



## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

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## Head of School Update

*By Dr. Justin Mitchell*

Greetings, First Baptist Community!

Welcome back to another exciting year at First Baptist School of Charleston! As we gear up for the 2023-2024 academic year, we are thrilled to share with you some incredible news and updates.

*Continued on Page 2...*

Our school's mission statement, "Academic Excellence with a Christian Perspective," continues to guide us as we embark on another year of providing exceptional education rooted in faith and values. Our commitment to nurturing not only young minds but also young hearts remains unwavering.

We are overjoyed to announce that our school's enrollment has reached a remarkable milestone. This year, we proudly welcome 557 students into our school community. This number marks a record enrollment that we haven't seen since before the year 2000. We are grateful for the trust you have placed in us to educate and inspire your children in a nurturing and faith-filled environment.

The dawn of this academic year brings with it a sense of excitement and anticipation. We are embarking on a new year filled with opportunities for growth, learning, and discovery. From innovative teaching approaches to extracurricular activities that challenge and engage, we are dedicated to providing an enriching experience for every student.

We are thrilled to begin this year with the addition of two arts courses to our fine arts elective offerings. FBS Theatre Director, Mrs. Nelson, has joined our faculty and is teaching drama as an elective on both campuses. FBS Fine Arts Director, Mrs. Cram-Smith is offering an Arts Literacy course on our high school campus, with the goal of helping our students to become educated consumers of the arts. These two new courses are in addition to offerings in classroom art, classroom music, choir, band, photography, and dance. We are excited to see the many ways our creative students and teachers will enrich our school culture throughout the year ahead.

First Baptist Athletics is off to a strong start as our teams are competing at a very high level. The Varsity volleyball team is off to an impressive 3-1 start and looks to have one of their best seasons in the past several years! Hurricane football is competing and cultivating a strong foundation as they wade through a very tough early schedule. The future remains bright for this talented group! Our varsity swim team made several state cuts at their first competition of the season this past weekend and the cross country team has had several runners' Personal Records (PR) already within their first two events of the season. The cheer team is working hard and preparing for their first competition in October while our JV Girls' tennis team participated in their first match this past week.

We hope everyone can join us for Lower School Night on September 8 and please also mark your calendar for Homecoming on September 22!

As we navigate this journey of education, let us remember the wisdom of Isaiah 40:31: "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." With God's guidance, we will face challenges with courage, learn with enthusiasm, and grow with resilience.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff, supportive parents, and eager students for making First Baptist School of Charleston a beacon of academic excellence and spiritual growth. Let's embrace the upcoming year with open hearts and minds, ready to embark on new adventures and achieve great things together.

*Continued on next page...*

We look forward to serving your family this academic year!

We invite you to stay up-to-date with current events by following First Baptist School's social media and our school webpage. #WeAreFB

Be blessed,

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



# CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2023

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SEPT  
4

Labor Day - **No School**

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SEPT  
18

Professional Development for Faculty & Staff - **No School**

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SEPT  
19

Downtown Campus Picture Day

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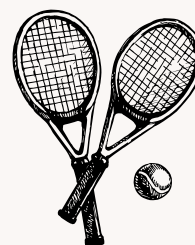
SEPT  
20

James Island Campus Picture Day

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[View Athletic Calendar](#)



# IN THE KNOW

## school happenings



### Lower School Night - FBS vs. Pinewood

All K-6 Families are invited to Lower School Night on Friday, September 8th! Gametime is at 7:30 pm, but the fun starts at 6:00 pm with jump castles, face painting, snow cones, and more! All FBS students are free of charge.

### After School Clubs (Grades K5-8th)

We have a variety of After School Clubs are offered to our K5-8th grade students this fall, including karate, art, chess, and more! Sign up by September 4th! Click [here](#) to learn more.



### Peter Pan Auditions

Calling all students 3rd-12th grade! Our show is Peter Pan. The performance will be in March. Auditions will be in the dance room, September 12 after school. Students can sign up for an audition time using an email link.

If you would like to be considered for a singing role, come prepared with a 30-45 second song ("My Country Tis' of Thee" will work).



WANT TO SHARE YOUR PHOTOS WITH US? BE SURE TO TAG US AND USE OUR SCHOOL HASHTAG!

