

HURRICANE WATCH

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

September 2026

Monthly Newsletter



WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

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- September Calendar
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- Student Travel
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- Advancement Updates
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Head of School Update

By Dr. Justin Mitchell

Greetings, First Baptist Community!

Welcome to the 2026-2027 academic year at First Baptist School! As we begin this exciting new season of learning, growth, and faith, we are reminded of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:3-12, where He shares the Beatitudes and reveals the attitudes and values that reflect a life devoted to God's Kingdom.

Continued on Page 2...

This year, we are challenged to embrace and live out the truth of the Beatitudes in our classrooms, on our campuses, and throughout our community:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

We have had a wonderful start of the new year! Our halls are filled with excitement, classrooms are alive with discovery, and students are embracing new routines, friendships, and challenges. From chapel and creative learning experiences to athletic competitions and preschool adventures, there is so much happening across our campuses. We are thankful for our incredible faculty and staff, whose dedication and heart for our students have helped create such a positive beginning.

As a reminder, the official First Baptist School App is available for families through the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. This free resource provides easy access to announcements, events, calendars, grades, lunch menus, important documents, and more. We hope every family will take advantage of this tool as we continue finding new ways to strengthen communication and connection throughout our school community.

Our fall athletic programs are also bringing tremendous energy and excitement to campus. With new coaches joining several teams, our student-athletes are learning, improving, and building strong team cultures. The First Baptist School of Charleston varsity football team started the 2026-2027 season with a dominant 47-0 victory against Academic Magnet High School; they continue to show perseverance, character, and resilience. Tennis and Golf are beginning their seasons with enthusiasm, and our Cheer Team and Tropical Storms continue to inspire school spirit and bring incredible energy to our teams. We are proud of every student athlete, coach, and supporter who represents FBS with commitment and heart.

At First Baptist School, our mission remains our guiding purpose: "Academic Excellence with a Christian Perspective." We believe true success is found not only in what students accomplish but also in the people they become. Through academics, the arts, athletics, and service, we encourage our students to pursue excellence, strengthen their character, and use their God-given gifts to make a difference. As we move forward together, let us continue to encourage one another, celebrate growth, and remind our students that they are capable of great things. May we lead with grace, serve with compassion, and allow the light of Christ to shine through everything we do.

We believe God has exciting plans for our FBS family this year, and we are deeply grateful for your partnership, support, and prayers. Together, we will continue to inspire our students to learn boldly, love deeply, and shine brightly. Stay connected with First Baptist School by following us on social media and visiting our school website for the latest news, events, and updates.
#WeAreFB

Be Blessed!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Justin Mitchell". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large initial 'J'.

Dr. Justin Mitchell
Head of School



CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2026

7	Labor Day - No School
18	Half-Day for Grades K2-12 Professional Development for Faculty & Staff
17-30	Charleston Wrap Sale
22	Picture Day
23	See You at the Pole
25	PTO Dress Down Day Pelican's Snoballs (DT Campus)



[View Athletic Calendar](#)



IN THE KNOW

school happenings



Charleston Wrap Fundraiser

Information will go home soon about our Charleston Wrap Fundraiser which will kick-off on September 17th!

Parent Bible Study (DT Campus)

Our parent Bible study starts Wednesday, September 16th! 8 a.m. - 9 a.m. We hope you can join us. Please check in at the main office on the Downtown Campus.



Lower School Night - October 2nd

Save the date for Lower School Night on Friday, October 2nd, starting at 6:00 pm with face painting, jump castles, and more! We hope to see you there! Stay to see the Varsity football team take on Hilton Head Prep at 7:30 pm!

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



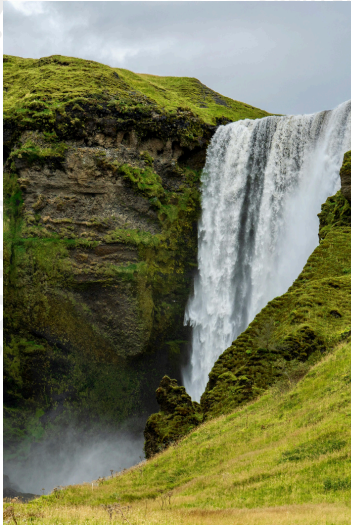
FINE ARTS



ATHLETICS



UPCOMING Travel Opportunities



Northern Iceland

Spring 2027 | Grades 9-12

Our high school students are invited to join us as we explore Northern Iceland! This 8-day trip will allow us to visit multiple cities and explore all Northern Iceland has to offer.

Please contact Christi Crawford at crawfordc@fbschool.org for more information!



Austria, Switzerland, & Germany

Summer 2027 | Grades 6-12, and their families

Sixth graders and up, along with their families, can experience a 10-day adventure through Austria, Switzerland, and Germany next summer! Travelers will visit historic cities and sites, see breathtaking scenery, and make memories to last a lifetime.

For more information, please contact Hannah Salters at saltersh@fbschool.org!

AUGUST

Helping Hurricanes

This recognition goes to Downtown Campus students who exemplify qualities such as loyalty, honesty, compassion, great classroom manners and Christian Values.

