

# HURRICANE



# WATCH

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

September 2025

Monthly Newsletter



## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

- Head of School Update
- September Calendar
- School Happenings
- Athletics/Hurricane Association
- PTO Updates
- High School Counseling
- Admissions Department

## Head of School Update

*By Dr. Justin Mitchell*

Greetings, First Baptist Community!

Welcome to the 2025/2026 school year! As we launch into this exciting season of learning and growth, our hearts are inspired by the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:14-16: "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify

*Continued on Page 2...*

your Father in heaven." This year, we embrace the calling to "Be the Light" in our classrooms, on our campuses, and within our wider community. Every student, teacher, and family member contributes to the light that makes FBS a beacon of faith, academic excellence, and love.

We are off to a fantastic start! Classrooms are buzzing with energy, students are settling into routines, and joyful learning is happening every day. From chapel services and creative projects to athletic practices and games, and our preschool adventures, there's already so much to celebrate. Our dedicated staff has gone above and beyond to ensure a smooth, spirit-filled beginning.

We're excited to announce the launch of the official First Baptist School App, now available on both the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. The app is free for all families. Use the app to stay up-to-date with announcements, events, calendars, and more. You will also have one-touch access to grades, lunch menus, and important documents. This app is a powerful tool to help our families stay connected and informed. We encourage all parents and guardians to download it today and explore its features.

Fall sports are well underway, and with several new coaches in place, the teams are finding their footing. Middle school football opened its season with an exciting win, and Cross Country looks to repeat the magic of previous seasons through intense preparation. Our Swim Team recently completed its first meet, with all members posting respectable times in their events. Although the Varsity Football team has entered a tough stretch in its season, they are demonstrating growth and resilience. The Volleyball Teams continue to show signs of improvement and have more than held their own while securing wins. The Tennis and Golf teams are getting underway, with both groups looking to make great memories. Lastly, our Cheer Team and Tropical Storms continue to represent First Baptist with a high level of spirit that should be contagious to all. Our teams look forward to having a productive and exciting year.

At FBS, our mission remains at the heart of everything we do: "Academic Excellence with a Christian Perspective." This means that while we strive for rigorous learning, we also ground every subject, every interaction, and every goal in Biblical truth. Whether in mathematics or music, science, or service, our students are encouraged to grow in both knowledge and character, to shine their light boldly and compassionately.

As we journey through this school year, let's continue to support one another with grace and encouragement. Let's model Christ's love, speak life, and celebrate every step of progress our students make. The Lord has great things in store for our school family in 2025! We are truly grateful for your partnership and prayers. May this year be filled with growth, joy, and radiant light.

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 cursive script that reads "Justin Mitchell". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the text "Be blessed,".



# CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2025

01	Labor Day - No School
12	Half-Day for Students
18	Charleston Wrap Fundraiser Kick-off
26	Family Friday (K2-8) Dress Down Day (K5-12)



[View Athletic Calendar](#)





# IN THE KNOW

## school happenings



### Get the FBS App!

Our new branded school app connects you to the school information you need all in one place. Find school news, athletic schedules, student handbooks, lunch ordering, and more - all in the app! [iPhone App](#) | [Android App](#)

### Lower School Night - September 12

The Varsity football team will take on Trinity Collegiate this Friday at 7:30 pm! We'll be hosting Lower School Night starting at 6:00 pm with face painting, jump castles, and more! We hope to see you there!



### Save the date! Baseball Oyster Roast Pre-Sale

Pre-sale tickets for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Baseball Oyster Roast & Silent Auction taking place on Saturday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> will begin September 15<sup>th</sup>! Learn more at [fbschool.org](https://fbschool.org)!

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



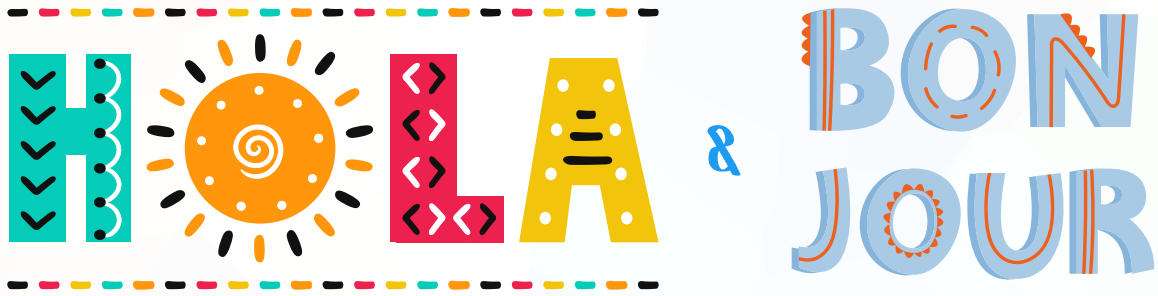
### FINE ARTS



### ATHLETICS







## from the Language Department

There are many things that set First Baptist School apart from other schools such as small class sizes, engaged learning, and a supportive family environment. But our language program is especially unique. Unlike traditional programs that start in high school, FBS starts language learning in the Lower School and builds into Middle and High School. Currently, Spanish is offered from K2 - 12th Grade. French is offered as an afterschool program for Grades 1 - 5, while French classes start in 6th Grade and continue through 12th Grade.

