



AWAKEN A GENERATION

TO LIFE. TO PURPOSE. TO PASSION.

AUG 8-28, 2020

21 DAYS  OF PRAYER
for Arizona Schools and Universities

Statewide School Prayer Initiative

Use this guide on your own or with friends and family during our focus week (August 8-28), and throughout the year. We encourage you to prayer-drive or prayer-walk your community as often as possible.



BRIDGEBUILDERS INTERNATIONAL
Leadership Network

*Awaken a Generation:
21 Days of Prayer for Arizona Schools and Universities
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WEEK 1: SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Preparing the way for hope, healing, and freedom

Day 1 | SHIFTING THE SPIRITUAL ATMOSPHERE

*“For I will pour out water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground;
I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring and My blessing on your descendants;
And they will spring up among the grass, like poplars by streams of water.”*
(Isaiah 44:3-4, NASB)

The 2020-2021 school year will be like no other before it. Children have not been in school in person since mid-March. Most have been navigating online learning (or no learning at all, where online access has been difficult or even impossible). No one knows with any certainty what the new school year will look like.

Many parents have bought all the school supplies, backpacks, etc., and are ready to start—only to be told their schools may open late, or not at all—and they may not know for certain until the last minute. Many working parents are left in a bind and scrambling for childcare options in districts whose schools are only opening two or three days a week, or with reduced hours.

Some teachers and support staff are afraid they may contract the COVID-19 virus. Young children may be filled with fear from the conversations they’ve overheard or the news stories they’ve been exposed to. Then there are the restrictions. Staff and children may have to wear masks all day. Sports, activities, lunchrooms, recesses—all these normal parts of the school day—will be either reduced or completely eliminated. No proms, no school assemblies, no football games. School as we know it will not be the same.

This is the climate our students will be entering this school year—so much uncertainty, so much fear—and our prayers will aim to shift that climate for our students, starting with the spiritual atmosphere.

It is true that God is everywhere. However, God does not manifest His presence equally everywhere. God manifests His presence when the *atmosphere* is right—when the stage has been set for Him to shine. Let’s begin our prayer focus with inviting the transforming presence of God’s Spirit into our schools during this uncertain and tumultuous school year.

We will pray more about the specific issues we’ve mentioned here later in this prayer guide. For now, let’s pray to shift the spiritual atmosphere in our schools—to drive out any fear and uncertainty and replace it with a climate of peace and joy, one where our children will thrive and flourish. In an atmosphere that trusts God and welcomes His peace and presence, our children will be able to overcome the obstacles and reach their full God-given potential.

Let's Pray:

Father, thank You for this incredible promise—that You will refresh the driest places!

- ◆ Where the environment has been spiritually dry and cold in our schools, we ask for streams of the Holy Spirit, the Water of Life, to pour into their hallways and classrooms.
- ◆ Where there is fear and uncertainty, we declare in Jesus' name there will be peace, confidence, and stability.
- ◆ We ask for an outpouring of Your presence that will shift the spiritual atmosphere on every school campus in our state, and cause our children to thrive and flourish like strong trees growing by the riverside.
- ◆ We ask for an unprecedented, tangible presence of the Holy Spirit in our schools, displacing the darkness and flooding the atmosphere of the classrooms with Your goodness and power!
- ◆ We pray that Christian students would be emboldened to share their faith in You, and courageous in their witness despite any opposition. Let them see undeniable demonstrations of Your power that will strengthen their faith.
- ◆ Empower all Christians there—students, teachers, and administrators—to truly be light and salt, in Jesus' name. We ask that You would touch them so powerfully that they would acknowledge publicly that they belong to You.

Amen.

Day 2 | RESTORING HOPE

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.
(Isaiah 61:1, NIV)

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.
(Psalm 147:3, ESV)

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”
(Jeremiah 29:11, NIV)

School leaders routinely tell us that one of the greatest problems among students in their schools is hopelessness. The cycles of shattered families, poverty, bullying and abuse, addiction, and lack of job opportunities cause many people—even young people—to believe there is no future for them and they will never amount to anything. Too many students are crushed by depression, tormented by suicidal thoughts, and living in broken homes that offer little to no solace.



As we pray, we can bring these needs before our Heavenly Father, knowing He is close to them in a special way and that His heart grieves alongside them. He sees them and desires for them to be full of hope—hope for a life of met needs, life-giving relationships, and joy.

