

HURRICANE WATCH



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

January 2022

Monthly Newsletter



WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

- Head of School Update
- January 2022 Calendar
- School Happenings
- "Purpose-Driven Education"
- Advancement News
- Water Mission
- Health & Wellness

Head of School Update

By Dr. Justin Mitchell

Greetings, First Baptist Community!

At the beginning of the 2021/2022 academic year, we selected our verse for the year to be Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Continued on Page 2...

This verse rings true as we begin 2022. As a community, state, and country, we face many challenges and times of great uncertainty. The one thing in which we can be certain is that in all things, God works for the good of those who love him and who have been called according to his purpose. I firmly believe that God has called us to this time and to this place to serve him even though right now, we may not be able to see the bigger picture. We will continue to trust in Him.

Our Downtown Campus is doing an excellent job of being flexible and adaptable as we seek to best meet the needs of our students and maintain in-person learning. Our teachers and students are incredible. Some highlights since the last newsletter include the return of the beautiful Lessons and Carols presentation and the K3-K5 Christmas Play in the church sanctuary in December. Anticipation is increasing as the masonry of the new building is nearing completion. There is still much work to be done on the interior of the building, but it is definitely beginning to take shape as a shared space between the school and church.

The James Island Campus continues to race forward as we have entered the second academic semester. We are excited to announce that the Fine Arts Department will be presenting The Wizard of Oz on Thursday, March 17th at 6 pm on the James Island Aux Gym Stage. Our student-athletes are remaining competitive in basketball. We have been selected to be featured on MyTV Charleston Friday Night Rivals and High School Hoops Game of the Week for our varsity boys game against Porter-Gaud at 8:00 pm on January 21st.

As a reminder, FBS will be closed on Monday, January 17th for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. PTO will also be hosting our Polar Bear Plunge on Saturday, January 22nd. If you are looking for more information, check out this link to participate or to find out how to make a donation. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve our students, families, each other, and you, our First Baptist community.

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, flowing style.

JANUARY 2022

School Calendar

- 3 Staff Development - **No School**
- 4 School Resumes
- 17 Martin Luther King, Jr Day - **No School**
- 22 Polar Bear Plunge



[Click here](#) for Athletic Schedule

FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL *of* CHARLESTON



10TH BIENNIAL LIVE &
SILENT AUCTION



SATURDAY

5

MARCH

CHARLESTON MARRIOTT
170 LOCKWOOD DRIVE
CHARLESTON, SC 29403

View and purchase ticket options at
event.gives/fbsauction2022

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IN THE KNOW

school happenings



POLAR BEAR PLUNGE 2022

POLAR BEAR PLUNGE 2022

January 22, 2022 - Join brave First Baptist Students, Faculty, Families, and Friends on Saturday, January 22, 2022 to take a chilly dip in the Atlantic. All proceeds and donations will go towards furniture at the new lower school building. Register or Donate [here!](#)

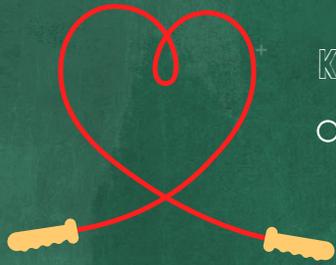
TRACK CONDITIONING

Track conditioning is beginning this month. Practices are Monday through Thursday from 3:45-5:00 pm. If students are interested in conditioning for the track team, please see Mr. Richter.



KIDS HEART CHALLENGE

Our Kids Heart Challenge kicks off January 31st! More info coming soon!



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





Purpose-Driven Education

By Dr. Kupersmith, High School Principal

Rick Warren published a wildly successful book, **The Purpose-Driven Life**, nearly twenty years ago. The text is directed to a faith-based audience, its advice applies to the full expanse of human activity. After a brief hiatus from working in schools, when I was wracked with an unrequited yearning for meaningful work, I was blessed with an opportunity to serve FBS—first in a consulting role with Dr. Mitchell and now as an administrator, returning to the role that I was privileged to play at Wichita Collegiate School for five years at forty years age. Through my fifty plus years as a teacher and administrator, I have thought a great deal about the purpose of school, specifically K-12 schools, and my place in advancing that purpose.

I believe that K-12 schools have two important comprehensive purposes: to educate minds and cultivate character.

