

## Why is teacher support needed?

- Teachers are the heartbeat of the school and they shape the lives and futures of their students.
- 46% of teachers report high daily stress (tied with nurses for the most stressful occupation in America today).
- 25% of SC first year teachers left their positions during or at the end of the 2018-2019 school year.
- Over 1000 SC educators have left their jobs since last October due to the stress of the pandemic.



## Where do we begin?

- Begin by asking the school principal how you can partner with them to show support. They know their teachers best.
- Pray for teachers in your own church. Recognize them at the beginning of the school year and have a time of prayer and commissioning for the year ahead.
- Pray for administrators and staff in your local school.

## Involve your congregation

- Create an "angel tree" with teacher names. Have members "adopt" a teacher and send a note and small gift (\$5-10) once a month.
- Have church members write notes of appreciation and encouragement.
- Invite teachers to a drive by meal at your church. Give them a pizza and soft drink. Line the driveway with members of all ages holding signs and cheering for the teachers.
- Have Sunday School classes or small groups provide snacks for the teacher lounge or for teacher staff meetings after school.

## More ways to encourage . . .

- Provide a meal and snacks during orientation week.
- Host meals on teacher work days and plan to have volunteers there to visit with teachers. Order food or bring in a food truck.
- Host a coffee truck or Kona Ice for a treat after school.
- Start the year with a "survival kit" bag for each teacher (lip balm, chocolate, post-it notes, a special pen).
- Celebrate teacher birthdays throughout the year with a card/small gift.
- Focus on first year teachers! Give them extra notes of encouragement and gift cards to help set up their classroom.
- Collect school supplies for teachers, including cleaning supplies. Be sure to ask about the needs first!
- Collect school supplies for students in December. This is when students run out and teachers often pay for this out of their own pockets.
- Provide a "duty-free" lunch for teachers. This may be their favorite treat!
- Be sure to support the full staff: bus drivers, librarians, nurses, guidance counselors, social workers, food service providers, administrative assistants and administration.