

# The FSDB Experience, Unlike Any Other



**Florida School for  
the Deaf & the Blind**

*Do More. Be More. Achieve More.*

# Students Gain the Edge to Do MORE, Be MORE and Achieve MORE

In small moments, significant accomplishments and everything in between, the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (FSDB) experience makes it possible for students to accomplish more than they ever imagined.

We are proud that FSDB is nationally recognized as a trusted resource for the education of students who are deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired or deafblind. Our campus of more than 80 acres in historic St. Augustine features a Montessori-based pre-K school and five K-12 schools including access to virtual classes and dual enrollment opportunities. FSDB also offers statewide parent-infant and family support services across the state of Florida in addition to educational outreach and training services.

What truly sets FSDB apart from other schools – and why parents/guardians choose FSDB – are our highly qualified teachers, specialists and staff members, small class sizes, advanced technologies, specialized support services and much more.

Academic programs at FSDB are based on the Florida Standards, and students work toward the attainment of their standard diploma. In a typical academic year, career and technical education courses are offered both on-campus as well as off-campus through partnerships with postsecondary schools and businesses. Students also have opportunities to take part in a wide array of extracurricular, performing arts, and recreational activities including academic and athletic competitions.

The FSDB experience—unlike any other Florida school—gives students the edge, so they can *do more, be more, and achieve more*, fulfilling our vision of preparing them for a lifetime of success.

**Tracie C. Snow**  
*President*



# FSDDB at a Glance

**TUITION-FREE**  
State Pre-K & K-12 Public School

 **1885**  
School Founded

 **80+**  
Acre Campus Located in  
Historic St. Augustine

**6**   
Pre-K & K-12 Schools

**2**   
Statewide Parent-Infant  
Early Intervention Programs

**ACCREDITED**   
by CEASD & Cognia

**1,000+**  
Students Served on  
Campus & Statewide

 **TRANSPORTATION**  
Free for Day & Boarding Students

**1:1**   
Technology Devices

 **841**  
Seat Auditorium

**20**   
Member Police Department

 **24/7**  
Health Care Center

**2**   
Libraries &  
Media Centers

**3**   
Gymnasiums

**14**   
Mental  
Health Professionals

**21**   
Athletic Team Sports

**25k**   
Gallon Salt  
Water Swimming Pool

**8k** sq. ft   
Dedicated Music Building

**2**   
Bowling Alleys

**79°**   
Average Temperature

 **223**  
Sunny Days per Year

## School Safety Overall Satisfaction

**99%**  
Parents

**92%**  
Students

**97%**  
Staff

# **When It Comes to Education, MORE Matters**

## **Vision**

**FSDB will prepare each student for a lifetime of success.**

## **Mission**

**The mission of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind is to utilize all available talent, energy, and resources to provide free appropriate public education for eligible sensory-impaired students of Florida. As a school of academic excellence, the school shall strive to provide students an opportunity to access education services in a caring, safe, unique learning environment to prepare them to be literate, employable, and independent lifelong learners. The school shall provide outreach services that include collaboration with district school boards and shall encourage input from students, staff, parents, and the community. As a diverse organization, the school shall foster respect and understanding for each individual. (Florida Statute 1002.36)**