The true measure of educational success is the ethical and moral imprint on students—its depth, breadth, and duration. Do they emerge as lifelong discerning seekers of truth, as loyal friends, as charitable co-workers and neighbors, as hard-working employees, as loving and disciplined parents, and as humble, honest, and compassionate people? Do they exercise their citizenship dutifully and responsibly? Are they honorable and trustworthy? Do they keep their promises? Do they aspire to embody the Baptismal Covenant (my previous school was an Episcopal School): to respect the dignity of each individual. Sure, effective schools instill knowledge. However, knowledge is a means, not an end in itself. The use and verification of knowledge rely on the quality of our judgment. Judgment is shaped by lessons learned in school, by teachers and leaders who are role models for students. We remember and preserve memories of a teacher's behavior—of his or her kindness, passion, and wisdom—much more than we retain discrete knowledge that we acquire in a class. The intersection of knowledge and character is reliable judgment.

Regarding the nurture of judgment, faith-based schools have two significant advantages over secular schools: (1) a belief in an orderly universe and the existence of absolute truth (truth does not play on a level playing field, i.e., all opinions do not share lead billing); and (2) we serve a higher purpose.

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Embracing the principle of Rotary International of "service over self" sharpens our recognition of "purpose." Serving a higher purpose lends meaning and order to our lives, which if left to material pursuits alone would impose a sense of isolation, a subversive feeling of living solitary existence suspended in a cosmic haze.

Every day at First Baptist High School presents an opportunity for educators to move the growth needle for every student: our work contributes to the spiritual, intellectual, ethical, physical, social, and emotional growth of each of the 171 students whom we are privileged to serve.



Around Campus



ADVANCEMENT OFFICE NEWS

*Sustaining Academic Excellence with a Christian Perspective
for generations to come*

A New Year

Beth Switzer, switzerb@fbschool.org

*Director of Advancement
& High School Admissions*

We are excited as we get closer to our 10th Biennial Live and Silent Auction on March 5, 2022. We would love for you to attend this wonderful evening of supporting First Baptist School. We are looking for additional auction items. If you have a favorite restaurant, store, salon, etc. please ask them to donate a gift certificate.

If you are interested in volunteering at the auction with set up, registration, check out or in any other capacity please email Beth Switzer at switzerb@fbschool.org.

ADVANCEMENT EVENTS

**10TH BIENNIAL LIVE &
SILENT AUCTION**
March 5, 2022
6:00 pm

[View and purchase
ticket options](#)

[GIVE ONLINE](#)



A NOTE FROM FIRST BAPTIST FIRST GRADERS

Dear Families, Students, and Friends of FBS:

Did you know that 2.2 billion people around the world lack access to safe water? That's one-third of the world's population. Imagine waking up every morning knowing you must walk four to six hours to collect dirty water that will most likely make you and your family sick.

The First Grade is partnering with Water Mission to increase awareness of the Global Water Crisis. We are learning about water basics, water availability, the water cycle, the Global Water Crisis, and what we can do to help. We plan to participate in the annual "Walk for Water" March 26th, 2022, and we want you and your family to walk with us! Stay tuned for registration details.

What is Water Mission?

Water Mission is a Christian engineering nonprofit that builds safe water, sanitation, and hygiene solutions in developing countries and disaster areas. Since 2001, Water Mission has served more than 7 million people in 57 countries. Water Mission headquarters is located in North Charleston.

What is Educators Think Tank?

Educators Think Tank is a group of Water Mission volunteers dedicated to educating the next generation about the Global Water Crisis in general and the work of Water Mission specifically. They present information in a way that grabs the attention and makes young people want to be part of the solution.

There are currently 3 amazing resources geared towards different classroom needs and grade levels.

1. Wondering About Water (K-3rd)

- A literature-based program for K-3rd grade. First Baptist School was awarded this kit by Water Mission through a grant sponsored by Volvo.

2.. Lessons in a Bucket (K-8th)

- An online program that introduces the importance of water and the global water crisis with child-friendly activities addressing several water-related topics as well as solutions.

3. Water Wake Up Call (4th-8th)

- A literature based program utilizes *A Long Walk for Water* by award-winning author Linda Sue Park to introduce students to the global water crisis.

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A NOTE FROM FIRST BAPTIST FIRST GRADERS

Activity kits are available on loan through Water Mission's Educators Think Tank. First Baptist School is part of the "pilot" group engaging in Wondering About Water kit. This program is sponsored through a grant presented by Volvo and is a unique opportunity for our school community to engage, learn and share valuable feedback in the evolution of this educational outreach program! The volunteers at Water Mission do an exceptionally thoughtful job of creating each lesson with students in mind, bringing this crucial message to life in a relevant, impactful way.

What is the Walk for Water?

Water Mission's Walk for Water is a unique event where you have the opportunity to walk in the shoes of our global neighbors. By doing so, you raise awareness and funds to help end the global water crisis. During the Walk for Water, participants walk approximately 1.5 miles to the midway point with an empty bucket. There, they fill their bucket with dirty water and carry it another 1.5 miles to the end of the walk. This sends a powerful message to each participant of what it might be like if they had to do this day after day after day. This year's annual walk is scheduled for Saturday, March 26th, 2022!

