



LOWER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

October 17, 2024

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES: OCTOBER

15-17	PSIA Optional Tryouts
15-18	PE: Jump Rope Ninja
18	Report cards go home/posted on Blackbaud at 3:00 p.m., Dads on Duty
21	Storybook Pumpkin Contest - drop off pumpkins Mon-Wed
21	Free Dress Pass Week Begins (students will be given a bracelet to wear)
22	Junior Cheer Practice in US Gym from 3-5pm, FBCA Spirit Day at Lopez
22	Lower School STEAM Night from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
24	Storybook Pumpkin Decorating Contest winner announced
24	Junior Cheer Practice in US Gym from 3-5pm, Annual Fund Bingo Night
25	Men's Breakfast, Kinder/Senior Buddies: 50th Day of School celebration
25	Dads on Duty, Junior Cheer performance at FBCA varsity football game

NOTE FROM MRS. CLAYTON, HEAD OF LOWER SCHOOL:

Dear Lower School Families,

I pray you're having a great week and enjoyed the long weekend with your family. I sure am enjoying the glimpse of fall weather lately. It's another beautiful day!

We had an awesome chapel yesterday as we had Leah Rigsby, a missionary from Papua New Guinea, share a great message with us. Leah works in Bible translation, so the students were able to see the importance of having a Bible in your own language, something we often take for granted! We sent home coloring pages for each grade level, giving them a specific people group in PNG to pray for as they await a Bible translation in their language!

Below are a few important reminders:

- **FBCA Annual Fund** - Thank you for those of you that have already stepped up to the plate to launch our FBCA Annual Fund! I'd love to see 100% of our Lower School faculty/staff and families committed to supporting our Annual Fund! See details [here](#)!
- **FBCA Parent Survey** - Please use the link [here](#) to provide insight into what FBCA does well and where we can make improvements.

Please remember that next week is the week to use the PTF Free Dress Pass for those that already purchased a pass from Advancement. Please remember to follow the dress code as outlined in the FBCA [Student & Family Handbook](#). The students will receive a bracelet from Advancement to show they've purchased the dress pass. Please ensure your child wears it throughout the entire week.

Thank you for a wonderful first quarter! I am so thankful for your continued partnership.

With Gratitude,
Stephanie Clayton

LOWER SCHOOL NEWS

October 21-23: Pumpkin Decorating Contest: Celebrate fall by decorating an artificial pumpkin as your favorite book character! For more information, please see the [flyer](#) or contact Ms. Tucker (atucker@fortbendchristian.org).

PSIA Academic Team (1st – 4th grade)



1st – 4th Grade Tryouts for Optional Events are October 15th, 16th and 17th immediately after school. **A detailed schedule for these days was sent home the week of October 7th.** If you would like more information, contact Teresa Dibble at tdibble@fortbendchristian.org.

1st – 4th Grade Parents – This is just a reminder that in order for your child to have the option to get ice cream on Fridays, you'll need to ensure there is not a \$6 limit or any dessert restrictions on LunchTab. Ice cream treats cost \$1.50. Please reach out to taher@fortbendchristian.org with any questions.

REMINDERS

School Times

Pre-K and Kindergarten: 8:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

1st – 4th Grade: 8:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Lunch Times

Pre-K, Kindergarten: 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

1st Grade, 2nd Grade: 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

3rd Grade, 4th Grade: 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**We love having parents visit for lunch. Please remember to bring lunch just for your child and only visit the Cafetorium while you're here. If you need to connect with your child's teacher, please set up a conference to do so. We want to make sure they get to enjoy their lunch as well. Thanks so much for your attention to this matter. **

Uniforms

As a reminder, students are required to wear uniforms. We have been made aware that some families are waiting for ordered uniform pieces to be delivered. We are in communication with Dennis, and an email was sent on August 8 with more details if you are not able to make a complete uniform outfit due to waiting for items to be delivered.