## **Values**

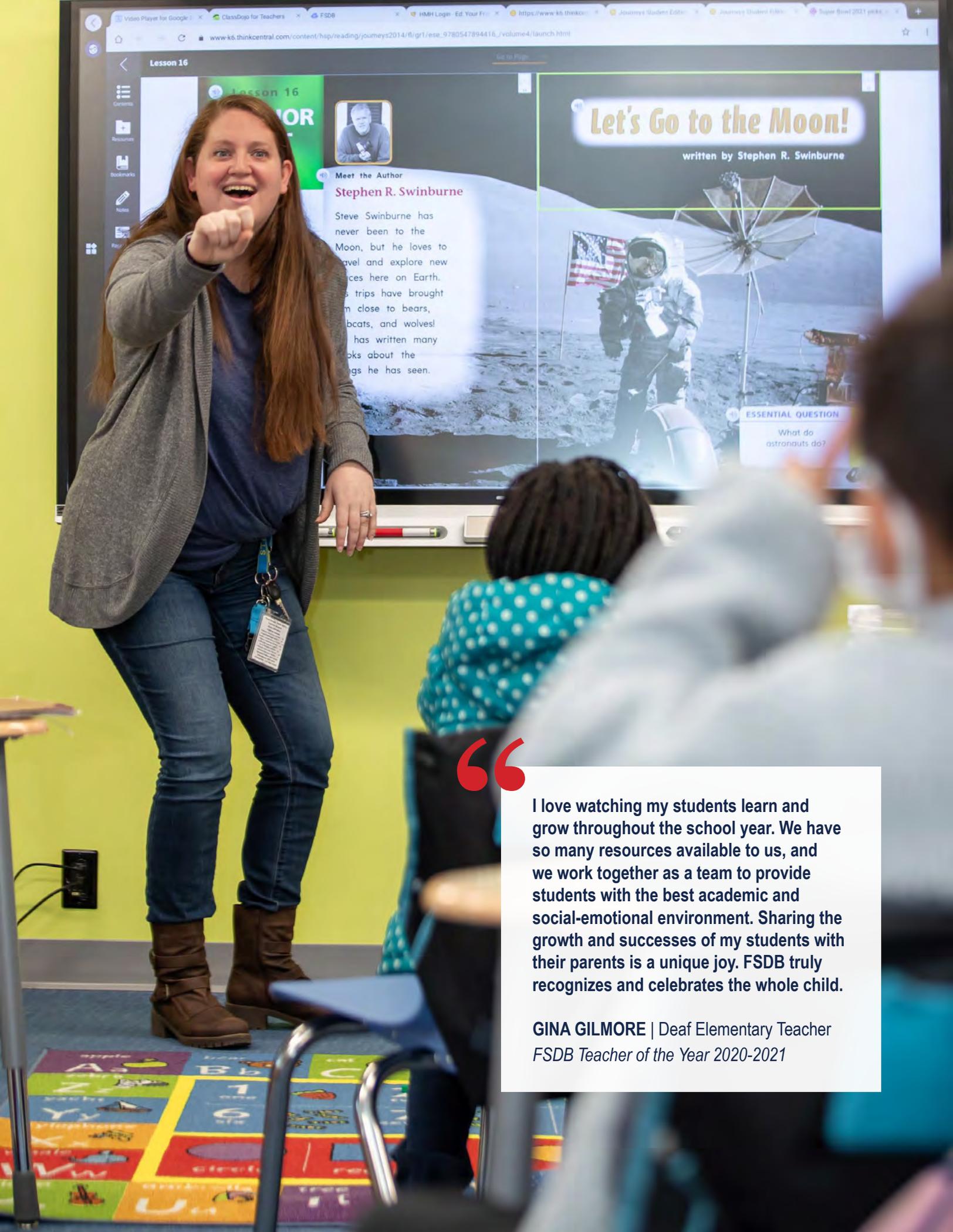
**FSDB is committed to carrying out its mission with emphasis on high-quality education, diversity, integrity and respect, safety and security, and innovation.**

## **Leadership**

**FSDB operates under the direction of its board of trustees, appointed by the Florida governor and confirmed by the state Senate. The FSDB president reports to the board; serves as the educational leader of the school; and is responsible for the organization, operation, and management of the school and its programs and services.**

## **Accreditation**

**FSDB is accredited by AdvancED (now known as Cognia) and the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD).**



I love watching my students learn and grow throughout the school year. We have so many resources available to us, and we work together as a team to provide students with the best academic and social-emotional environment. Sharing the growth and successes of my students with their parents is a unique joy. FSDB truly recognizes and celebrates the whole child.

**GINA GILMORE** | Deaf Elementary Teacher  
*FSDB Teacher of the Year 2020-2021*

# Success Begins Early

## Parent Infant Program

The FSDB Parent Infant Program offers statewide early intervention, family-centered opportunities free of charge for children ages 0-5. A specialized team of trained professionals—who serve as parent advisors—provide individualized services in the family’s home and during daily routines, in the child’s natural environment.