#WeAreFB

## 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



FBC STUDENT MINISTRY

# Worship NIGHT

First Baptist Church

09.17.2023  
5:00 - 6:30 PM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

ALL ARE WELCOME!  
REGISTER [HERE](#)





RONALD MCDONALD  
HOUSE CHARITIES®

Dear First Baptist Families,

In May, our second graders were excited to drop off the pop tabs collected last school year at the Ronald McDonald house here in Charleston. We will continue to collect pop tabs as a community service project this year and ask that you please start saving your pop tabs! Ask neighbors, relatives, and friends to help us with this project. Tabs may be dropped off in the library where students in every grade can watch the collection grow!

Every tab donated helps the staff at the RMHC provide a temporary "home-away-from home" for families of critically ill children who are admitted to MUSC's Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital.

HOW DO THE POP TABS HELP RMHC CHARLESTON?

The tab of soda, soup, and pet food cans is pure aluminum unlike the rest of the can, which contains paint and other residue. Once their pop tab dumpster is full, RMHC takes the pop tabs to a local aluminum recycler. Based on the price of aluminum at that time and the weight of the tabs, the recycling center gives RMHC a check. This money is used for their general operating expenses and truly helps to serve more than 900 South Carolina families annually.

We thank you in advance and look forward to helping make a BIG impact for the families at RMHC Charleston.

Blessings,  
First Baptist Second Grade



May 2023



# VOLLEYBALL



COFC VS. STONEY BROOK

Lower School families are invited to watch College of Charleston take on Stoney Brook on **Saturday, September 23, at 1:00 pm!**

**FREE ADMISSION**





# ADVANCEMENT

## UPDATES

### Annual Report

Watch your mailbox for your copy of The Hurricane Annual Report 2022-2023. The Hurricane Report contains information about the past year including Highlights in Athletics and the Arts, Financial Report of the school, Class of 2023 Senior Profile, Advancement Review and an Alumni Spotlight.

### 11th Biennial Live and Silent Auction

We are excited to announce 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](mailto:switzerb@fbschool.org).

### Reunions

We are planning a reunion for the Class of 2002, 2003 and 2004! Please reach out to Beth Switzer at [switzerb@fbschool.org](mailto:switzerb@fbschool.org) if you would like more info!





# HOMECOMING

*Alumni Night*





## *Tickets on sale now!*

Join us for an evening of fun with an Oyster Roast, Chili Cook Off, Silent Auction, 50 50 Raffle and more! All proceeds benefit the Baseball program at First Baptist.

### **Time & Location**

Dec 09, 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Truluck Island, 2263 Folly Rd, Charleston, SC 29412

Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$5 for kids 12 & Under  
Bring your oyster knives and tailgate chairs!

Sponsorships Available: Please email Alex Snider to sponsor the Oyster Roast! (snidera@fbschool.org)

**[Tickets available here!](#)**

# HURRICANE ASSOCIATION

hurricaneassociation@fbschool.org



## Football Concession Sign up

It is finally Football Season, Hurricane fans! The concession stand needs your help to be a success! All money earned goes right back to support our athletic programs and facilities.

If your child does not play football, please volunteer so that the players' parents are able to watch their child. Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. We are so grateful for our amazing volunteers! We look forward to seeing you in the concession stand this season. Go Canes!

Sign up to volunteer [here!](#)

**ENTER TO WIN THE ULTIMATE TAILGATE PACKAGE**

**BIG GREEN EGG GRILL WITH STAND**  
**YETI COOLER**  
**PALM CASUAL OUTDOOR CHAIRS**  
**10X10 TENT**  
**CORNHOLE BOARDS**  
**16 FT INFLATABLE SCREEN**  
**OUTDOOR PROJECTOR**  
**SET OF 4 STAINLESS STEEL CUPS**

**OVER \$2000 IN VALUE!**

**\$5 A TICKET,  
5 TICKETS FOR \$20  
WINNER TO BE ANNOUNCED  
OCTOBER 6TH**

SPONSORED BY:

**Weed Man**  
**SEE AT NIGHT commercial lighting**  
**BLITCH PLUMBING**  
**PALMETTO CLEARING & GRADING**  
**SHORELINE Mosquito DEFENSE**  
**palm casual PATIO FURNITURE**

## Tailgate Raffle

The Hurricane Association is hosting a Tailgate Raffle fundraiser! Tickets will be sold during the next few home football games. The winner will be announced on October 6th during half time!

Don't miss the chance to win over \$2k in an awesome tailgate package, while also raising money for our athletic programs!

# PTO UPDATES

For those who may not know or need a refresher, the FBS Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) uses its resources (both manpower and monetary) to support the efforts of the faculty and staff, and to provide learning and enrichment opportunities for our children.