[Dennis Uniforms](#) is the official school uniform provider. You may order at Dennis Uniforms with the FBCA school code 8312. Students might also want to purchase spirit wear – FBCA outerwear apparel (can be worn at any time) and school spirit shirts (can be worn on Fridays with jeans). Approved outerwear and spirit apparel must be purchased from the FBCA Spirit Store.

Extended Care

Morning Care: 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.

After School Care for PK/K: 2:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

After School Care for 1st – 4th: 3:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Extended Care will be available beginning the first day of school. If you have any questions, please contact our Assistant Head of Lower School, Riki Garcia at rigarcia@fortbendchristian.org

Arrival/Dismissal Procedures

Maps to help with traffic flow will be provided in the Back-to-School packet that you will pick up in your child's classroom on Monday, August 12 at the Meet the Teacher from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Morning Drop-off

To help with the flow of traffic for FBCA, we encourage parents to turn right on Lakeview from Gillingham from the direction of Jess Pirtle. Also, left turns from Lakeview to enter the parking lot are prohibited during morning and afternoon carpool times.

In an effort to help with the traffic flow for nearby businesses, we ask that you do not use Schlumberger's parking lot and driveway as a turnaround or waiting point to get in the FBCA carline.

We are asking families to approach our campus as follows:

Take Highway 90 to Eldridge

Head north on Eldridge to Seventh Street

Turn right on Seventh Street

Turn right on Gillingham

Turn right on Lakeview until you reach our parking lot

Left turns on Lakeview to enter the Lower School/Middle School parking lot are prohibited.

Morning drop-off for Lower School begins at 7:30 a.m. Enter the parking lot and circle around to form one line. On-duty staff members, Dads on Duty, and CIA (Courtesy-In-Action) students will assist your child(ren) in exiting your car. For the safety of students, do not allow children to exit vehicles unassisted or to exit from the left side of your vehicle. In order for traffic to flow continuously and so that others are not kept waiting, please have backpacks ready to unload and kisses and hugs already given! Your child will be escorted into the

building and attended in the LS/MS gym until our staff is dismissed from morning devotion at 7:50 a.m.

PLEASE NOTE: Children dropped off prior to 7:30 a.m. must be escorted by a parent into Morning Care. Regular Extended Care charges will be applied to your child's tuition account.

After School Pick-up

Traffic flow for after-school pick-up of Lower School students:

- PK/Kindergarten students are dismissed at 2:45 p.m.
- Prominently display your carline tag from your rearview mirror
- Enter the lot and proceed to the covered area by the second door (gym and extended care entrance) and form two lines
- Attending staff will escort student(s) to your car
- At 3:00 p.m., remaining students will be taken to extended care prior to the middle school dismissal and regular Extended Care fees will be charged.
- PK/K students riding with older Lower School or Middle School students will be supervised in a designated area until 3:15 p.m.
- Middle School students are dismissed at 3:05 p.m.
- If you arrive before the Middle School dismissal has concluded, please line up on Lakeview Drive.
- 1st – 4th grade students are dismissed at 3:15 p.m.
- Hang Carpool tag on your mirror
- For parents picking up one child – Single carline: Please display the carpool tag from your rearview mirror. As you enter the parking lot, two lines will form. The *left* lane is for parents picking up one child – no siblings or carpools. Circle around to the first row of parking spaces and proceed until near the covered porte cochere. Your child will be waiting in a designated area and placed in your car by a staff member.
- For parents picking up multiple students, including carpools and middle school students: Please display the carline tag from your rearview mirror. As you enter the

parking lot, two lines are formed. The right lane is for parents picking up two or more children including carpools Your child(ren) will be escorted and loaded into your car by a staff member.

- At 3:35 p.m. students will be escorted to Extended Care. Childcare charges will be applied to your tuition account.

Important Updates from the IT Department

Blackbaud (MyFBCA) is the core system for student and parent information for FBCA. Please go through and update the following information if changes have occurred:

Parents, please ensure the contact record on your account, spouses account or guardians account contains an updated phone number and email address. This is important for you to receive emails and information.

