

FOR THE SCHOOLS

2026 Prayer Guide

UNITE IN PRAYER. UNLEASH THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

Welcome to For The Schools Prayer Saturday 2026. Today, followers of Jesus are gathering on school campuses across the region with one shared purpose — to seek God together and pray for the schools represented in our communities.

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." Psalm 24:1

Every school represented today belongs to Him.

Every student bears His image.

Every teacher is deeply loved by Him.

Every administrator, support staff member, coach, parent, volunteer, and homeschool family matters to Him.

Our prayer today follows the movement of Psalm 24.

Open the Gates — Repentance & Consecration

We humble ourselves before God, turning from sin and spiritual apathy, asking Him to cleanse our hearts, our churches, and our schools so His presence has a rightful place among us.

Invite the King — Presence & Power

We boldly ask the Lord of heaven's armies to move throughout the schools represented here today — filling students, teachers, administrators, support staff, coaches, parents, and families with His light, peace, truth, wisdom, and freedom.

Take the Ground — Unity & Mission

Standing together as one body in Christ, we pray with confidence that God's kingdom will advance, darkness will retreat, and future generations will flourish under the reign of King Jesus.

How to Use This Guide

As you move through the following pages, read the scriptures aloud, pray the written prayers, and use the prayer prompts as Holy Spirit leads. Pause often to listen.

Whether you are praying alone, with your family, small group, or a gathering of hundreds, may today's prayers become tomorrow's testimonies.

This guide is designed to help individuals and groups pray together. Feel free to adapt the order, pace, and prayer prompts as Holy Spirit leads.

PRAY FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Lord Jesus, as a child, you grew in wisdom and stature, favor with God and people, you listened to your teachers and asked them questions, you were always about your Father's business. May we follow in your footsteps and be like you.

Bless all who learn that they may grow in the knowledge of their creator and redeemer, and of your glorious world we live in. Bless all those teach and care for our students, that they may share the wisdom they have received from above and that they may do their work with patience and love that reflects your mercy and grace that endures forever.

You are the great teacher. Instruct all of us in your truth: to show love by glorifying you and serving our neighbors. Disciple all of us with your living gospel; to be forgiven, renewed and empowered through your life, death, and resurrection.

Fill our hearts with wonder and excitement as we see your divine design in math and science, as we see your hand in history, as we learn to glorify you through art and music, healthy competition in sports, as we learn to know our neighbors, their hopes, their hurts, their needs, that your love may flow through us to them.

By your power, help us increase in wisdom, never ceasing to learn all the days of our lives until we sit at your feet in your kingdom; wherewith the Father and Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRAY FOR STUDENTS

Lord Jesus, we pray that you would grant them a hunger to learn new things and patience when the learning gets tough, that you would bring alongside them good friends to building their character, that you would provide for their needs and open doors of opportunity, and that you would keep your hand of protection over them, keeping them safe from illness, bullying and violence.

GRADE SCHOOL (K-5)

- Jesus becomes known and real to them personally.
- Discovery of Jesus being known in the public place.
- Have a good attitude and be a positive influence on their friends.
- Choose to follow God's path and make Godly friendships.
- Develop patience and understanding for others.
- Show respect to teachers, leaders, and each other.
- Make choices to honor God above all else.
- Bear the fruit of the spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control).
- Have a discerning heart for truth (versus non-truth) in their culture and world.
- Honor their parents and give their best effort for God's glory.
- Safety in all environments and interactions.
- Physical, emotional, mental, financial, relational, and spiritual health.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

- Desire to honor God and walk consistent, humble, and courageous in their faith.
- Make meaningful connections with teachers, coaches, and peers.
- Feel heard and supported at school, home, and church.
- Freedom and space to be themselves.
- Be an ambassador of Christ, living and sharing the Gospel.
- Resist temptation and pursue holiness in thoughts, online, and sexually.