► [fsdbk12.org/parent-infant-program](https://fsdbk12.org/parent-infant-program)

## Montessori Early Learning Center

FSDB provides two Montessori programs on its campus at no cost to local families. An Early Learning Center (ELC) preschool is available for children ages 3-5, and a Toddler Program for children 18 months to 3 years old. The ELC is a place where your child can learn and grow in a cheerful, nurturing and stimulating environment that emphasizes learning through discovery.

► [fsdbk12.org/early-learning-center](https://fsdbk12.org/early-learning-center)

**575+** Children Ages 0-5 Served  
Across the State of Florida

**Do MORE**





“

Raising a blind daughter has been both a challenge and a blessing. It has been gratifying to have a parent advisor help make our journey with McKenna easier.

**SHELBY CAMPOSANO** | Parent of McKenna  
*FSDB Parent-Infant Program, Blind/Visually-Impaired*



“

The staff at FSDB have been wonderful for our children, who are thriving in an educational environment that values ASL as their native language. It is heartwarming to see them become more confident, try out new interests and learning experiences, and seek opportunities to excel.

**SUSAN & RANDALL HANCOCK** | Parents of Emma, Nauvoo, Amaleki & Abinadi  
*FSDB Elementary, Middle & High Schools*

“

FSDB provided a safe environment where I could build a foundation of independence, self-advocacy and ambitious academic and athletic goals. Having access to some of the best teachers, resources and staff available, truly helped me to hold myself accountable for my own success and outcomes in pursuit of these goals.

**DONTÉ A. MICKENS** | Class of 1997

*Senior Financial Analyst, National Council on Compensation Insurance  
Medalist, USA Men's Goalball Team,  
Paralympic Games*



“

I want to thank FSDB for instilling the foundations of interpersonal communication, life experiences, academic abilities, a strong work ethic, and confidence in myself. These have carried me throughout my life and career. I am who I am today because FSDB was the basis of my journey to success!

**CANDACE JONES** | Class of 2001

*Anchor, Sign1News  
American Sign Language Teacher,  
Atlanta Area School for the Deaf*



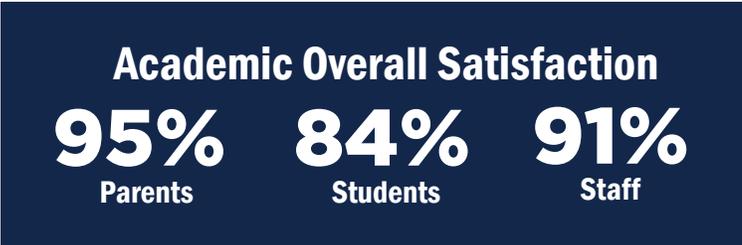
# Learn to Love Learning

Student learning at FSDB is made possible through the support of dedicated teachers and specialists. They hold multiple certifications in specific academic content areas and in the education of students who are either deaf/hard of hearing or blind/visually impaired.

The FSDB curriculum is aligned to Florida Standards, Next Generation Sunshine State Standards, Florida Access Points; geared toward student attainment of standard diplomas upon graduation. High-quality instructional materials follow the same adoption schedule as all other Florida school districts. Students at FSDB benefit from barrier-free access to these materials and the resultant instructional opportunities.

Student-centered experiences at FSDB are designed to foster intellectual curiosity, nurture personal growth, encourage creative exploration and inspire a lifelong love of learning.

► [fsdbk12.org/academics](https://fsdbk12.org/academics)



**Do MORE**



# Know More About the World



## Instructional Personnel

**94%** Dual+ Certifications

**66%** Advanced Degrees  
Masters and beyond

As students progress through FSDB K-12 schools, they learn to read actively, to write clearly, to think critically, to engage in meaningful dialogue and to act responsibly in today's changing world. Students also learn from each other, grow together and are a part of a dynamic and vibrant educational community.

Small class sizes, dual-certified teachers, standards-based curriculum, individualized instruction, specialized professional services, and advanced technologies at FSDB create a strong foundation for student achievement.

