

HURRICANE WATCH



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

September 2021

Monthly Newsletter



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Head of School Update

By Dr. Justin Mitchell

Greetings, First Baptist Community!

We are so excited about the great things happening on both of our campuses as we all settle into our routines and really begin the work of the school year.

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Learning is in full swing at both of our campuses. I have enjoyed entering into classrooms and seeing the fruits of our teachers' labor as students are so highly engaged in their work. Those of you who frequent our Downtown Campus have likely seen the tremendous progress on the new building. You may have also noticed the new and improved iron gates that we have installed on Water Street. We are working to get both gates automated to create a safe and workable traffic flow pattern for on-campus visitors. PTO fundraisers are supporting our initiatives to enhance campus security, including gate automation, additional cameras, etc. The Charleston Wrap fundraiser ends September 15th, so please don't miss the opportunity to [participate here](#). (Our school code is 16651.) Our students have resumed in-person chapel, which includes masking and socially distancing by class. Chapel is such a special time at First Baptist and we are delighted to be able to resume this cherished tradition and share the good news of Jesus with our students.

Our James Island Campus is also bustling with exciting activities. We have resumed changing classes this academic year which has been welcomed by students and teachers as we depart from last year's cohort model. We have new extra-curricular opportunities as well as organizations that are developing on campus. Our [C.R.E.A.T.E program](#) is resuming activity, check them out for ways to get connected. We also have a new Fellowship of Christian Athletes group that would like to invite all students to their next school-wide Huddle on Friday, September 24 at 7:30 am outside of the Gym. FCS will serve breakfast, have fellowship and share the love of Jesus. FCA Huddles are open to ALL students not just student-athletes. More information can be found at [Fellowship of Christian Athletes](#). Other clubs that are up and running include Chapel Leadership, C.R.E.A.T.E., Creative Learning Stations, Math Club, Photography Club, Recreation 4 Lyfe, Renaissance Club, Spanish Club, Technology Club, and Travel Club. If you are interested in getting involved in our clubs, please contact Mr. Snider at snidera@fbschool.org. Our athletics department is also staying very busy as we currently have FBS teams competing in volleyball, football, golf, and cross country.

You are cordially invited to join us for our first-ever FBS Community Virtual Town Hall on September 30th at 6:00 pm. The link to join will be shared via social media as we get closer to time, but please mark your calendar to hear some of the great things that are happening at FBS. We will hear from key leaders within our school community as well as be able to participate in the unveiling of our new Portrait of a First Baptist School Graduate. The Portrait of a First Baptist School Graduate highlights the attributes of the students we aim to cultivate within our 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.

SEPTEMBER 2021

School Calendar

3	Golf @ Lowcountry Invitational, Litchfield Varsity Football vs. Laurence Manning	1:00 pm 7:30 pm
6	Labor Day – School Closed	
8	Golf @ Pinewood, Pine Forest	4:00 pm
10	Varsity Football @ Ben Lippen	7:30 pm
11	JV Volleyball @ West Ashley Tournament Swimming @ Hilton Head Christian	
14	Meet the Teacher, 9th-12th Grade	6:30 pm
17	Varsity Football Home vs. Trinity Collegiate	7:30 pm
18	Swimming @ Pinewood	
21	Golf vs. Porter Gaud, Oak Point Meet the Teacher, 7th-8th Grade	4:00 pm 6:30 pm
22	See You at the Pole Prayer Event Meet the Teacher, 4th-6th Grade	7:30 am 6:30 pm
24	Varsity Football @ Augusta Christian	7:30 pm
25	Cross Country @ Lowcountry Invitational Varsity Volleyball @ West Ashley Tournament	
28	Swimming @ Northwood	



**Our time of prayer on
both campuses will
begin at 7:30 am.**



IN THE KNOW

school happenings



CREATION DAY

Saturday, September 18th at 8:00 am, James Island Campus | This is a workday open to anyone who would like to come out and help work on projects for outdoor learning opportunities. Students who need service hours are encouraged to attend.

PTO DRESS DOWN DAYS

If your student is interested in participating in Dress Down Days this year, please be sure to have the \$30 payment in by **September 17th**. Dress Down Days typically take place on the last school day Friday of each month.



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!



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



To Think Critically

By Dr. Kupersmith, High School Principal

In his 1837 address to the Phi Beta Kappa society at Harvard College, Ralph Waldo Emerson described a venerable process that promotes progress: ideas drive actions and actions create experiences and experiences shape ideas and so it goes.

All actions and experience rely on ideas. I believe that most of what we do depends on an idea. In that spirit, as a new school leader, I want to share central tenets of my educational ideals. Over my career, I have sought coherence in my decisions—consistency in decisions regarding personnel, administrative structure, curriculum and pedagogy, plant, philanthropy finance and budget, governance. I try to avoid improvising decisions. All decisions should emerge out of a reservoir of principles and values.