Stay tuned for our team name and a link to sign up for the Walk for Water. To learn more about the great work at Water Mission, please visit:

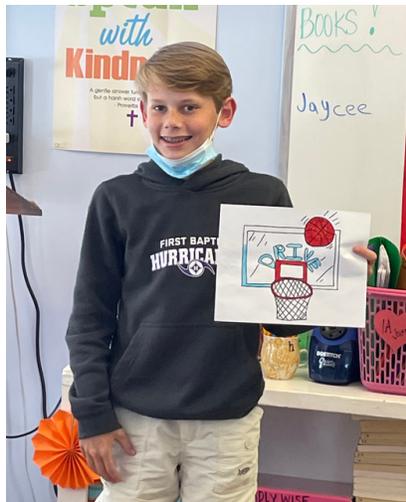
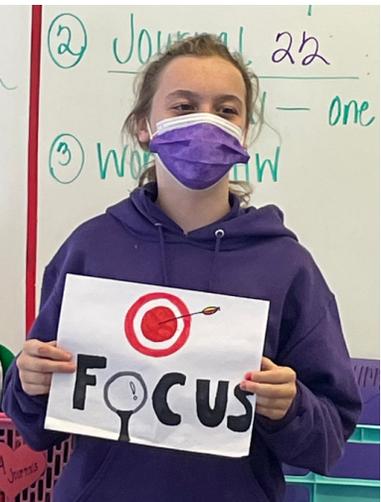
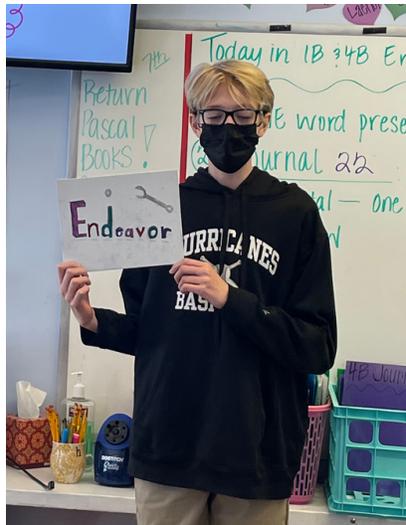
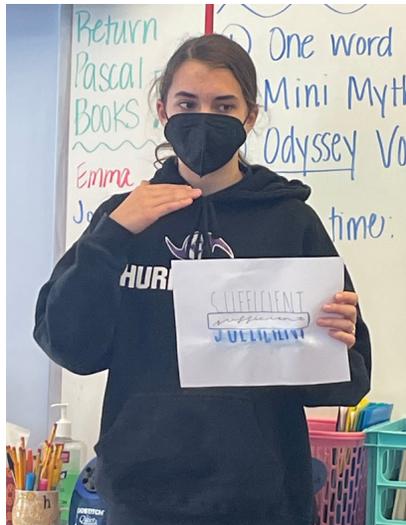
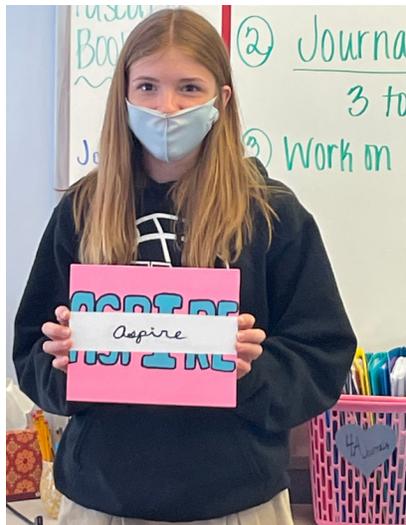
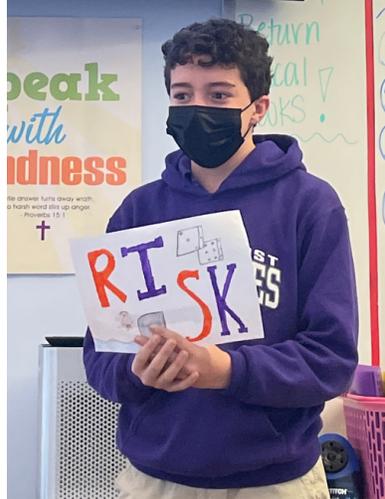
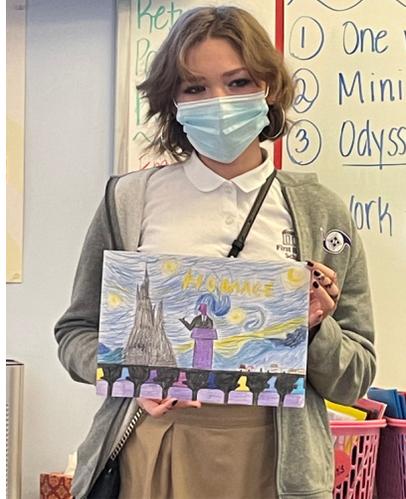
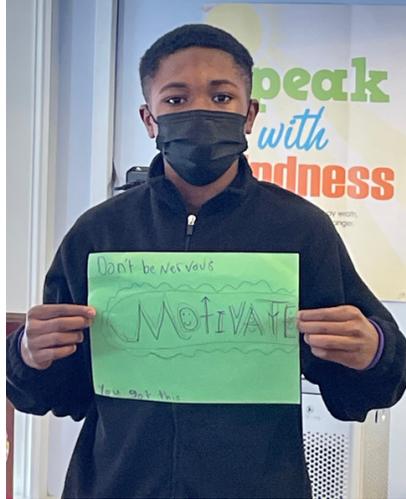
<https://watermission.org/>