What makes FSDB different from other educational programs is full access to world-class knowledge through language acquisition, development, and mastery. Students who are deaf or hard of hearing benefit from American Sign Language and English instruction. Students who are blind or visually impaired benefit from audio, braille, and large print instruction.

► [fsdbk12.org/academics](https://fsdbk12.org/academics)



## Teacher-Student Classroom Ratios

**1:6**  
PK-Grade 3

**1:8**  
Grades 4-8

**1:10**  
Grades 9-12

**Do MORE**



The relationships here between teachers and students are unlike those at any other school—they are special. It is evident through the interactions seen both on- and off-campus, as well as while students are here and long after they graduate. We are a family. I feel like I am at home when teaching at the school. FSDB will always hold a special place in my heart.

**YVONNE SAMUELS** | Deaf Elementary Teacher  
*FSDB Teacher of the Year 2019-2020*



“

My time at FSDB spanned 15 of the first 18 years of my life. During those 15 years I developed lifelong friendships, received a quality education, access to social life through sign language, and opportunities to create perpetual memories out of those social and academic experiences. I can say that, if not for FSDB, I don't see how I would have grown into the man I am today. I will always have Dragon Pride in my heart!

**OSCAR L. OCUTO, Ed.D** | Class of 1997  
*Assistant Professor, Department of Education,  
Gallaudet University*



# Take on New Challenges

Teachers, specialists, coaches, and mentors regularly motivate FSDB students to stretch beyond their comfort zones—encouraging them to become proactive, independent, and thriving learners who take responsibility for their academic accomplishments.

The curriculum at FSDB provides a rich array of options for students who choose to further their academic goals. These include honors, advanced placement, elective, and dual enrollment courses through Florida Virtual School (FLVS), Rochester Institute of Technology at National Technical Institute for the Deaf (RIT/NTID), St. Johns River State College (SJRC), and neighboring public schools.

► [fsdbk12.org/academics](https://fsdbk12.org/academics)

**138** College Credits  
Earned by High School Students

**Do MORE**



# Explore Multiple Career Paths

FSDB prepares students for success in college and careers by integrating academic and career coursework and on-the-job training activities.

Career development at FSDB begins early; elementary students explore and gain exposure to the world of work. Middle and high school students have the opportunity to take Career and Technical Education (CTE) skills development courses in specific career paths at FSDB and First Coast Technical College (FCTC).

FSDB works closely with campus departments and local business partners to provide students with real-world learning experiences through on- and off-campus employment opportunities.

► [fsdbk12.org/career-and-technical-education](https://fsdbk12.org/career-and-technical-education)

**25** FSDB & FCTC  
CTE Programs

**Do MORE**





“

I started FSDB in the third grade—the teachers and staff are like family and I have formed many relationships. FSDB has helped me become more sociable. FSDB has given me many opportunities like helping me improve my ASL and English language skills and reading skills. Having the opportunity to go to First Coast Technical College has helped me prepare for my future. I always dreamed of becoming an automobile technician/mechanic like my dad and thanks to FSDB my dream is coming true.

**LUIS HURTADO NUNEZ** | Class of 2019  
*Quicklane Technician, Bozard Ford Lincoln*



My family moved from Michigan when I was in 5th grade so I could attend FSDB. The school and Orientation & Mobility teachers have taught me how to be more independent. I am learning how to rely more on auditory skills, so I can be ready for a guide dog.

**NIKLAS HAM** | Student  
*FSDB Blind Middle School*



# Support for Your Success



As part of our focus on putting the unique needs of each student first, FSDB personnel work with students to develop confidence, acquire new skills, and strengthen their ability to achieve success both within and outside the classroom.

Staff longevity and expertise allow students to get to know the academic, extracurricular, boarding, and specialized service personnel who support them on their path to success at FSDB.