Those of us responsible for leading a corporate entity of any kind—a family, a business, a school, a state should have a working understanding of the purpose and character of the social, economic, or political organization that he or she has authority to lead.

Schools do well when they cultivate critical thinking abilities and actively embrace inclusion. Occasionally, and to my dismay, advocates of inclusion welcome ideas that echo their opinions but repudiate antithetical notions. When I encounter people who proclaim openness but banish contrary ideas, I sidestep that sort of hypocrisy. A community is inclusive if it gives all points of view presented in a civil fashion due attention. Collateral and indispensable to exposure to a broad range of ideas and viewpoints is the shaping of core values, an enterprise shared by the key influencers in the lives of children: parents, faith community, and school (in a past era I would have included Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and like organizations in the matrix of social institutions from which we derive our foundational values).

To think critically requires two conditions: verifiable knowledge and a solid foundation of deep seated beliefs and principles. In my youthful years, I would pooh-pooh the votaries of critical thinking skills as an end in themselves. From my childhood mania for

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reading almanacs and the stats on the backs of baseball cards, I have venerated information. When E.D. Hirsch produced an industry around Cultural Literacy, I found the Holy Grail. Hirsch posed the essential question: "Don't you realize that you can't think critically without something to think critical about, a.k.a. content."

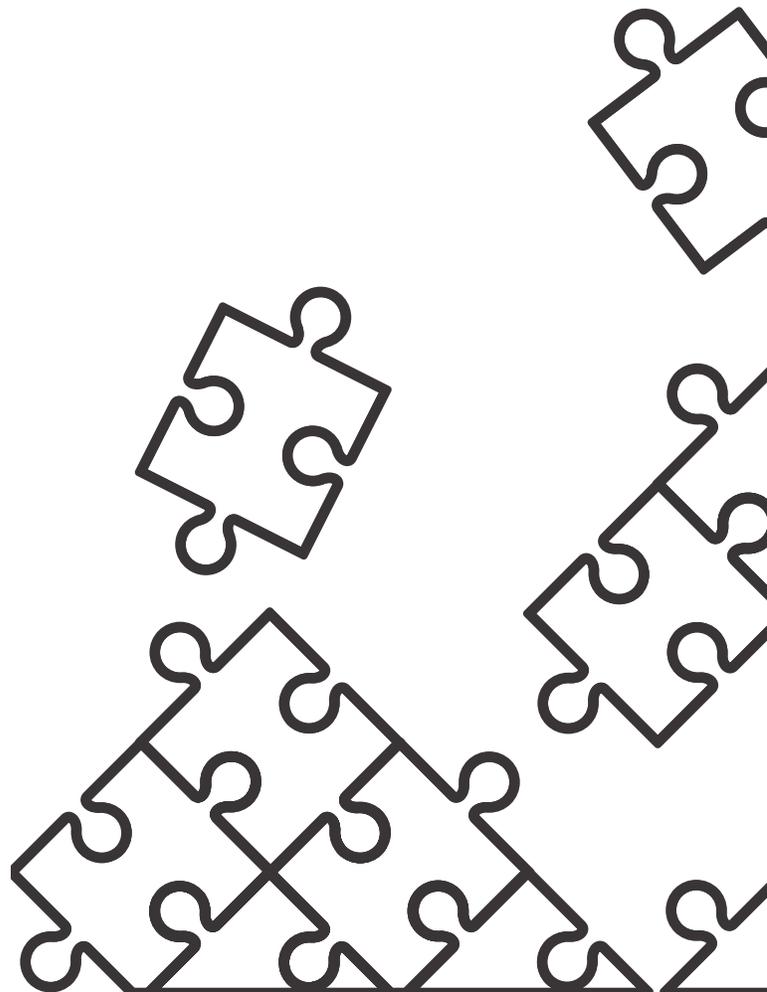
The second condition—core values—provides a student with an assessment instrument with which to respond to the wide spectrum of ideas that constitute our intellectual history and animate the controversies of our own age. All ideas are not equally credible. How do we make determinations about the ideas and systems of belief that we accept? We fall back on our assessment matrix and knowledge archive. In this day of social media prophets who write seductive gospels, we are compelled more than ever to fact-check and stress-test.

