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PRAYER FOR BACK TO SCHOOL

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Let's pray using Colossians 1:9-12 as our guide.
For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, 10 so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, 12 and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. Colossians 1:9-12 (NIV)

Instructions

1. Invite your whole family to join you to pray together for this school year.
2. Consider going for a walk at your school (a school campus or a home school) or in your neighborhood before your school begins.
3. Pray (while you walk) using the lists below. This prayer can be very conversational.
4. You can pray with your family or on your own, speaking out loud (to each other)
5. Take turns praying in each category for specific needs.

Colossians 1:9 — For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you.

Pray for the safety and protection of your school

- Pray for different areas of the school or home, praying for what will happen there

- Pray for those who take care of the school, the custodians, and maintenance staff
- Pray for the administrative workers and all the preparation that is happening
- Pray for the counselors and nurse as they guide and help children
- Pray for the cafeteria and the food service workers
- Pray for the relationships that will be built over breakfast and lunch
- Pray for the library and librarians, that God's wonders will be discovered in reading and research
- Pray for the gym and the physical education teacher, that they would give us fun ways to help the children grow in strength

John 14:27 — Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

Colossians 1:9b — We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,

Pray for the students to grow in wisdom

- Pray for each student by name
- Pray for God to fill your student with the knowledge of who Jesus is and how much He loves us
- Pray for Godly wisdom for each student to learn more academically and spiritually
- Pray that the students will grow in understanding of their identity in Christ
- Pray that students will see God working in their lives this year

Pray for your teachers/administrators

- Name as many teachers by name as you can
- Pray for wisdom and leadership for teachers and administrators
- Pray for them as they prepare for the new school year
- Pray for their families and children
- Pray they will meet the needs of the students
- Pray that they will feel valued in this important role

- Pray that they will come to know Christ and live in relationship with Him
- Pray that they will honor God with their actions

Proverbs 16:3, 9 — Commit your works to the Lord and your plans will be established....The mind of man plans his way but the Lord directs his steps.

Colossians 1:10a — so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way:

Pray for individual students in your home

- Pray for those in your family who are beginning a new school year
- Pray for any anxiousness and ask God to bring peace
- Pray for any fear and ask that God will bring courage
- Pray for positive learning experiences and ask God to give wisdom
- Pray for new experiences and opportunities
- Pray that they will honor God with their actions this year

Psalm 32:8 — I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you

Colossians 1:10b — bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

- Pray that the students will consistently do good works and see the results academically and spiritually
- Pray that students will grow in understanding of God through all they learn
- Pray that students will know God better as they grow in relationship with Him.

Philippians 1:6 — For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Colossians 1:11 — being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,

Pray for your classmates and friends

- Name as many as you can by name.
- Pray for them as they prepare to start school
- Pray for good friendships for them and with them
- Pray that you will be able to offer kindness and encouragement
- Pray that your friends will come to know Jesus and grow in relationship with Him
- Pray that they will honor God with their actions this year

Isaiah 30:21 — Your ears will hear a word behind you, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left.

Pray for patience and endurance in new schedules and all the new things you will learn

- Pray that you will begin healthy routines for rest, sleep, and work
- Pray for families who are getting everyone where they need to be
- Pray that families will make time to worship together at church
- Pray that families will make time to worship and pray together at home

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 — Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Colossians 1:12 — and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

Have a time of thanks. Thank God for whatever comes to mind.

- Thank Him for what He did this summer
- Thank Him for ways he has already provided for this year
- Thank Him for family members helping each other
- Thank Him for Jesus and salvation
- Thank Him for answered prayers

Psalm 107:1 — Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; his love endures forever.