More recently, due to the COVID-19 crisis in our country and around the world, many students have been isolated from their friends, the activities that bring them joy, and the teachers who have always looked out for them. Unfortunately, this has only increased their sense of hopelessness as they feel further isolated, away from the safety net of schools, counselors, coaches, and the like. They need our intercession more than ever.

Let's Pray:

Heavenly Father, we pray for every child, and teen, in Arizona who feels hopeless or even suicidal.

- ◆ May the spirit of heaviness that weighs them down leave their hearts, minds, and bodies, and be replaced by a transforming spirit of hope and joy. In Jesus' name, we declare all thoughts of suicide, depression, hopelessness, and despair are broken off of the lives of our children and the students of Arizona. Lord, we ask You to release them of all thoughts of death and suicide, and bring life to them instead.
- ◆ Lord, send someone to encourage them today and let them know how much You love them. We ask that You would reveal Yourself as the God of Hope. We pray each student will be overflowing with hope for their future, knowing there is so much planned for them.
- ◆ We ask that You would send heavenly angels to the desperate and the hopeless, to comfort them and bring them Your answers, even as You did for Hagar, Elijah, and Gideon in their times of crises. Human solutions are not enough—help our students put their trust in You, and receive the hope and freedom only Your Spirit can give.
- ◆ We stand in the gap on behalf of the brokenhearted—for young people who have been rejected, neglected, emotionally wounded, or physically or sexually abused. Thank you that You will never leave them or forsake them. Let the comfort of the Holy Spirit be real to them.
- ◆ We pray for the thousands of teens and children suffering extreme mental anguish that drives them to intentionally harm themselves. Lord, we cry out to You for deep healing for them. We pray against the power of rejection and self-hatred and the lie that makes these young people believe You are angry with them and have rejected them. Drive out this belief that keeps them trapped in hopelessness.
- ◆ We declare this truth over them: that Your love is everlasting and that they are accepted and beloved by You! We affirm Your Word and agree with thousands of others praying today as we declare that You have a future and a hope for every student.

In Jesus' powerful name we pray, Amen.



Day 3 | IDENTITY AND PURPOSE IN GOD'S DESIGN

... we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. . .
(Colossians 1:9-10, NASB)

Our children and young adults are desperately looking for identity and purpose, asking questions like: *Who am I? What makes me different? What is my purpose in this world?* In fact, in America, our children and youth are experiencing an identity *crisis*. Due to the pressure and messaging of the media—including social media like Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, and the like—young people often have no idea who they are, and feel compelled to try to be someone else.

Our identity is the first thing God establishes about us—we are made in God's image. Each of us is known by our Father God, who has a design for our lives within His perfect plan. However, evil demonic forces are distorting the very core identity of our children—confusing them through the lie that they can decide who they want to be based on “feeling,” instead of living out God's original design. A lot of false information about identity, sexuality, and life purpose is being disseminated through our public schools and greater society.

God's Word tells us that we have divinely powerful weapons for the tearing down of strongholds, and every lofty thing raised up against the truth of God (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). Prayer is one of those weapons we can use to tear down the strongholds of insignificance, inferiority, rejection, and comparison—and replace them with affirmation of and confidence in God's unconditional love and acceptance.

Let's Pray:

Lord, thank You for Your promise to bless our children. Because of Your blessing, our children will find their true identity and sense of purpose in belonging to You, their Father and Creator.

- ◆ Please silence the negative voices telling our students they are worthless or unwanted or that they can find their identity and purpose outside of Your plan for their lives. You have dreamed a unique dream for every student. We ask for the destinies of our children and young people to be preserved!
- ◆ We pray for our future leaders; raise up young people with godly purpose and destiny to contend for the future of our nation! May many great young leaders like Moses, Joseph, Joshua, Daniel, Ruth, and Esther arise from our schools to bring justice and truth to every sector of society.
- ◆ Raise up those who will lead the way for truth in every mountain of influence: in government, in education, in media, in entertainment and the arts, in business and finance, in families, and in the Church. May they fulfill the purpose of God in their generation. Like David, may they know their calling from a young age, that no amount of family negativity, peer pressure, or



setbacks would discourage them from pursuing it. You have a plan for them that leads to life and fullness of joy.