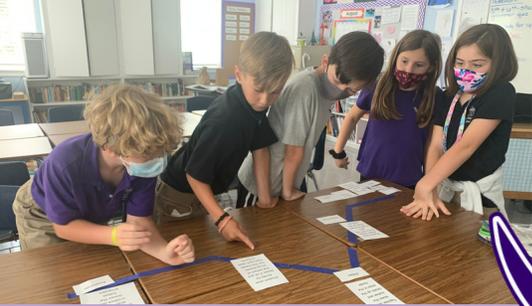
In my judgment, a built-in advantage of a faith-based school is the purpose-driven nature of these communities. I have always been enamored of Jesuit high school because they were unabashed about who they were and adhered obsessively to the high standard of a Jesuit education. Regrettably, these schools wherever they remain are seldom as good as they were because Jesuit educators are dwindling. Nonetheless, whether a school is Baptist, Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Jewish, Islamic, Quaker, or Christian Evangelical as long as it preserves its soul and hires teachers who share its mission, students gain coherence from that school whose faith infuses its spirit in the school culture and whose religious principles provide a

foundation for the curriculum.

Your years at First Baptist are precious. You've entrusted your child to our guidance. You will receive a substantial ROI on that decision. Add further value by investing your time, talents, and tithes in the school. You will enhance the school's resources and at once benefit from collaborating with other parents and faculty.

I look forward to greeting you at Meet the Teacher evening at 6:30 pm on September 14. You will have an opportunity to hear a condensed version of the course of study. However, more significantly, you will meet the people whose character influences your child.





Around Campus



Lowcountry Maritime School

*By Mrs. Anna Gervais, Middle School
Science*

This year, 8th grade students at First Baptist will be working on a year-long project with the Lowcountry Maritime School. Lowcountry Maritime School is a non-profit organization dedicated to STEM education using wooden boat construction and other maritime activities. The 8th grade students will collaborate in teams of six to build a wooden skiff. In addition to reviewing essential academic skills, our students will improve their social and emotional strengths, including learning to work with others in a team and building the patience and perseverance needed to complete a long-term goal!

The materials for the boats include locally sourced longleaf pine and cypress, and so the students will be engaged in a project that involves local resources and offers a connection to Charleston's maritime culture and heritage.

At the end of the school year, the students will be able to launch the boats that they built themselves in Lowcountry Maritime School's Annual Spring Boat Launch.

The 8th grade is excited to embark on their boatbuilding journey this month. Stay tuned for photos of their boatbuilding progress on the school's social media accounts.

We will be fundraising throughout the year. If you would like to support this program, donations can be made to First Baptist with the memo "8th Grade Boatbuilding" or directly to Lowcountry Maritime School.

For more information about Lowcountry Maritime School, find them at www.lowcountrymaritimeschool.org or on social media [@lowcountrymaritime](https://www.instagram.com/lowcountrymaritime)

Want to support our project?

If you would like to support this program, donations can be made to First Baptist with the memo "8th Grade Boatbuilding" or directly to Lowcountry Maritime School.





INFORMATION & UPDATES FROM THE

PTO



Our CharlestonWrap Fundraiser is Here!

Dear First Baptist School Families,

Now more than ever, YOU can make a difference! Today we are kicking off our largest annual fundraiser and we are counting on your support!

Our Fundraising Goal: \$25,000 to go towards school security

Visit charlestonwrap.com/Fall-kickoff-videos/daily-prizes-incentives/ to watch our kick off video!

Helping us reach our goal is QUICK, EASY, and only takes about 5 minutes. We have partnered with Charleston Wrap® to make it happen! With over 2,500 gift ideas, including UltraHeavy™ gift wrap, gourmet kitchen essentials, personalized gifts & more, friends and family can help us reach our goal by checking off their holiday shopping list! But first, you'll need to invite them to support our fundraiser! Complete the three (3) steps below and we'll be on our way to reaching our goals!

Here's how to help:

- 1) Please visit registercw.com to register today! Use our ORGANIZATION ID 16651 to register! One registration per family. After registering, there will be a textable link to copy and send!
- 2) Send 10 unique and valid shopping email and text invites to your friends & family using our invite tool at registration. (after logging in)
- 3) Shop! With over 2,500 gift ideas, you can check-off your holiday gift-list and support our important cause, too.

PRO TIP: The more email and text invites you send, the more supporters we'll get! So, break out your email contact list, text your friends and family, share on social media, and help spread the word!

Will you take a few minutes and register now?

Thank you so much for your support!
First Baptist School PTO

Questions about registration? Call CW Customer Support at 1-866-395-2926



Health & Wellness: Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

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



With the focus of the times' being on physical health, here are some tips that will help you support your children's physical health and will lead to improved mental health as well!

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs tells us that when our physiological and safety needs are met, we can then open our minds to deeper needs that feed our soul. I am always excited to try new ways that can help improve a number of these needs at the same time! Here are a few ways to start!