## Academic Support Services

- Adaptive Physical Education Specialists
- American Sign Language (ASL) Specialists
- Assistive Technology Specialists
- Braille Specialists
- Educational Diagnostics
- English Language Learner (ELL) Specialists
- Interpreter Service Providers
- Mathematics Specialists
- Orientation and Mobility Specialists
- Reading Specialists

## Health & Related Services

- Audiologists
- Behavior Specialists
- Health Care Specialists
- Occupational & Physical Therapists
- Psychologists
- School Counselors
- Social Workers
- Speech-Language Therapists
- Vision Specialists

**Do MORE**

# Reach for the Stars

FSDB students are consistently encouraged to push their boundaries—reach for the stars—by taking part in academic and career competitions at the local, regional, state, and national levels.



## Individual and Team Competition Opportunities

- Academic Bowl
- Battle of the Books
- Braille Challenge
- Culinary Bowl
- Math Competition
- Poetry Out Loud Contest
- Robotics Challenge
- Science Fair
- SkillsUSA Contests
- Speech Contest
- Spelling Bee
- Writing Contests

**Be MORE**

“

I love that I can socialize with my friends. We learn how to solve problems ourselves. I also feel very supported by the teachers here at FSDB. I can understand and progress through my learning so quickly because communication is clear. I love having the opportunity to participate in volleyball, basketball, and flag football. I love FSDB.

**KAYLA DEBROW** | Student  
*FSDB Deaf Middle School*





When someone asks me where I graduated from, I am beyond proud to answer FSDB. The school has molded me into the person I am today in so many ways. I was able to expand my knowledge in the classroom, discover my love for sports through athletics, and become more independent from mobility. I have not only developed an amazing support system but now have an extended family. I am blessed to say that FSDB has shown me what I am capable of as a student, athlete, and individual. I am so grateful for choosing to attend FSDB.

**ZOE WILSON** | Co-Valedictorian, Class of 2019  
*Exercise Physiology, Florida State University*



# Discover Who You Are

At FSDB, students have a wide range of opportunities to broaden their horizons, discover new interests, and develop lifelong friendships.



**Be MORE**

# Grow Your Mind & Body

FSDB students have a wide variety of choices for enrichment and growth through extracurricular clubs and activities. Recreational activities for boarding students are also part of the options that promote a well-rounded and healthy lifestyle.

► [fsdbk12.org/student-life](https://fsdbk12.org/student-life)

## Extracurricular Highlights

- Blind Winter Sports and Ski Club
- Close Up & Government in Action
- Chess and Outdoor Clubs
- Coding, Robotics and STEM Clubs
- Deaf Golf Camp
- Girl Scouts
- Junior NAD
- Safety Patrol
- Student Council
- Young Life

## Recreational Highlights

- Arts and Crafts
- Exercise and Fitness
- Basketball, Bowling, Softball, and Volleyball
- Canoeing, Fishing, Kayaking and Swimming
- Movie Nights and Themed Dances
- Special Events/Trips



**Be MORE**



“

Through the FSDB Winter Sports and Ski Club, I was given opportunities to try new activities like skiing and ice climbing, which was my favorite. I loved the challenge of the climb and how my arms burned, but most of all I loved that I made it to the top of the ice wall! I didn't think I would be able to climb the ice. I almost stopped halfway through. Finishing it made me realize I need to push and believe in myself.

**TRISTON RAY** | Senior, Class of 2021  
*FSDB Blind High School*



“

The FSDB campus brings warm memories of the sun-kissed terracotta roofs of the white buildings that opened up to corridors where I could learn and play. FSDB gave me the roots I needed to grow and reach into the unknown, full of the riches of language and opportunity. It's where I first learned to create and edit videos. I love telling people that I'm an FSDB alumnus, a proud Dragon. Because that's who I am and to what I owe my professional success.

**ALEX N. ABENCHUCHAN** | Class of 2004  
*Host and Creator, The Daily Moth*



# Immerse Yourself in the Arts

Students at FSDB have the opportunity to unleash their creativity and self-expression through a variety of visual and performing arts across academic and extracurricular activities. They achieve these through a range of art forms including ceramics, chorus, dance, drama, film, fine arts, graphic design, instrumental and vocal music, orchestra, photography, poetry, sculpture, theatre, and video.