- ◆ We pray protection for our children from false information about their purpose, sexuality, and Your design for life. We ask You to raise up spiritual watchmen (fathers, mothers, teachers, school leaders) who will watch, pray, and be a voice for truth in our schools.
- ◆ We declare, in Jesus' name, that this will be a year of blessing, refreshing, and new identity in God's original design for each student.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Day 4 | ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

*Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."
(Luke 18:16, NIV)*

Elementary school is a pivotal point in the lives of our children. They are young, often anxious about their first school experience, and easily impressed. For many kids, elementary school can be their first exposure to bullying, teasing, cliques, and other cruel behavior. It may also be their first exposure to extreme behavior such as major tantrums and violent outbursts, which have become rampant in our elementary schools. For some kids, elementary school is their first experience away from mom and dad, which may be tempting for them to "experiment" with behaviors and personas that are not who they are.

Additionally, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, elementary-aged students are some of the most vulnerable. Social-emotional learning is paramount in their education, and being separated from their peers or being prohibited from certain activities (that will be restricted or eliminated this school year) can drastically impact their learning experience and psychological health.

We have the opportunity to lay foundations in children's lives through prayer, for them to be reassured, protected, and affirmed, and for a plumbline of truth, justice, and confidence to be laid in them—a foundation that will last a lifetime.

Let's Pray:

Thank You, Lord, for Your heart of love and concern, especially for our youngest children! We pray for every young student in Arizona, as well as their teachers and aides. The Kingdom of God belongs to them, even as Your Word says.



- ◆ We ask that these tender young hearts and minds would keep their innocence and purity. We pray that You would raise up an army of godly Christian teachers who are divinely gifted and called to teach and mold this impressionable age group.
- ◆ Even amidst this pandemic, we pray for all of the social and emotional needs of our young students to be met. We pray that their hearts would be full of joy, and their elementary school experience would be uplifting, despite the circumstances.
- ◆ Pour out Your Spirit on these young ones, we pray! Let there be an awakening of their spirits and minds to You. May each student in Arizona feel and see Your presence in their lives. May all of our children and the adults who teach and lead them encounter Your love and truth in a supernatural way!

Amen.

Day 5 | IN HIGH SCHOOLS

*Even a child makes himself known by his acts,
by whether his conduct is pure and upright.
(Proverbs 20:11, ESV)*

*Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord!
Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart,
who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways! You have commanded your precepts to be
kept diligently. Oh, that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!
(Psalm 119:1-5, ESV)*

High school can be an incredibly intense time for teens, with experiences including dating and romantic relationships, friendship struggles, identity crises, bullying, exposure to drugs, alcohol, and sex, immense peer pressure, and much more. It's no wonder that almost 70 percent of Christian youth leave the Church after high school. It's one of the most volatile seasons of life for young people, and we must pray to cover our nation's high schools with God's presence.

It's important for young people to know that "Christian life" can and does exist beyond chapels, church youth groups, and worship services. It is our deepest hope that the teens of Arizona would discover the multitude of ways they can bring Christian life to their circle of friends and high school campus. Through clubs, prayer groups, and being open with their faith testimony with peers, high schools can become thriving hosts for spiritual impact and transformation. Even despite the pandemic restrictions, there are creative ways teens can connect, communicate, and even gather to share and experience Christ together. We pray for boldness among the Christian teens in our communities, that they would bring more of their friends into the Kingdom of God on the mission field of their high school relationships.

At the same time, high school is ripe with temptation. There are daily spiritual battles taking place for our teens' purity, tempting them to believe that they must grow up sooner than they really should. We

must also pray against all forces that would tell them they need to drink, party, or sleep around in order to experience acceptance. We pray in Jesus' name that all high school students would discover their worth and wholeness in the eyes of Christ, and not in the eyes of the world or their peers.

Let's Pray:

God, first and foremost, we pray for a great turnaround in the statistic that 70 to 75 percent of Christian youth leave the Church after high school. Heavenly Father, we ask You to intervene in our young people's lives and break this trend. Bring Your answers to parents, churches and Christian schools! In Jesus' name, keep our children close to You as they navigate the pressures of teenagehood.