SchoolPass

If you have not done so already, please download the SchoolPass mobile app and ensure it is up to date. SchoolPass will be the primary way to communicate attendance change; late arrivals, notifying the school of early departures, reporting absences.

Student Profile Photos

Teachers and cafeteria service personnel would love to see a student's picture associated with their profile. Please know this is optional, but the step(s) below:

1. Login to MyFBCA
2. Select your student
3. Click Contact Card
4. Edit Photo and upload

Calendar

The calendar in MyFBCA has been enhanced to show not only a student's schedule but also the instructional calendar, traditions calendar, events by divisions, and athletic events by divisions. The same calendar with the exception of the students schedules is integrated on the FBCA website and mobile app. Parents have the option to unselect calendars they do not want to see and subscribe to calendars. [Click here to watch the MyFBCA overview video.](#)

LunchTab

The Cafeteria System, MyPaymentsPlus, has been replaced for the 2024–2025 school year with a system called LunchTab. LunchTab integrates with MyFBCA for student information and leverages the same login. Other features include:

- POS will support a faster lunch line by offering biometric scanning (MS and US only) to look up student accounts. Student ID QR codes for Upper School will still be an option.
- Parents and caregivers have control of their child’s meal choices and full visibility of spending.
- Parents and families can manage how children are allowed to spend money from the family account daily (for example, only one snack per day).
- Automatic email notifications for a variety of specific events. These include low balances, overdrawn accounts, order confirmations, reminders, and more.
- A LunchTab welcome email will be sent the week of August 5 from the email address: support@lunchtab.io

Nurse’s Office

Next week, the nurses will be conducting vision and hearing screenings for all Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st grade, and 3rd grade students. These are state mandated screenings to catch any issues with hearing or vision. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us.

Please make sure you have filled out the online Snap Health Portal. The health portal is used for all health condition updates and permission for medications (Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Benadryl, and Tums). If you have any questions about the health portal, please contact Danielle Herndon, dherndon@fortbendchristian.org.

- Link to Snap Health Portal: <https://www.studentehr.com/>
 - If you cannot locate your welcome email, click the “forgot password” link.

Click here to watch a Parent Tutorial Video from the FBCA IT Department on How to use the SNAP Health Portal.

- On the SNAP Health Portal, parents will need to update their students’ record

- Demographics- give permission to treat and transport in an emergency
- Health conditions and other alerts
- Medications- Give permission for nurses to administer OTCs such as tylenol, benadryl, ibuprofen, tums and sudafed (12 years and up) in the clinic.

Nurse Contact Information:

Lead Nurse, Lower/Middle School (PK-8): dherndon@fortbendchristian.org

Lower/Middle School (PK-8): aclements@fortbendchristian.org

COUNSELORS CORNER

Next week I will have guidance lessons with 4th graders!

Empathy:

The ability to see things from another's perspective and feel their emotions. Putting yourself in another person's shoes might lead you to act with compassion and do what you can to improve their situation.

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 7:12.

Important facts and benefits of Empathy:

- ♥ **Empathy is a learned skill-** Children learn empathy by modeling their parents and trusted adults
- ♥ **Empathy is important and builds connections**
- ♥ **Empathy is a valuable skill-** research shows that empathetic children grow up to be more successful adults
- ♥ **Empathy helps with personal relationships-** it's influential and inspiring for others
- ♥ **Empathy helps with problem solving-** helps develop problem solving skills
- ♥ **Empathy helps with regulating emotions-** research shows that very young children that learn to recognize emotions in others can regulate their own emotions more easily
- ♥ **Empathy helps disrupt stereotypes-** Disrupting stereotypes can help kids avoid making unrealistic, unkind assumptions about others

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mrs. Stephanie Clayton, Head of Lower School

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Mrs. Riki Garcia, Assistant Head of Lower School

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Mrs. Jade Hawkins, Lower School Counselor

JHawkins@fortbendchristian.org

Ms. Liz Thorton, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

LThorton@fortbendchristian.org

Mrs. Kelly DeLozier, Lower School Administrative Assistant

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Lower School Attendance

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Nursing Staff

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