► [fsdbk12.org/performing-arts](https://fsdbk12.org/performing-arts)

## Be MORE





# Get Involved & Win

Through athletics, FSDB students acquire teamwork, sportsmanship, and leadership skills while competing in team sports with local public and private schools and across the state and nation.

► [fsdbk12.org/athletics](https://fsdbk12.org/athletics)

## Home of the Dragons & Cobras!

- 21** Athletic Team Sports
- 4** National Football Championships
- 18** Mason-Dixon Cheerleading Championships
- 16** Mason-Dixon Volleyball Championships
- 25** Goalball National Championships



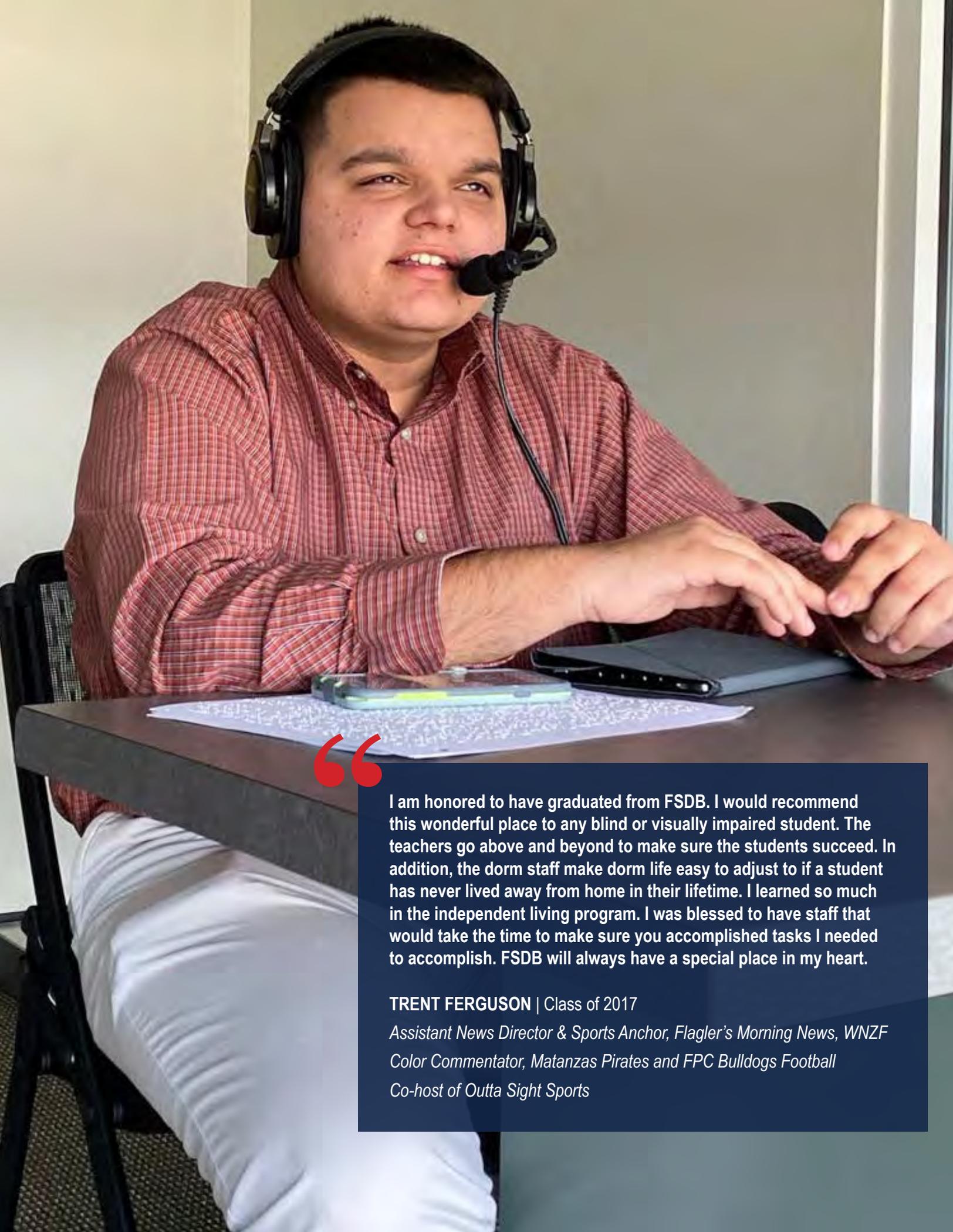
# Be MORE

“

I am so grateful for the opportunities FSDB has given me to compete with my teammates over the years. I had the chance to play in tournaments all over the nation, have travel experiences, and opportunities to meet new people. My team won multiple national championships and conference championships, and I've been honored with many individual awards. However, I also recognize how beneficial the experiences I had were to my personal growth and development. I will be able to take the skills and confidence gained through these experiences to be better prepared for a successful future.

**BRIANNA CRUZ** | Senior, Class of 2021  
*FSDB Blind High School*





“

I am honored to have graduated from FSDB. I would recommend this wonderful place to any blind or visually impaired student. The teachers go above and beyond to make sure the students succeed. In addition, the dorm staff make dorm life easy to adjust to if a student has never lived away from home in their lifetime. I learned so much in the independent living program. I was blessed to have staff that would take the time to make sure you accomplished tasks I needed to accomplish. FSDB will always have a special place in my heart.

**TRENT FERGUSON** | Class of 2017

*Assistant News Director & Sports Anchor, Flagler's Morning News, WNZF  
Color Commentator, Matanzas Pirates and FPC Bulldogs Football  
Co-host of Outta Sight Sports*

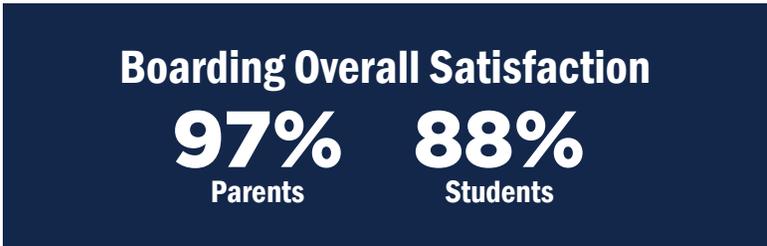