- ◆ We pray for godly teachers and school administrators to guide them with truth and love.
- ◆ We ask in Jesus' name for edifying and fulfilling friendships, rather than negative influences that would cause them to turn from You.
- ◆ We think of alternative high schools, with unique student populations that are usually experiencing even higher levels of brokenness and challenges. (Many times, these students are trying to overcome significant adversities and roadblocks to education, and may be dealing with juvenile incarceration, pregnancy and parenting, addictions, and more, in even greater numbers than in regular high schools.) We pray You would give extra strength and grace to the teachers and administrators of these students. Pour out Your mercy on these children and give them Your Spirit to help them overcome their adversity and go on to know You, follow You, and achieve success in their lives.
- ◆ We pray against the spirits that lead teens in all of our schools into partying, substance abuse, and provocative behavior. Lord, cover our students in a hedge of Your protection. Cause them to feel a wholeness and acceptance that only comes from Your unfailing love for them.
- ◆ We ask that the Christian students in all of our high schools would walk in boldness, proudly proclaiming Your name! We ask, God, that You would anoint them with a bravery that only comes from You. We declare victory over all spirits that would bind our students in fear, preventing them from sharing openly about their faith. We pray against the fear of man, the fear of rejection, or any other trepidation that would make them feel anxious about sharing their testimony. May there be a wave of revival in our high schools that sweeps across our state and our nation!

In Jesus' name we pray for all these things, Amen.

Day 6 | IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

(Joshua 1:9, NIV)



“O Lord, I give my life to you. I trust in you, my God! Do not let me be disgraced, or let my enemies rejoice in my defeat. No one who trusts in you will ever be disgraced, but disgrace comes to those who try to deceive others. Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow. Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you.”
(Psalm 25:1-5, NLT)

Arizona is home to over 174 colleges, universities, and technical schools. A number of top colleges and universities are located throughout the state, including Arizona State University in Tempe—one of the largest colleges in the U.S., with more than 72,000 students.

Two universities are listed as Christian: Arizona Christian University and Grand Canyon University, both located in the greater Phoenix area.

Many Arizona students need encouragement to continue their education past high school. Arizona has fallen below the national average for residents who attained at least a bachelor’s degree, according to data from 2009 to 2013. The United States census bureau found that 26.9 percent of Arizona residents aged 25 years and older attained bachelor’s degrees, compared to 28.8 percent at the national level.*

While institutions of higher learning offer students a great place to grow academically and prepare for careers, they also can be places that draw our young adults away from their Christian faith. Our college and university campuses need our prayers!

Let’s Pray:

Father, we pray today for our Arizona colleges and universities, that they would be filled with the tangible presence of God.

- ◆ We pray that each student will have the opportunity to grow and develop spiritually as well as intellectually.
- ◆ We thank You for the new freedoms that campus life gives to students, but we also pray for protection from the problems caused by using freedom to develop personal and moral habits that are unhealthy. We thank You for those who are courageously living their faith and displaying it on campus. Give our Christian students courage to live out their faith in an atmosphere that is often skeptical of faith.
- ◆ We pray that many more graduating high school seniors would continue their education in institutions of higher learning. We boldly ask You, Lord, to use Arizona colleges and universities to produce influential, godly leaders who will bring the Kingdom values of righteousness and justice into every sphere of culture.
- ◆ Lord, we lift up the professors, deans, and presidents of our colleges. We ask that they not only be wise in their area of specialty, but also that You give them spiritual wisdom. We pray that the

*(These same kinds of statistics can be easily found through an internet search if you are from a state other than Arizona.)

Holy Spirit will use Christian professors and faculty as a mighty force for truth and that a new standard of righteousness would be raised up on our campuses.

- ◆ We pray that our colleges and universities might become centers for revival rather than for the tearing down of the faith of our young adults. We ask You to work through Christian groups and churches on campuses to bring thousands of young men and women to faith in Jesus Christ.
- ◆ We ask that Your mighty hand will move, and Your Holy Spirit be felt with unmistakable power in a way that changes many lives today as well as many future careers and future marriages tomorrow.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

==== Day 7 | IN HOMESCHOOLS AND CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS ====

God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom.

(Daniel 1:17, NLT)

You have been taught the Holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.

(2 Timothy 3:15, NLT)

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

(John 17:15, NIV)

There are many reasons why parents choose to send their children to private school or to home educate them. Many times it is because they want to have greater opportunity to instill biblical values or pursue a certain emphasis in the children's education. In some cases, children with special needs are not being served adequately by the local public school district.

