

A Prayer Strategy for Back to School

by Jeff Bedwell, Pastor of FBC Fort Mill, SC

As a new school year begins, thousands of students, parents, teachers, administrators, and school staff across South Carolina are preparing for a fresh season of learning and growth. For followers of Christ, the start of the school year is an opportunity to seek God together for every classroom, every campus, and every community.

Use this Prayer Guide as a simple tool to pray intentionally for those who will learn, teach, lead, and serve throughout our state.

Pray for Hearts

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." Proverbs 4:23

Everything that happens in a classroom begins in the heart. Pray that God would shape hearts above all else.

Pray for Students

- That they would come to know Christ personally.
- That Christian students would remain faithful to their convictions.
- That they would develop wisdom, humility, and integrity.
- That they would choose healthy friendships.
- That God would protect them spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically.

Pray for Teachers and Staff

- That they would serve with compassion.
- That they would find renewed purpose.
- That they would experience God's strength on difficult days.
- That believers would shine as lights for Christ.

Pray for Homes

"These words...shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children..." Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Healthy schools begin with healthy homes.

Prayer points

- For parents, raising children in an increasingly challenging culture.
- For wisdom in guiding children academically and spiritually.
- For meaningful family conversations.
- For peace during busy schedules.
- That homes would become places where faith is nurtured daily.



BACK TO SCHOOL

Pray for Classrooms



"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God..." James 1:5

Every classroom is filled with opportunities to learn, encourage, and influence.

Prayer points

- For wisdom in teaching and learning.
- For safe and orderly classrooms.
- For respectful relationships.
- For creativity and excellence.
- For students with special educational needs.
- For substitute teachers, aides, counselors, and support staff.

Pray for Campuses



"Let your light shine before others..." Matthew 5:16

Every campus is a mission field.

Prayer points

- Principals
- Assistant Principals
- Superintendents
- School Board Members
- College Presidents
- Deans
- Department Chairs
- Athletic Directors

Ask God to provide:

- Wisdom
- Courage
- Integrity
- Discernment
- Compassion
- Unity
- Good judgment during difficult decisions

Pray for Kingdom Influence



"Your kingdom come, your will be done..." Matthew 6:10

Ultimately, our greatest prayer is that Christ would be known throughout every school and campus.



BACK TO SCHOOL

Prayer points

- For local churches to intentionally serve nearby schools.
- For Christian educators to be faithful witnesses.
- For students called into ministry and missions.
- For revival among students and faculty.
- For gospel partnerships between churches and schools.
- That many would come to faith in Christ during this school year.

Pray for Our South Carolina Baptist Universities



Universities

Anderson University

Charleston Southern University

North Greenville University

Prayer points:

- Their presidents, trustees, faculty, and staff.
- New and returning students.
- Spiritual growth across each campus.
- Academic excellence rooted in biblical truth.
- The preparation of future pastors, missionaries, educators, healthcare professionals, business leaders, and public servants who will faithfully serve Christ.
- Strong partnerships with South Carolina Baptist churches.

A Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, as a new school year begins, we entrust every student, parent, teacher, administrator, professor, staff member, and school leader into your care. Grant wisdom to those who teach, courage to those who lead, patience to those who learn, and strength to those who serve. Guard every campus physically, emotionally, and spiritually. May Christian students and educators be faithful witnesses for Christ, and may your Holy Spirit draw many to faith through their influence.

We especially thank you for Anderson University, Charleston Southern University, and North Greenville University. Strengthen these institutions as they seek to provide Christ-centered education and prepare men and women to serve you in every vocation.

May every classroom become a place where truth is pursued, every campus a place where lives are transformed, every home a place where faith is nurtured, and every church a place that faithfully supports those engaged in the ministry of education. May your kingdom come and your will be done throughout South Carolina this school year. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, Amen.

A yellow pencil with a pink eraser and a sharpened lead tip, angled diagonally from the bottom left.

BACK TO SCHOOL