Decrease the stress in your home with a couple of new fun rules

Mornings are hard! At least they can be in our home. Try a new rule that no one gets to raise their voice or use negative tones in the morning. Have fun with it! Have them use a silly higher pitch voice in the morning and it will make everyone laugh, and we all know laughter is good for the soul! If they are open to it, have everyone that leaves the home hug everyone that is still in the home (or car), or a fistbump, or even a wink. Again, have fun with it! Pin it on me, that Counselor Cummings lady. They will enjoy sarcastically winking at you as they leave the car. It is all in the name of fun, love and decreasing stress. Decreasing stress also leads to less inflammation in the body.

Decrease inflammation in the body

Inflammation isn't all bad. It's a defense mechanism and helps protect our body from infection and injury when needed. However, excessive inflammation can lead to collateral damage and can even cause and increase anxiety. Consider adding at least one of these to lunch and dinner to balance inflammation in the body:

- Berries
- Fatty Fish
- Broccoli

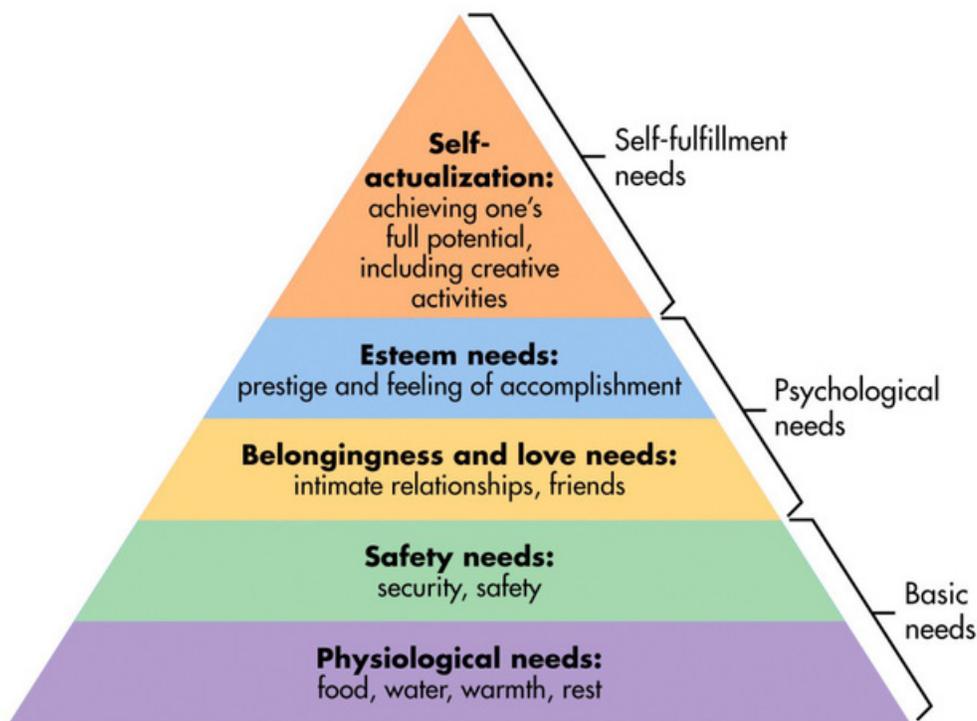
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- Avocados
- Mushrooms
- Grapes

Increase the mindset of self-responsibility and intention

Try using terms such as “make it a great day” and “make good choices” when they leave the car. In many aspects of health, we can do a lot for ourselves. Sometimes self responsibility and accountability can be scary and heavy, but it can also be powerful and rejuvenating. Let’s capitalize on these young minds, their growth mindset that is within them, and give them the tools to be self responsible. They will reap the benefits of a lifetime.

The stronger your baseline health, the better odds for you to fight off infection during this season and achieve higher levels of health in other areas such as mental, emotional and spiritual. We want to help build each of these in our students every day, and baseline health is where it all begins!



FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL
Health & Wellness

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

Caroline Clum, RN, BSN

FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

RESOURCES



RENWEB
LOGIN



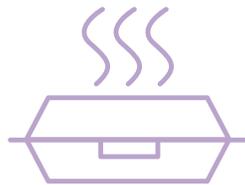
STUDENT
HANDBOOK



COVID POLICY



SMART TUITION
LOGIN



SCHOOLHOUSE
FARE LUNCH



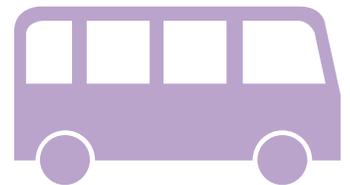
DRESS CODE



FACULTY/STAFF
DIRECTORY



ACADEMIC
CALENDAR



TRANSPORTATION

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