- Respond well to pressure and hardships with academic work, tests, and relationships.
- Safety and protection at school, during athletics, and while driving.
- Navigate the difficult transition of attending a new schools and new classes, changing of faculty and district, from building-to-building, and class-to-class.
- Respect their teachers and authority in school while standing for righteousness.
- See the learning as a part of God's plan for their life and to become a lifelong learner.

COLLEGE STUDENTS

- Live out their Christian faith in words and actions to those around them.
- Hunger and thirst for more of Jesus capturing their heart and changing their life.
- Desire and discipline to meet with Jesus in the secret place through prayer, silence solitude, sabbath, and scripture.
- Desire and discipline to be more like Jesus in the public place, sharing his life, light, and love in our world.
- Love the gift of the local church, its gatherings, and mutual support, accountability, and service with one another amidst the pressures of a typical college student life.
- Love the learning process as part of God's plan for their life and to be content with where God has them.
- A strong desire to draw near to Christ, for grace, and the power to fight sin and temptation, pursue holiness, and live with integrity especially sexually.
- Grow spiritually and emotionally in all their relationships including lifelong friendships and future Godly spouses.
- Learn to live life skillfully according to God's wisdom and design.
- Have the mind of Christ and be full of his grace and truth as they encounter differing world-views and belief systems.
- Desire to give their best for the glory of God (not settling for less than God's best).
- Provide jobs that work well with school, necessary finances, and travel mercies.

PRAY FOR PARENTS

Lord Jesus, we pray that you would grant parents wisdom as they lead their children in the way they should go, grace when they feel discouraged, and strength to do the work needed to support and raise their children well.

May you grant them opportunities to connect with their children, and to be a positive, Godly influence over them.

- God's protection over their children and safely in their school environments.
- Patience in the transition of schedules, routine, schools, and classes.
- Godly influences over their children to help them find and follow Jesus.
- Spiritual and mental health entering into a busy season of balancing new routines, careers, and kids.
- Create a Christ-centered home environment.
- Develop and model a heart for Christ.
- Awareness of God's will and grace at work in the family life.
- Discernment with what's going on in their child's life, and when and how to connect with their child's heart.
- Awareness of the voices of influence in their child's life.
- Wisdom to help their child understand their culture and world.
- Godly responses of humility, respect, and obedience to authority of school, government, teachers, coaches, etc.

PRAY FOR TEACHERS

Lord Jesus, we lift up to you those you have called and gifted to be teachers like you. What a great responsibility it is to teach and care for growing boys and girls, and young men and women. Bless our teachers with the wisdom they need to help prepare students for their place in life. Bless them with love, patience, understanding, compassion, mercy, and kindness for the students entrusted to their care.

We pray for your protection over our teachers. We pray for our teachers' physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual health. Give our teachers the energy, strength, and stamina needed in their classrooms as they teach and plan. We pray for your provision of classroom needs.

We pray for opportunities for teachers to connect meaningfully with students and change lives while finding balance in their own life. Bless our teachers with rest. Bless them today and always. In Jesus' name, with His power and authority we pray.

- Wisdom in class preparation with content, lesson plans, time management, and various delivery methods.
- Graciousness toward students especially when encountering bad attitudes, laziness, foolishness, disobedience, and disrespect.
- Patience as students struggle with learning and life difficulties.
- Handle stressful demands in a Godly and wise manner as it builds up, and ebbs and flows throughout the school year.
- Demonstrate integrity, compassion, and support for other teachers.
- Be a positive example and mentor to the watchful and impressionable students.
- Demonstrate kindness, compassion tenderheartedness, and love.
- Provide them an eye and heart for the strugglers.
- Be ambassadors of Christ wherever they go and whoever they meet.

PRAY FOR ADMINISTRATORS

Heavenly Father, we pray for all administrators working in and for our schools as an overseer like you. For superintendents, principals, assistant principals, deans, and board members and more...

We pray for wise decision making, for abundant provision for their buildings, spaces, and resources. We pray, Holy Spirit, for your spiritual discernment and enlightenment in problem solving. We pray, Jesus, that your peace, grace, and truth will be their constant companions.