# Your Home Away from Home



Students in the FSDB boarding program benefit from a comfortable environment that serves as their home away from home. Boarding personnel are teachers, mentors, advisors, and surrogate family members. Boarding students learn the life skills essential for a successful transition to the adult world of independent living, employment, postsecondary education, and community involvement. Students also engage in recreational and leisure activities after school and during evening hours.

FSDB provides transportation services free of charge for day and boarding students. Local students who live in St. Augustine and surrounding areas go home daily. Students who live throughout the state travel home every Friday and return to school on Sunday.



► [fsdbk12.org/boarding](https://fsdbk12.org/boarding)



**12**   
Dormitories & Apartments

## Be MORE



# Year-Round Opportunities

## Outreach

FSDB serves as a trusted resource throughout the state of Florida, providing comprehensive programs and services for students, their families, and the professionals who serve them. Our goal is to increase awareness about the many campus-based and statewide programs and services by offering ASL classes, braille literacy opportunities, seasonal campus expos, school-age outreach training, consultation and evaluation services, and more!

► [fsdbk12.org/outreach](https://fsdbk12.org/outreach)



## Summer Programs

FSDB offers multiple academic camps for currently enrolled students that provide a fun, meaningful learning experience in the areas of language arts, reading, math, and concept development.

Prospective students can participate in our Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) Summer Academy, which focuses on areas of leadership, self-advocacy, digital citizenship, and career education skills development. Participants will also have opportunities to enjoy a variety of recreation and leisure activities, and social experiences.

► [fsdbk12.org/summer-camps](https://fsdbk12.org/summer-camps)



More than **50%**  
of Expanded Core Curriculum  
Summer Academy enrollees  
choose to attend FSDB



**Achieve MORE**



I came to a summer camp at FSDB and thought I had finally fit in somewhere. I saw other blind people like me, and immediately felt a sense of belonging.

