with the Varsity and JV teams already underway playing in significant tournaments during Thanksgiving. There are plenty of opportunities to see the Hurricanes in action over the next several weeks so please follow along the schedule and on our social media to stay up to date on when the Hurricanes are hitting the court!

As we approach the end of the year, we invite you to consider making a tax-deductible financial gift to support the ongoing mission of First Baptist School. Your generosity enables us to continue providing exceptional education rooted in faith and values. To make a contribution, please visit our website at www.fbschool.org/ways-to-give.

Continued on next page...

Your support, whether big or small, makes a significant difference in the lives of our students and the overall success of First Baptist School. We are truly grateful for your commitment to our community.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your ongoing support. May the joy of the season fill your hearts, and may the new year bring blessings and prosperity to each and every one of you.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Be blessed,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.



CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2023

DEC
03

Lessons & Carols Service @ 6:30 pm

DEC
13-15

First Semester Exams

DEC
18

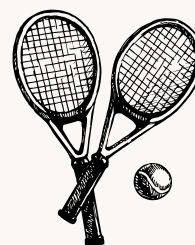
Exam Make-up Day and Teacher Workday

DEC
19

Christmas Break Begins - **No School**



[View Athletic Calendar](#)



IN THE KNOW

school happenings

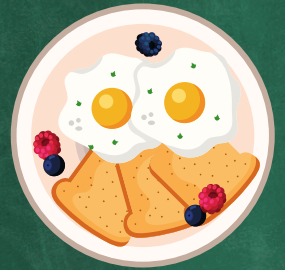


Christmas Break Camp (Dec. 19-20)

We are excited to hold a two-day Christmas Camp on Tuesday and Wednesday of break for K3-4th grade! Campers will enjoy fun and learning, including seasonal crafts and activities! Register [here](#)!

Family Friday - Christmas Edition!

Lower & Middle School families are invited to join us for Family Friday with a Christmas brunch hosted by our 7th & 8th graders! Register by Dec. 5th through [this link](#)!



Trident Basketball Schedule

The Trident Basketball schedule can be found [here](#)! Please reach out to Anne Redner (rednera@fbschool.org) with any questions!

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



LESSONS
&
CAROLS

2023

PRESENTED BY
FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL
FINE ARTS

DECEMBER 3, 2023

AT 6:30 PM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SANCTUARY

CULTIVATING CULTURE

Dr. Leonard Kupersmith
High School Principal

THIS LETTER RECENTLY
WENT OUT TO HIGH
SCHOOL FAMILIES BEFORE
THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a cue to approach the altar of gratitude and exorcize our peevish complaints. My career has been a source of continuous fulfillment. It has been my primary calling. From that vocation, I derive purpose and legitimacy.

For the whole of my career, beginning as an English teacher, middle (most of it) as an administrator, and end in my current role, school is my dominant motive. It usually preempted conflicting commitments of marriage, parenthood, friendship, and civic responsibilities. I do not boast about the choices I have made in this regard. I have few regrets, though they don't stem from the either-or proposition of work versus domestic duty. With my set of attributes, I was not able to perform two roles at once with full energy, attention, and time. Looking back, I do not gain clarity. I knew what I was doing.

So, it should not have come as a surprise to me when I found myself unhinged in the summer of 2020 (a COVID summer) and embarking on retirement, a.k.a, the road to oblivion. I do not claim this disdain or desperation is every retiree's lot. It was ineluctably mine, however.



And then six months later, along came a chance to work with Dr. Mitchell as he took the reins, in January 2021. As he and I and the administrative team developed trust, I spontaneously accepted the offer to serve as interim high-school principal while Will McCombs applied his substantial professional and personal assets to assist Susan Brooks in the leadership of the middle-school grades. In about a nano second, I shed the "interim" tag, which might as well have proclaimed "has no authority." For this opportunity, now in year three, I am profoundly grateful.

Our students are easy to like. They are reasonable, cheerful, unaffected, compliant, and welcoming. They like each other, they like their teachers, and their teachers like them (and their teachers like one another). A newcomer feels an immediate sense of belonging because of the warmth of our student body and faculty. These immensely attractive qualities and conditions are not universal in schools. In fact, they are the exception rather than the rule. When you have this culture, the main thing (in the Covey quotation that is boldly etched in my mind - "the main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.") is to hang onto it tenaciously and cultivate it so that it doesn't become sterile. Culture is a sturdy thing. That's why turning a toxic culture around is a generational task. We will not fall back on its constitutional strength but honor and enrich this culture day by day.



Hurricane Association's Winter Sports Raffle

supporting the First Baptist students and athletic program includes:



-Propane Heater

-Solo Stove Bonfire Pit

-Oyster Cooker

-Sonos Outdoor Speaker

-58 in Smart Roku TV

-Heated Camping Chairs

-\$100 Freestyle Gift Card



Raffle Tickets
\$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20



Tickets are being sold at the home games and the winner will be announced at the end of the basketball season

— holiday festival of lights —

CHRISTMAS CARD



*Seasons Greetings
from our talented
FBS art students!*

Mrs. Holly Rodelsperger's High School art students worked collaboratively to create this year's Giant Greeting Card for James Island County Park Festival of Lights.

Check it out at James Island County Park through the holiday season!



EMBRACING SOMETHING GREATER

THIS CHRISTMAS

As we come into the Christmas season, I think of the Christmas story as it is written in the book of Matthew. It begins with what is so easy to skip over, the genealogy of Jesus. When we look at the names at a cursory glance, they can be just that, names. If we truly look at some of the names and their story, we see much more. God uses individuals that we may read over at first and not see as significant, but ultimately God is using them to create something greater. He is writing the story of Salvation. One of those names included in the genealogy is Ruth. Ruth was an outsider whose story displays a beautiful picture of God's love, provision, and redemption. At times, God uses the seemingly insignificant to make something extraordinary. All these small details were leading up to the moment that God would enter this world, to be fully God and fully man to bring Salvation to all. C.S. Lewis in one of his books, his character states, "Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world."