## SPIRIT STORE

New this year: the PTO is working on establishing an online "Spirit Store". Currently, we have FBS wooden bead bracelets (\$10), FBS umbrellas (\$20), and purple earrings (\$10/pair) available for sale. Stay tuned for additional FBS swag! E-mail [pto@fbschool.org](mailto:pto@fbschool.org) with any questions or to place an order.

## 2023 FALL FUNDRAISER

Be on the lookout for our Charleston Wrap fundraising info coming soon!



[www.registercw.com](http://www.registercw.com)

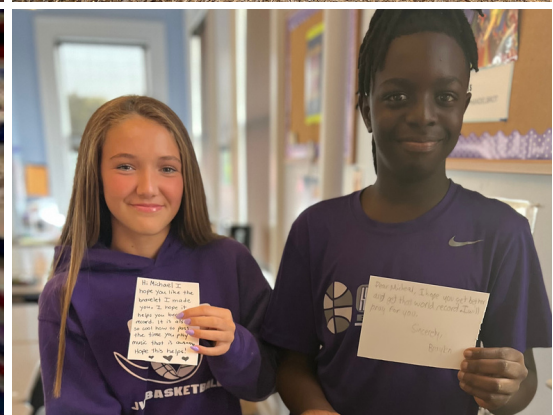
## CHARLESTON WRAP FUNDRAISER

Begins September 6th!  
Keep an eye out for  
information going home





# Around Campus





# FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

## High School Counseling Updates

*Shannon Roy, High School Counselor*

I can't believe we are beginning the 2023-2024 school year. I'm sure this summer flew by. Like many of you, I'm ready to get started with a new school year.

To those of you who are new to FBS school, welcome! We are excited to have you. I'd like to explain what my role is here at FB High School. As the college counselor, I see ALL students: 9th-12th. Typically in the fall semester, I toggle between seeing seniors and freshmen. I'm making sure my seniors are well prepared for college applications and that freshmen know who I am and we talk about the importance of a high school transcript and life beyond high school. Then, in the spring, it's about the juniors and sophomores. Preparation begins for juniors getting ready for life after high school and sophomore year, we talk about purpose/careers and use YouScience, our aptitude assessment. My goal is that every student in our building has seen me AT LEAST once a year. If you as a parent/caregiver have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me via phone or email.

Shannon Roy  
College Counseling  
843-410-1606 Ext. 1108  
RoyS@fbschool.org

FBS Counselor &  
Student Minister

**Jon Durham**



## *MANAGING BACK-TO-SCHOOL ANXIETY*

As we have fully jumped back into school and attempting to settle into routines, I know with that comes school projects, homework, sports, and other extracurricular activities. Sometimes, these new routines can bring on unexpected anxiety and worry about getting things completed. As parents, we can assist our students by helping to establish healthy routines that can help with managing some of the anxiety and worry that may come with these new school responsibilities. Some ways that anxiety may present are changes in mood, being easily distracted, trouble sleeping and sometimes physical symptoms.

Some tips that can help to reduce some of that anxiety, could be taking deep breaths, stepping outside, physically moving around, allowing students a place to talk through the struggle by validating their feelings. Each child is unique in how they process and work, you know your child best and what benefits them. I also understand that there are different levels of anxiety and that sometimes we need more specialized attention.

Continued on next page...



If I can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, whether it is talking with a student at school, recommending resources or outside referrals/resources. I am looking forward to an amazing school year and partnering with you along the way.

Remember the mercy and grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that we are reminded of in Titus 3:4-5, “4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, 5 he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit.”



## *MEET JON DURHAM*

Mr. Jon Durham returns to FBS after previously teaching Bible on our Downtown Campus. Now he serves on both campuses as the School Counselor and Campus Pastor.

Mr. Durham's educational background includes an undergraduate degree in Christian Studies from North Greenville University, a master's degree in Christian Education from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Liberty University.

Before joining FBS, he held various roles in local churches in North and South Carolina, including student pastor, minister of education, and associate pastor. He also gained experience as a school-based counselor with the Charleston Department of Mental Health.

Mr. Durham and his wife Kimmie, a proud FBS alum, have three children: Sami, Ada, and Elias. In his spare time, he enjoys spending quality time with his family, watching sports, and enjoying a cup of coffee.



FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

# RESOURCES



FACTS  
LOGIN



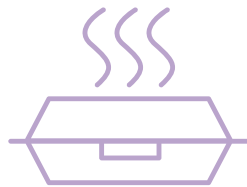
STUDENT  
HANDBOOK

## 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.