**ANDREW SOLEYN** | Salutatorian, Class of 2016  
*Interdisciplinary Social Sciences*  
*Florida State University*



After surgery to remove a brain tumor, Andrew had to face a lot of medical and visual challenges. This was in addition to his being moderately hearing impaired. Overwhelmed, I was on a mission to find a school and environment that could empathically help him cope and succeed. FSDB convinced me my prayers had been answered! They assured me they knew how to help my son thrive academically, physically, socially, and emotionally. They'd been doing so for so many others for over a century! Mission accomplished!

**VERA JONES** | Parent of Andrew Soleyn  
*Speaker, Author, and Broadcaster*





“

As a junior in high school, I decided to transfer to FSDB, partly because of bullying in public school due to the thickness of my glasses. There is no question in my mind that FSDB was the right choice—it served as the foundation for my success in college and career as an attorney. I never imagined at that time that I would one day serve on the school’s board of trustees. In 2019, my fellow trustees elected me as the board chair—quite an honor, since they are amazing leaders in their own right. I will always be a staunch supporter of the school’s mission to enable students to do more, be more, and achieve more.

**OWEN B. MCCAUL** | Class of 1982

*Chair, FSDB Board of Trustees*

*Assistant State Attorney and General Counsel for the State Attorney’s Office, Second Judicial Circuit of Florida*

# Your Future is Our Focus

Students who graduate from FSDB will join the growing ranks of alumni who are successful in their careers. From the time they arrive at FSDB, highly qualified personnel are focused on giving you the edge—knowledge, skills, and abilities—to prepare you for a lifetime of success.

“While growing up, I always had high hopes and dreams for the future. With the help of the strong support team that makes up FSDB, I was able to make these dreams come to fruition and take advantage of the opportunities that would have never been offered elsewhere. I’ll always be eternally grateful for the time I got to spend at FSDB because it contributed to who I am today.

**BRIEARA WARREN** | Valedictorian, Class of 2020  
*Interdisciplinary Sciences*  
*Florida State University*

**Achieve MORE**



“

When I was in mainstream classes, I often felt alone. Now that I'm around other Deaf students, I finally feel like I've found my place. We're the same. We share the same language, so communication is easier. I'm more comfortable participating in school sports, because I'm an equal member of the team. At FSDB, I found community.

**MICAH ENGLEMAN** | Student  
*FSDB Deaf High School*



“

We moved our family across the state for FSDB, and I'm so thankful for the enormous support we received from the school. Now, my son has far more opportunities to grow and learn, both academically and athletically. For his social and emotional health, FSDB's devoted teachers, warm community and gorgeous campus have all made our move well worth it.

**ELIZABETH ENGLEMAN** | Parent of Micah Engleman



# Ready. Set. Apply!

## Arrange a Campus Visit

The best way to discover if you'll love it at FSD is to come for a visit. A personalized tour will give you the chance to explore our campus, meet current students and teachers, and ask the admissions team and administrators any questions you may have.

PH: 800-344-3732  
VP: 904-201-4527  
info@fsdbk12.org

► [fsdbk12.org/visit-us](https://fsdbk12.org/visit-us)

## Apply for Admission

FSD enrollment information is available on our website, including an online application. We're also happy to assist you and answer any questions you may have—contact us!

PH: 904-827-2220  
VP: 904-201-4460  
registrar@fsdbk12.org

► [fsdbk12.org/admissions](https://fsdbk12.org/admissions)



# Achieve MORE



# Florida School for the Deaf & the Blind

*Do More. Be More. Achieve More.*

*Connect with Us*

207 San Marco Avenue  
St. Augustine, FL 32084  
PH: 800-344-3732  
VP: 904-201-4527

[www.fsdbk12.org](http://www.fsdbk12.org)

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#### Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (FSDB) does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sex, religion, national origin, political opinion, affiliation, marital status, genetic information, disability, veteran status or any other basis as mandated by federal and state law in its educational programs, services or activities, or in its hiring or employment practices. FSDB also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups as required by law.