Many times, in our own life we miss the mundane for what may be something even greater. During this Christmas season, allow even the mundane things to be something greater. Take time to see how God has worked in the small things in your life. In counseling, one of the things that works well for individuals is reflecting on what we can be grateful for. Research shows how gratitude can impact our thinking and how we feel. There is so much more that I could write about it, but I pray that this season of Christmas is special for your family, that it redirects us to the greatest thing to have ever happened. Take time to reflect amid the rush as sometimes it is in the quiet, we hear from Him. One of my favorite verses in Scripture is Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God."

Merry Christmas!

Jon Durham
Campus Minister & Counselor

College Counseling

SHANNON ROY
COLLEGE COUNSELOR

Dear First Baptist Families,

As we embrace the festive spirit of December, I wanted to provide some essential updates and reminders regarding our seniors' college application journey while also highlighting recent initiatives for our freshmen.

Senior College Applications:

Navigating the college application process can be overwhelming, but rest assured, I'm here to streamline and support your child's journey. Here are some crucial updates:

- **School Records and Deadlines:** For colleges listed in the "applied" column on SCOIR, all necessary school records will be sent by the application deadline. I'll ensure these submissions are timely and accurate.
- **Q1 Grades and College Requests:** Typically, Q1 grades aren't automatically sent unless requested by the college. If any college asks for these grades, please inform me promptly so I can facilitate the submission.
- **Managing Applications on SCOIR:** Once an application is submitted, kindly move the college to the "APPLIED" column on SCOIR. This action triggers an email notification to me, streamlining the follow-up process and sending the appropriate materials.
- **Tracking Document Submission:** Monitoring document submissions is crucial. Use the "My Colleges" section on SCOIR to check the status, remember that I may have sent your transcript via Common App. Some colleges require self-reporting via their portals. Keep an eye out in your email.
- **Updates on College Decisions:** As colleges respond—acceptances, denials, deferrals, or waitlists—please update these on SCOIR. This helps me track progress and provide necessary support.
- **Financial Aid and Scholarships:** Keep an eye on financial aid and scholarship deadlines. I'll personally meet with all seniors this month to ensure they're aware of available scholarships.

Continued on next page...

Freshmen Academic Support:

Throughout the month of November, I had the pleasure of meeting with all freshmen individually to discuss important aspects:

- **Transcripts and Activities Tracking:** We discussed the importance of maintaining a strong transcript and keeping track of extracurricular activities, setting a strong foundation for their academic journey.
- **Academic Support and Course Selection:** Ensuring they're equipped with academic support and guidance for selecting courses for the upcoming year. Keep in mind, teachers and administrators also play a huge role in that process with their recommendations.

I recognize that this period can be a blend of excitement and stress for your child and your family. Please remember that our counseling department is dedicated to supporting and guiding you through this journey. Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out.

Wishing you a holiday season filled with warmth, joy, and memorable moments.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon Roy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

College Counselor
First Baptist High School

ADVANCEMENT

UPDATES



11th Biennial Live and Silent Auction

The FBS 11th Biennial Live and Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at The Harbour Club at WestEdge. The school auction is always a wonderful time of great fun, food, music and raising much needed funds for our school. Mark your calendar and be on the lookout for more information.

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

Giving Tuesday

Thank you to everyone who contributed during #GivingTuesday! As we end the year, we ask you to prayerfully consider donating to our Loyalty Fund. This fund helps fill the gaps by providing support in tuition assistance, athletics, and our academic programs.

Thank you so much for supporting First Baptist School of Charleston!

GIVING
TUESDAY

GIVE ONLINE AT [FBSCHOOL.ORG/DONATE](https://fbschool.org/donate)



FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS

UPDATES AND EVENTS



Re-enrollment is set to open at the beginning of January. You will have two weeks to re-enroll and secure your child's spot. We will then open the application for siblings of current students and First Baptist Church members before opening it to the public.

If you have not already completed an inquiry for a sibling of a current student, we ask that you take a moment to do so using this [Inquiry Link](#). In the section "How did you hear about us?" type "sibling of a current student."

Please let us know if you have any questions.

FBS Admissions Team

Debbie Mack
Director of Enrollment
mackd@fbschool.org

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

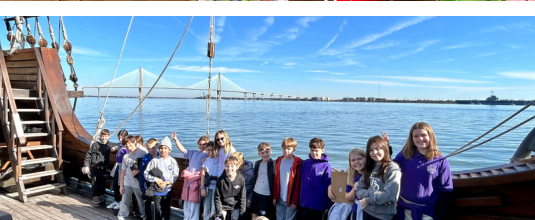
Beth Switzer
Director of High School Admissions
switzerb@fbschool.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Admissions Open House for K2-8th
Grade \(multiple dates\)](#)



Around Campus



FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

RESOURCES



FACTS
LOGIN



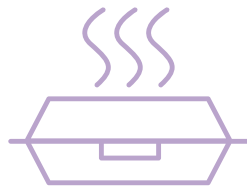
STUDENT
HANDBOOK

PTO

PARENT TEACHER
ORGANIZATION(PTO)



SMART TUITION
LOGIN



SCHOOLHOUSE
FARE LUNCH



DRESS CODE



FACULTY/STAFF
DIRECTORY



ACADEMIC
CALENDAR



ONLINE
GIVING

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