This year, many parents who have not previously homeschooled, or who would not likely otherwise choose to homeschool, are doing so because of the uncertainty and restrictions being faced in many parts of the country, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Schools and families are among the hardest-hit segments of our population in this regard, and many will choose to homeschool rather than send their children to school or participate in online public school.

Some families in the U.S. are scrambling to create a modern version of the one-room schoolhouse, sometimes called "homeschooling pods." Under this model, a small group of parents split the cost of hiring teachers and tutors and paying for resources such as online classes. Founded in 2015, a program



of this nature called Outschool has seen a 30-fold increase in enrollment since the start of the current pandemic.

Whatever the reason parents may choose to utilize them, homeschools and private schools are extremely important components of our state's educational opportunities, and we want to pray for parents and teachers as they undertake this valuable endeavor.

Let's Pray:

Lord, we thank You for every private Christian school, college, preschool, and every godly homeschool in Arizona. Thank You for the parents, teachers, and families who are hard at work educating the next generation in excellence and with a biblical worldview.

- ◆ As You did for Solomon and for Daniel, please give our Christian students maturity beyond their years and a supernatural ability to learn and to excel academically, above and beyond the norm.
- ◆ We invite Your manifest presence to come to these classrooms and homes and ask for a great move of God among these students, parents, and teachers! We pray for true revival to come to our Christian schools with a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit that would impact every family.
- ◆ We ask for a great financial blessing to come to each of these and pray that You would reward and bless them for their commitment and sacrifice: to the teacher in a Christian school with a significantly smaller paycheck, to the student paying tuition fees, and to the parent who experiences a loss of income to stay home and teach their children.
- ◆ Many of our Christian schools and colleges face financial challenges and we ask for dramatic financial breakthroughs for each of them! Protect these institutions from anti-Christian lawsuits and negative press designed to pressure them into compromising their stand for the gospel and righteousness. We pray for their governing boards to make decisions in the fear of the Lord and with great wisdom, and that You would guide them in the days ahead.
- ◆ Father, we fervently cry out to You for every Christian student in Arizona, no matter their school or age. We ask that even our youngest Christian children would be taught Your truth from childhood, and that they would have a deep understanding of the Bible. Send them teachers and pastors who can impart an intelligent biblical worldview to them and disciple them into followers of You.

Amen.



WEEK 2: STUDENT LIFE

Excelling in Studies and Growing in Godly Character

Day 8 | ACADEMICS

*Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold,
for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her. . .
I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.
With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity. . .
(Proverbs 8:10-12; 17-18, NIV)*

Academics have certainly taken an abrupt turn during these unprecedented times. Today, the majority of students across our country are participating in “virtual learning” instead of an in-person education. Things look much different than they did merely a year ago. While we are grateful for the gift of technology, learning through a device has drastically impacted academics for our youth. Not only are they missing crucial in-person instruction, but they are missing out on testing skills, social dynamics, lessons in teamwork, important extracurriculars, and so much more.

Furthermore, for many, there is a sense of fear surrounding school. *Is it dangerous to attend? Will I get sick? Should I keep my child home full time (even when some in-person instruction is offered)?* A privilege that was once celebrated has started to feel dangerous, and many families draw further and further inward. As we watch the entire face of education change in front of our very eyes, we must cry out for God’s Spirit to be present in the hallways, classrooms and homes—protecting teachers, parents and students, calming anxious nerves, filling hearts that feel isolated and alone, being close to the weary. Now, more than ever, we need God’s divine sense of peace, as well as His protection and guidance for teachers, students, families, and leaders.

Let’s Pray:

Father, thank You for every step of progress in our schools and for those who work tirelessly towards improving them.

- ◆ We pray Proverbs 8:1-21 over our students. God, make their time in the classroom (or virtual classroom) count—may You compound their time and provide supernatural wisdom through these unprecedented times.
- ◆ We pray for every student in our public, private, and home schools, and in our universities. We ask that You would pour out a love of learning and a hunger for knowledge, and ignite their drive for academic success. Give them a deep desire to seek godly wisdom and its blessings. Let

them value their education and be so motivated that they would let nothing stand in their way of graduating! May they be lifelong learners who excel in their respective fields.