The reason this is so important is because language learning happens through exposure. Think about a baby beginning to speak English. He hears English for years before he is able to speak it. He is exposed to language in his home, at the grocery store, on the television, on the radio, at the playground. As he sees objects and hears words, his brain starts to make language connections. He starts interpreting tone and body language as a way to gain meaning. When a baby first begins to speak, he makes lots of adorable mistakes.

This is the same way we learn a second language. It happens through exposure. In the Lower School, children are introduced to language through storybooks, songs, and activities. In Middle School, they build on their exposure through memorization and listening activities. In High School, students are completely immersed in language through listening, reading and speaking exercises. The hope is that when they graduate from high school, they will have a foundation to build on that sets them apart.

Even with all of this language practice at school, it is unlikely that a student will graduate from high school being fluent, although proficiency is possible. Why? Again, language learning happens through exposure, and our class times are limited.

There are many ways that parents can support language learning to increase their child's exposure. Here are just a few ideas:

- Child friendly language learning apps. There are many to choose from, but do your research and set age appropriate limits, as many apps contain dating language.
- Switch television shows and movies to a second language.
- Listen to music in a second language.
- Attend bilingual church services in the area.
- Attend a French service or take a tour of the Huguenot Church to learn more about Charleston's French heritage.
- Practice ordering in Spanish/French at Mexican/French restaurants.
- Visit El Molino, a Mexican grocery store where you can shop and eat.
- And a personal favorite... travel!

We hope these ideas help your child in their language learning journey. We look forward to another year of active language learning at FBS.



# TIME TO *travel*

Ms. Hannah Salters, our dedicated 3rd Grade teacher, recently had the incredible opportunity to travel to Barcelona, Spain, as part of a professional development program with EF Tours. The event focused on the transformative power of travel for both educators and students. Ms. Salters has been journeying with EF Tours since she was just 14 years old!

Next summer, Ms. Salters will be leading a group of students on an exciting trip to France. Any students in grades 6-12 who are interested in joining can reach out to her directly at [saltersh@fbschool.org](mailto:saltersh@fbschool.org) for more details.

This is just one of the many student travel opportunities we're thrilled to offer this school year. Another exciting trip to Europe, led by Mr. Matt Lambert, will also be announced soon. Stay tuned for more updates!



# See Our Garden Grow

Greetings, garden lovers!

A genuine thank you for supporting our glorious garden, both past and present! Your generosity keeps our curiosity GROWING with the abundance of useful materials we enjoy using daily. There are still a few items in request, if you would like to contribute:

## Amazon Wishlist

We are looking forward to clearing our beds soon to make space for seasonal produce. Miss Rita and her team from <https://www.ritasroots.com/garden-growers-club> will visit our school on September 25th to aid and assist our little gardeners in the next planting season.

We have enjoyed a fruitful warm season, filled with a variety of tomatoes, lemon cucumbers, cucumbers, peppers, (watch out, the red ones are HOT!) snap beans, zucchini and a variety of lovely herbs and pollinator flowers. We look forward to a new season of delicious harvest!

**Elliot Locklear**  
1st Grade Teacher

"I planted the seed. Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow."

1 Corinthians 3







**HURRICANE ASSOCIATION**

# ATHLETICS

## Hurricane Association Fall Tailgate Raffle

Win the Ultimate Tailgating Package! Join the Hurricane Association's fall raffle for a chance to score **\$2,600** in tailgating gear and elevate your game day experience!

Winner will receive:

- 10x10 tailgating tent
- Propane Heater
- Mugs with Hurricane Logo
- Generator
- Yeti Tundra Cooler
- Dewalt Fans (Qty 2)
- Dewalt Radio
- Blackstone table top Griddle with hard cover
- Tailgating Chairs (Qty 4)

Winner will be announced on October 31st!

Tickets available [here](#) and at home game concessions.

*Thank you to our sponsors!*



**Grab your Tailgate Spot  
for the 2025 season here!**

## 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.

### Membership Form





# Parent Teacher Organization



## Welcome to the 2025-2026 School Year: Join the FBS PTO!

FBS families,

On behalf of the PTO, I wanted to take a moment and welcome all of the new families to First Baptist School, and welcome back all of the returning families! 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 safety and efforts of the faculty and staff, and to provide learning and enrichment opportunities for our students.

To join the PTO for the 2025-2026 school year, please complete the following form: [PTO 25-26 Membership Form](#). We need your help! By completing this form, you will have the opportunity to select ways you would like to get involved with the PTO this year.

Additionally, the PTO hosts 9 Dress Down Days throughout the school year for K5 - 12th Grade. You can pay in advance for all 9 days (and save money, too). The Dress Down Day details can be found here: [Dress Down Day Form](#)

The Charleston Wrap fundraiser is set to kick-off on September 18th! Be on the lookout for more information soon.

I'm praying for a wonderful 2025-2026 school year, and excited for all that we can accomplish together this year!

