



Prayer for Students, Educators, and Families

Leader: With you, every transition and new start is a reminder of your goodness, for you are always creating fresh, amazing things in us and through us. Though we are sad about the summer ending, we are grateful for this school year. We appreciate the opportunity to learn and grow, knowing it is one of the biggest privileges we have. With gratitude and love, we now offer everything we are to God, praying for blessing on our students, educators, and families – and on us all!

Leader: We pray for students of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. For the little ones, for school students, for college students, and all those pursuing an education. We pray for their hearts and all they hold—excitement and nervousness, disappointment and hope. Hold all their loves and fears. We pray for steady self-esteem and deepening resilience. Loving God,

ALL: Hold our children and their prayers.

Leader: We pray for our minds, that they will expand in wonder and celebration, learning not just from the books and subjects we study, but also the people around us. Open our minds with a willingness to be changed in unexpected ways, and settle our thought loops in peaceful places. Loving God,

ALL: Hold our children, their minds and their prayers.

Leader: We pray for our hands, that they will reach out to help welcome and care. Bless our hands with patience and dedication as they grip pencils and type on keyboards, swish paint brushes and clap in song, grip monkey bars and lunch box handles, spin wheelchair tires and basketballs. Loving God,

ALL: Hold our children, their hands and their prayers.

Leader: We pray for our mouths, that they will speak words bringing life and connection. Help us use our mouths to honor the dignity and belovedness of all. Remind us to open our mouths for deep belly breaths when we're feeling anxious or afraid. Loving God,

ALL: Hold our children, their mouths and their prayers.

Leader: We pray for our feet, that they will move toward those different from us and help others in safe ways. Plant our feet next to those who feel alone, and bless our steps down hallways and sidewalks. We know you are with us wherever our feet go or stay. Loving God,

ALL: Hold our children, their feet and their prayers.

Leader: We pray for our eyes, that they may see ourselves and others with compassion. Point our eyes toward those who are forgotten or struggling. Grow us in flexibility to see from all kinds of angles. Bless what and how we see, whether we're looking at a screen, a whiteboard, or the beauty of a person's face. And help us see with the most important eyes—the eyes of the Spirit within us. Loving God,

ALL: Hold our children, their eyes and their prayers.

Leader: We pray for our ears, that they will genuinely listen to all voices, especially those that haven't been listened to much. When things get noisy, help us listen extra carefully for your voice. Help us hear with the most important ears—the ears of the Spirit within us. Loving God,

ALL: Hold our children, their ears and their prayers.

Leader: We say a special prayer for parents and caregivers, as the start of a new school year is always another leap of faith. Wrap them with your reassuring love as they entrust their children and trust in you. When questions remain unanswered, and the realm of control is finite, bless them with peace and the promise you are right there with their child, whether heading to preschool or driving to college. Loving God,

ALL: Hold the parents and grandparents and caregivers and families, their hearts and their prayers.

Leader: We also pray now for teachers, counselors, coaches, staff and administrators. Bless these faithful servants with courage and confidence, knowing you are in their classroom with a steady hand on their shoulder. Give them peace, patience, and balance in the pressures they face, and bravery to build structures and systems which justly serve all your children. Give them delight in the young ones before them, and recognition of the sweet ways children are also teachers. Loving God,

ALL: Hold our educators, their hearts and their prayers.

Leader: We pray for health and wholeness, fun and growth, surprise and amazement, for this school year ahead, knowing you will hold us all the way through. Loving God,

ALL: Hold us all as we work to protect and care for our children and those who love them. Amen.