FBS First Graders



watermission

What's your **WORD** for the year?



Taking Advantage of the Times

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



During this ever-changing time in our world, there are many important lessons for our children to learn firsthand. Adaptability, compassion, patience and resilience are at the top of the list. The best ways to teach these are by example and through simple conversation. If you are skilled in these areas, you can speak with them about how you learned to be good at this, if you have mishaps and how you adapt. If they are not your strong suit, that can be effective too, but express that we are all working on these skills, and how this is a great opportunity for us to challenge ourselves to be better than we are.

Children that are more adaptable and resilient tend to move smoothly from one activity to the next and have less anxiety. They have an understanding that if things change or plans have to halt, there will be another opportunity, there is a reason for most things, and they will be ok no matter the outcome. While they realize that they can handle the unpredictable, they often seek predictability for its benefits and are less likely to rush into dangerous situations and to be influenced by their peers. They lack the desire for quick change and tend to have less rebellious behaviors. If your child is not used to change, and you are trying to instill this in them, remember that regressive behavior is typical in these situations, but it does not mean that meaningful growth is not happening. These are lessons that take time and patience from us as well.

Resilience: Some children are born with it, while some children develop it when they experience challenges and learn to deal with them positively. Developing fortitude is another byproduct of experiencing disappointments and changing of plans. If you don't have enough of these situations, you can create them. The Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University tells us that the single most common factor for children in developing resilience is "at least one stable and committed relationship with a supportive parent, caregiver or other adult." One proven way to "stack the scale" with positive weight and create more resilience in your child is to mobilize sources of faith, support and cultural traditions.

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There are many examples such as going to the beach and holding your ground if the water is too cold to get in, or keeping a limit on the amount of time that you are willing to wait in a line at Chick fil A or their favorite restaurant. Explain the back up plan ahead of time, and calmly let them know when the plan is now changing. Letting them know that you are fully in charge of this choice will limit the negative feedback. Stick to it. Remind them that this an opportune time for God to work in our lives and in our hearts, and to be open to that rather than resistant.

We are blessed to be here at First Baptist, in a culture that fosters many of these qualities in our children. Let's build on that, maximize this time in history, and create the most adaptable and resilient people that we can.

He reminds us to "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity." ~ Colossians 4:5

Flu & COVID Vaccine Reminders

This is a reminder that if it has been more than 6-8 months since your last Covid vaccine, or if you have never received one, now is a great time to get that handled! Local experts are still predicting a winter wave and a booster now, while the cases are low, will give your body time to build up immunity prior to the next peak. The flu is also alive and well in our community so please also consider a flu vaccine! Experts agree that both vaccines can be given at the same time. Follow [this link](#) for more information!



FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL
Health & Wellness

Rose Cummings, MA, LPC Laura Lempesis, RN, BSN

Caroline Clum, RN, BSN

FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

RESOURCES



RENWEB
LOGIN



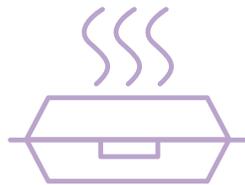
STUDENT
HANDBOOK



COVID POLICY



SMART TUITION
LOGIN



SCHOOLHOUSE
FARE LUNCH



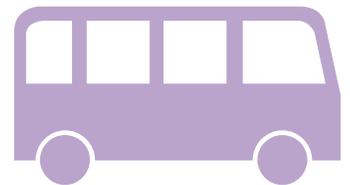
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TRANSPORTATION

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