Holy Spirit, be with them and empower them with divine wisdom, strength, and compassion to lead their respective districts and schools through the upcoming school year.

- Respond Godly to authority (the school board, other administrators, head masters, legislature, department of education).
- Lead by Godly example and exhibit servant leadership.
- Engage students and staff with love, grace, and truth.
- Seek to understand and have empathy for, and with, parents concerning their students.
- Courage and humility to navigate the pressure and tensions from various constituents.
- Wisdom and discernment on curriculum and equipment choices.
- Vision and compassion for their schools, families, and the hurting in their district.
- Patience in the many different intense situations and relationship dynamics at play.
- Christ-centered perspective as they lead their staff and oversee their district.
- Team spirit in regard to parents, guardians, grandparents, and volunteers.

PRAY FOR SUPPORT STAFF

Holy Spirit, we pray for all the support staff working in and for our schools, being an advocate for others like you. For assistants, aides, librarians, coaches, nurses, counselors, bus drivers, cafeteria staff, crossing guards, police officers, custodians, office staff, athletic trainers, boosters, paraprofessionals, and more...

We pray for grace, patience, and health. We pray for their leadership to shine through onto those around them and we pray that their stresses or burdens be laid at the foot of the cross and Jesus' feet. Lord let Holy Spirit be with them and positively influence those they come in contact with throughout this school year.

- Awareness of the necessity and importance of their role — often the first person with whom students, staff, and the public interact.
- God-honoring relationships with students and constituents.
- Have a servant hearts, selfless spirit, and grateful attitude.
- God-honoring communication, attitude, and conflict resolution under pressure with each other and other constituents (patience, forbearance, gentleness, humility, and self control).
- Provision for safety and security for buildings, properties, equipment, etc.
- Health and stamina for custodial staff.
- Traveling safety for faculty, students, and bus drivers.

PRAY FOR VOLUNTEERS (IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM)

- Have a servant heart, others-first attitude, and be motivated by Christ to serve the community out of love for God and others — especially our young people.
- Have creativity and ingenuity as they seek to serve.
- Resist entertaining gossip and turn a deaf ear to politics.
- Awareness of ministry opportunities as they interact with students and faculty (simply be present, listen well, and share a smile or a word of kindness).
- Demonstrate a gracious and generous spirit toward others.
- God would honor their sacrifices of personal and family time to serve others.

PRAY FOR COACHES

- Invest in the lives and hearts of their student athletes for their best interest.
- Prepare athletes to be good humans and take the next step of life.
- Help student athletes find and follow Christ.
- Honor Christ in victory and defeat.
- Demonstrate grace and courage under pressure.
- Wisdom in decisions regarding athletes' health.
- Navigate the tension of winning games and developing character.
- Eyes to see past the Xs and Os to see athletes who need encouragement, an example, a friend, a mentor, and a loving voice.
- Safety in transportation, competition, and practice for their teams.

PRAY FOR HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES

PARENTS

- Bear the weight of responsibility to educate their child with Jesus.
- Balance the schedules and needs of each child.
- Ability to adapt and adjust based on each child's learning needs.
- Inspire, encourage, and build up their child.
- Inspire child to develop a love of learning.
- Confidence in who God created them to be and their called to teach their child.
- Learn how to not exasperate their child, but instead grow in patience and endurance.
- Wisdom for curriculum choices and extracurricular activities.
- Respond wisely and graciously to those who question their choice to homeschool.
- Encourage other homeschooling families or those who may have questions.
- Connect and work well with co-ops (leadership, organizational challenges, building complications).

STUDENTS

- Be a student God's Word and follower of Jesus every day.
- Learn how to honor their parents and respect their authority.
- Manage time, energy, and schedules well.
- Flexibility to enjoy the little things and know learning happens even in the mundane.
- Positive example for those outside the homeschool community.
- Honor, worship, and serve God in their homeschooling.
- Be diligent and self-disciplined.