Congratulations to our August Helping Hurricanes!



Noelle
Sawyer
Briggs
Grant
Boden



SECOND GRADE SERVICE LEARNING

Second graders are once again collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House this year!

If you would like to donate pop tabs, please bring them in gallon size Ziplock bags and drop them in the black bins near the library.



DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

Garden

Our first graders have already begun working in our Downtown Campus garden! This has been a wonderful space for our students to learn through hands-on activities as they grow flowers, herbs, and vegetables all year long!

If you would like to help support our garden, please visit our [**Amazon Wishlist**](#) to keep our garden supplies stocked!





After-School Enrichments

Most of our fall enrichments have begun! We're excited for another semester of fun and learning!

Extended Care Upcoming Events

We have some exciting activities coming up in extended care for students in grades K2-6th! All students are welcome to join in, though please note that the regular extended day rate will apply

- Charlie the Riverdog will be here on Wednesday, September 23rd!
- The Stingrays mascot, Cool Ray, will be here Friday, November 13th!

Learn more about Auxiliary Programs at FBS by visiting fbschool.org/auxiliary-programs!



Interested in our 2027 summer programs? Learn more at firstbaptistsummer.org!



HURRICANE ASSOCIATION

We are happy to report the weight room is ready for use!! Please take the opportunity the next time you are on the James Island campus to check it out.

We are beyond proud of this space and can't wait for the students to make it their own. The benefits it brings to not only all of the athletic teams and programs at First Baptist but the entire student body will impact the school for many years to come.



Grab your tailgating spot for the 2026 season [here!](#)

Enter to win the 2026 Tailgate Raffle!

Win the ultimate tailgate package worth \$1,900! Package includes:

- 10 x 10 Tailgate tent
- Traeger Portable Wood Pellet Grill/Smoker
- Portable Power Station, Solar Generator
- 4 FBS Mugs
- \$100 FreeFly Gift Card
- Propane heater
- 55" Television
- Tailgate chairs (4)
- Yeti Cooler

Buy your raffle tickets [here!](#)

Thank you again to everyone for your continued prayers and support of this project. We look forward to continuing our support of all athletic programs at First Baptist. It's a great day to be a First Baptist Hurricane!

Go Canes!

Sincerely,
The Hurricane Association

Join the Hurricane Association!

Membership includes two cards for the family to share, which allows members free admission into home games for all JV and Varsity sporting events. This is excluding any tournaments, B-team sporting events, Lower School sporting events and all Post Season events.

[Join here!](#)



I'm praying for a wonderful 2026-2027 school year, and excited for all that we can accomplish together this year!

PTO President

PTO Year-in-Review





College & Career Readiness Department Newsletter

MR. CHRIS CHAMBERS
& MRS. SHANNON ROY

Welcome Back, First Baptist School Families!

We are excited to begin another year of college and career preparation at First Baptist School! As the new school year gets underway, we would like to introduce our College & Career Readiness (CCR) team and share how our department will support students and families.

Meet Your College & Career Counselors

Shannon Roy returns to First Baptist School for her fifth year. After spending last year on sabbatical traveling the world with her family, Shannon is excited to return with renewed energy and a wealth of global experiences to share with students.

Chris Chambers returns for his second year at First Baptist School. We are grateful to have him continue building strong relationships with our students and families.

A New Approach to College & Career Counseling

Beginning this school year, our counselors will follow a rotating grade-level caseload model designed to provide students with consistent, personalized support throughout middle and high school. Counselor assignments may shift as grade levels advance, but the CCR team will work collaboratively to ensure continuity and a smooth transition whenever a student's assigned counselor changes.

This approach allows our counselors to develop meaningful relationships with students and families while gaining a deeper understanding of each student's strengths, interests, goals, and aspirations. Students will receive age-appropriate guidance throughout their journey, from early career exploration in middle school to college applications and postsecondary planning in high school.

2026–2027 Counselor Assignments

Chris Chambers

College & Career Counselor | Grades 10–12

- Class of 2027 — 12th Grade
- Class of 2028 — 11th Grade
- Class of 2029 — 10th Grade

Chris will support students and families with college and career planning, course selection and placement, college applications, parent communication, and other readiness needs for these grade levels.

Shannon Roy

College & Career Counselor | Grades 7–9

- Class of 2030 — 9th Grade
- Class of 2031 — 8th Grade
- Class of 2032 — 7th Grade

Shannon will support students and families with individual career planning, course selection and placement, parent communication, self-discovery, and early college and career exploration for these grade levels.

Contact Information

Chris Chambers

Email: chambersc@firstbaptistschool.org

Phone: 843-410-1606, ext. 1108

Shannon Roy

Email: roys@firstbaptistschool.org

Phone: 843-410-1606, ext. 1307

This extension will become active once Shannon has moved into the Middle School Cottage.

Scheduling an Appointment

Families are encouraged to contact their student's counselor whenever they have questions or need guidance. To request an appointment, please email the appropriate counselor and include:

1. Your preferred meeting format: in person, by phone, or virtually
2. Several dates and times that work for your schedule
3. A brief description of what you would like to discuss

Your counselor will respond within one business day to coordinate the appointment.