*Lindsay Lower*

PTO President



## PTO Year-in-Review



# College Counseling

CHRIS CHAMBERS  
COLLEGE COUNSELOR

**Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,**

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year at First Baptist High School! I hope your family had a refreshing summer and that the transition back to school has been a smooth one. Whether you are returning or joining us for the first time, I am so glad to have you as part of the FBS family. I hope and pray that you feel as welcome as I have been made to feel by the students, families, and colleagues I have met so far!

As your College and Career Counselor, I have the privilege of walking alongside students and families throughout the high school journey. My role is to support every student—grades 9 through 12—as they explore their interests, set goals, and prepare for life after graduation.

Here's a quick overview of how I will be structuring the year:

- **Fall Focus:** I spend much of the fall working closely with our seniors as they navigate the college application process and make decisions about their next steps. At the same time, I connect with our freshmen, introducing them to the importance of building a strong academic foundation and encouraging them to start thinking about future opportunities.
- **Spring Focus:** After Christmas break, I shift more attention to our juniors and sophomores. Juniors begin actively preparing for college, career, and beyond, and I invite parents/guardians to partner with me in this process. Sophomores will participate in the YouScience aptitude assessment, which helps them discover their strengths, interests, and potential career paths.

I have been blessed to have spent time with Mrs. Roy before she left for Europe, and feel beyond prepared to pick up with students where they left off. Students will meet with me AT LEAST once per year, but are certainly not limited to that. I also encourage parents and guardians to reach out whenever questions or concerns arise, and invite them to join in on meetings if they wish (especially when college application time comes around). I welcome your partnership and look forward to working with you in guiding your student toward their next chapter.

Please be sure to check the school calendar often, as important dates and events will be posted throughout the year. Staying connected will ensure that students are well-prepared and able to take advantage of all the opportunities available at FBS.

I am pumped for the year ahead and look forward to working with everyone!

Warmly,

**Chris Chambers**

College & Career Counselor

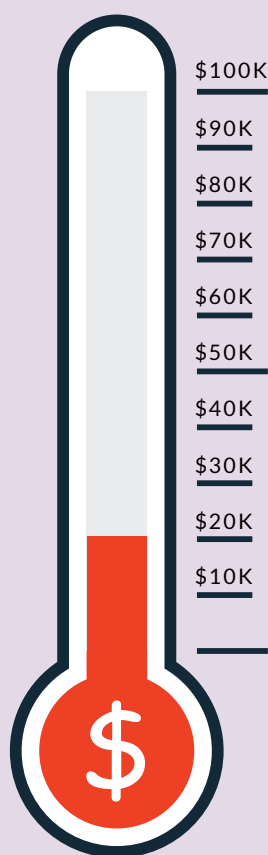
First Baptist High School



# ADVANCEMENT

## UPDATES

Mr. Jimmy Crook  
Director of Advancement



With the start of the upcoming school year, First Baptist School will be kicking off the campaign to raise the needed funds for the FBS Loyalty Fund. The FBS Loyalty Fund, our annual giving campaign, exists solely for the betterment of our students. The Loyalty Fund are non-restrictive gifts that give the school leadership the flexibility to address the needs of our students and facility, without impacting the operating budget.

Our Loyalty Fund Goal for 2025-2026 is to raise \$100,000 through the participation of our families, Alumni, and friends. As of today we have already raised 24% of this goal, with the First Baptist School's faculty and staff donating a total of \$10,600. Unrestricted gifts to the Loyalty fund allows FBS to address immediate needs without impacting the operational budget. Your support helps in "Bridging the gap to greater possibilities."

Your gift truly is an investment in the future of every student at First Baptist School. If you would like to make a contribution by check, please drop it by the business office or mail directly to the school (Attn: Jimmy Crook), or contribute online by visiting <https://www.fbschool.org/donate>. All contributions are 100% tax deductible.

As a small token of our appreciation, for everyone who makes a contribution of \$100 or more the school 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.

Thank you once again for your commitment to First Baptist School.



**The 2024-2025 Annual Report is available now! View the report [here](#).**



# Admissions Updates



Hello First Baptist Family,

As we begin the 2025-2026 school year, the admissions team is already preparing for the 2026-2027 school year.

Anyone interested in First Baptist School for the 2026-2027 school year needs to submit an [inquiry form](#). If you have a child that is a sibling of an enrolled student, and have not yet submitted a form, please do so. This will ensure that you receive an email when the application opens in November. Siblings are not guaranteed a spot, but will receive preferential consideration after meeting the admission requirements.

For questions regarding 2K through sixth grade contact Sally Casias at [casiass@fbsschool.org](mailto:casiass@fbsschool.org).

Beth Switzer will be able to answer questions you may have for grades seven through twelve. She can be reached at [switzerb@fbschool.org](mailto:switzerb@fbschool.org).

We wish you all the best for the 2025-2026 school year!

*Sally and Beth*





# Around Campus





FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

# RESOURCES



FACTS  
LOGIN



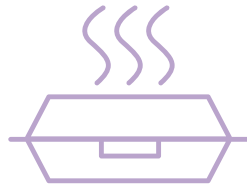
STUDENT  
HANDBOOK

## 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.