

## Liturgy for Intercessory Prayer at the Start of School

**Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.**

--Proverbs 22:6

**Pastor:** Gracious Lord, we are gathered in worship this Lord's Day to sing your praise and to celebrate the Victory of your Redeeming Love over Sin, Evil and Death. Lord, enliven and enlighten us with your love.

**Congregation:** Lord, banish the darkness in our lives with the light of your love and Spirit which yield the virtues and fruits of wholesome learning.



**Assisting Minister:** Almighty God, you are the source of all that exists throughout the whole creation, from the infinitely vast and distant corners of the universe to the infinitely small world of molecules, atoms, quarks and mysteries undiscovered. Lord, create in us a hunger and thirst to know and explore the wonders of your creation.

**Congregation:** Lord, banish the darkness in our lives with the light of your love and Spirit which yield the virtues and fruits of wholesome learning.

**P:** Eternal God, push back the frontiers of our ignorance, blindness, prejudice and sloth that cloud our minds, corrupt our hearts and rot our spirits. Plant in us a burning desire to understand your creation better and to love and serve you more faithfully.

**Congregation:** Lord, banish the darkness in our lives with the light of your love and Spirit which yield the virtues and fruits of wholesome learning.

**A:** Loving Father, rescue us from the seductive lure of the worldly excesses of pleasure, fame, vanity, materialism and self centeredness that smother and suffocate useful learning and crowd out the gifts and fruits of the Spirit.

**Congregation:** Lord, banish the darkness in our lives with the light of your love and Spirit which yield the virtues and fruits of wholesome learning.

**Pastor:** Mighty Lord, create in us new priorities and new habits. Help us to value constructive work over waste and idleness, to value the pursuit of truth more than chasing after frivolous delusions, to treasure wisdom more than the manipulation of information, to celebrate the worth of sacrificial

service and the rigors of disciplined study over selfish gain and the obsessive craving to be entertained and amused.

**Congregation:** Lord, banish the darkness in our lives with the light of your love and Spirit which yield the virtues and fruits of wholesome learning.

**A:** Gracious God, open our lives to sense and celebrate your redeeming presence at work among us. Enable parents, children, students, teachers, principals and all who share in the vocation of education to know the energy and motivation of a curious mind, the thrill and wonder of a new discovery, as well as the fulfillment and joy that come with the gifts of new insight, understanding and the mastering of a new skill.

**Congregation:** Lord, banish the darkness in our lives with the light of your love and Spirit which yield the virtues and fruits of wholesome learning.

**Pastor:** Holy God, we offer to you these notebooks and backpacks and all they represent. Use these gifts and all of us as instruments of wholesome learning. Bless all who teach and learn. Foster a healthy balance amidst the salutary cultivation of mind, body and spirit. Bring forth the discovery of useful knowledge to your glory and to the service and benefit of all.

**Congregation:** Lord, banish the darkness in our lives with the light of your love and Spirit which yield the virtues and fruits of wholesome learning.

**A:** In Christ's Name we pray.

**Congregation:** Amen.



**"There are many who seek knowledge for the sake of knowledge: that is curiosity. There are others who desire to know in order that they may be known: that is vanity. But there are some who seek knowledge in order to serve and edify others: and that is love."**

– Saint Bernard of Clairvaux (1153)

**"What do we older folks live for if not for the care of the young, to teach and train them? The prosperity of a city does not depend on the accumulation of great riches, the building of walls and houses, many guns and armors. Rather, a city's greatest and best prosperity, salvation, and power is this that it has many fine, learned, sensible, righteous, well-trained Christian citizens."**

–Martin Luther (1483-1546)