Our Goal

By providing consistent support throughout each student's time at First Baptist School, we aim to help every student graduate prepared to enter college, a career, and the wider world with confidence, direction, and purpose.

We look forward to partnering with you and your student throughout the 2026–2027 school year!



FBS FRIENDS & FAMILY

OYSTER *Roast*

Save the date for the FBS Friends & Family Oyster Roast at The Island House on Johns Island!

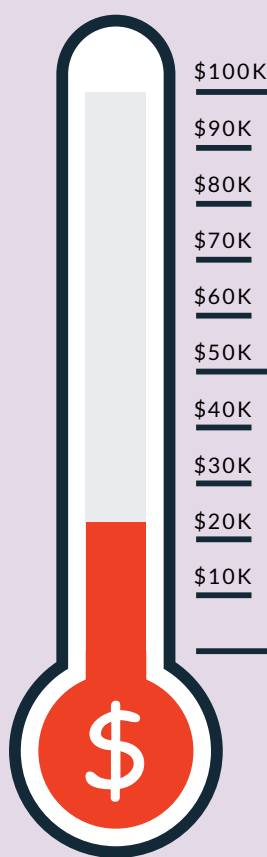
October 25, 2026

Ticket information coming soon!

ADVANCEMENT

UPDATES

Mr. Jimmy Crook
Director of Advancement



The 2026-2027 Loyalty Fund Campaign has officially started with the goal of reaching \$100,000. These unrestricted gifts to the Loyalty Fund help in "Bridging the gap to greater possibilities." Again this year the facility and staff are leading the way with this year's campaign by already giving a total of \$13,200, a \$2,500 Increase over last year's campaign and 13% of our 2026/2027 \$100,000 goal. We are pleased to announce that **the campaign has already raised 23% of our \$100,000 goal with \$23,700 already given.**

As a small token of our appreciation, for everyone who makes a contribution of \$100 or more we would like to send you this year's Loyalty Fund Supporter sticker suitable for your car, office window, or anywhere else you would like to show your "Hurricane Pride"! Additionally, for any gifts of \$500 or more we have an accompanying lapel pin as an additional token of our appreciation.

We will also have a special below-the-pin rockers in addition to the 2026-2027 Loyalty Fund pin for our higher level supporters (Hamrick Circle, Sustainer's Circle, and Builder's Circle). We are also pleased to introduce a new trophy program, available to donors giving at the Hamrick Circle, Sustainer's Circle, and Builder's Circle levels.

Thank you for your support of First Baptist School!



The 2025-2026 Annual Report is available now!
View the report [here](#).



[**Donate Online**](#)



ADMISSIONS UPDATES

With the 2026-2027 school year underway your Admissions Directors are busy planning for the 2027-2028 school year. **If you have a sibling of a current student that you are considering enrolling for the 27-28 school year, please make sure the Admissions Team has an active inquiry on file for you.** We want to keep you in the loop when the application opens in November. Re-enrollment for current students is scheduled to open in January.

As always, please reach out if you have any questions!

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

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



JAMES ISLAND CAMPUS OPEN HOUSE

We're excited to invite families interested in our Middle & High School programs to an Open House at our James Island Campus on **Thursday, September 24th from 5:00–6:30 pm**. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet our faculty, staff, and fellow FBS families, as well as explore our campus firsthand.

If you know any families considering FBS for Middle or High School, we'd love for you to share the registration link with them!

[JI Campus Open House Registration](#)

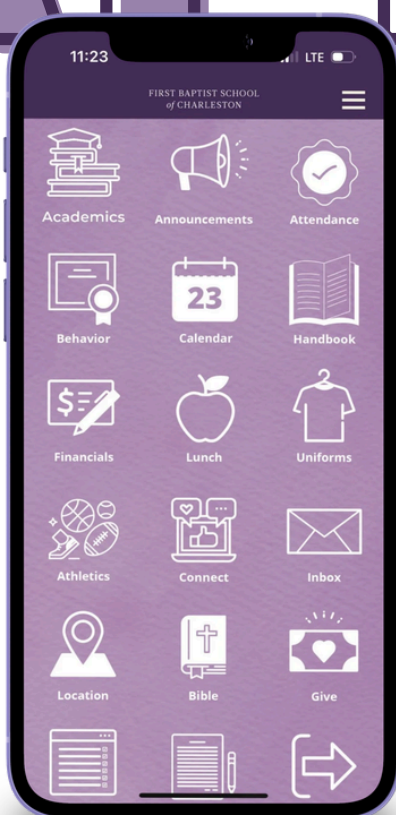




Around Campus



FBS APP



Stay up-to-date with the First Baptist School App! This is a **FREE** app that ties in to FACTS where you can find information on academics, athletics, resources, and more!

If you already have the app, please be sure you are updated to the most current version for best functionality.

Get the app here for [iPhone](#) or [Android](#)!

FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

RESOURCES



FACTS
LOGIN



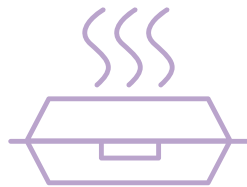
STUDENT
HANDBOOK

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.