- ◆ We pray that teachers would be able to strike a fine balance between in-person instruction and virtual learning. We pray You would anoint them with wisdom as they navigate these new teaching conditions as outlined by the CDC. We pray for health and renewed energy and passion. We pray against all fear and anxiety and declare it has no place in our classrooms.
- ◆ We ask for fresh, innovative solutions *from heaven* at both the state and local level in how to raise our graduation rates. Please do an undeniable miracle: turn Arizona into a state that leads the way for the nation. May we educate and equip our students in a way that empowers them to thrive!

Amen!

Day 9 | TRUTH AND EXCELLENCE IN CURRICULA

Be careful not to let anyone rob you of this faith through a shallow and misleading philosophy. Such a person follows human traditions and the world's way of doing things rather than following Christ.
(Colossians 2:8, GOD'S WORD)

"The education of youth should be watched with the most scrupulous attention. . . [It] lays the foundations on which both law and gospel rest for success."
—Noah Webster, well-known American educator

Research shows that now, more than ever, moral convictions are waning in today's society. Many, if not most, textbooks have been drastically revised to present a new view of American and world history, and the history of humanity. Science is presented as a system of knowledge that excludes God. Fewer and fewer Americans believe in a clear and distinct right or wrong, and often our public schools are reinforcing these new norms as "progressive" and "just." God's morality is rapidly eroding throughout our country, and the education system helps lay the foundation for a child's worldview. We must pray!

Through sex education classes, children as young as elementary-aged are being taught about marriage, identity, and sexuality "norms" that are outside of God's biblical plan for us. As our country leans more and more into moral relativism, students are learning in schools that morality is up for them to decide. May our Christian students stand firm in their convictions, and may they be a light to those who do not believe, pointing them to God's righteousness.

Let's Pray:

Lord, shine Your light upon our schools and drive out all darkness, spiritual blindness, perversion of truth, and hostility toward You and Your truth, we pray.



- ◆ We pray that all attempts to use curricula in our schools as a way to disciple our young people in humanism, moral relativism, and other godless ideologies would be stopped. We pray that our education system would honor You. We ask You to raise up godly men and women to be on textbook selection committees for every school district in Arizona. We ask for teachers and school boards to select curriculum that preserves our godly heritage as a nation.
- ◆ Father, we ask that You lead and guide those in positions of decision-making in our schools to set fair policies that protect the rights of our teachers and students to openly present their biblical points of view in an open, fair and non-threatening manner.
- ◆ Lord Jesus, when teachers and students are confronted with subject matter that goes against their biblical worldview, we call upon You to give them the right words to speak with wisdom, strength and gentleness.
- ◆ Raise up watchmen and gatekeepers for truth and excellence in our schools who would guard over what is taught to our young people!

Amen.

Day 10 | LIFE-GIVING CULTURE

*For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.
(Colossians 1:13, NIV).*

*Death has been swallowed up in victory. "Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?"
(1 Corinthians 15:54-55, NIV)*

*I am the Gate. Anyone who goes through me will be cared for; they will freely go in and out, and find pasture. A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal LIFE, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.
(John 10:9-10, MSG)*

Today's prayer focus is on driving back the cultural influences that promote violence and glorify death, replacing them with the life-giving power of God's Spirit and Truth.

Tragically, youth culture has become poisoned with a death obsession, to where death has become an idol for many. Death symbolism (skulls, dripping blood, "dead" eyes, black clothing, corpses, zombies, the grim reaper, etc.) are common themes in TV shows, games, videos, clothing, music, and graphics marketed to youth.

There is an alarming increase in youth interested in vampirism. Incorporating elements of goth subculture and sadomasochism, the vampire subculture ranges from fans who enjoy vampire-themed entertainment and dress to role players in live-action games.



In addition to pop culture glorification of death and violence, this generation is traumatized by real-world threats or encounters with death: the brutality of the drug cartels in our region, gang violence, school shootings, suicides, and more.

We must pray for the radiance of God's love and peace to live within the hearts and minds of today's youth. We pray that they will know that darkness does not come from God. We declare the Word over our students that Jesus offers them an abundant and full life—filled with peace and joy!

Let's Pray:

Jesus, You are the Way, the Truth and the Life, offering us eternal LIFE, far better than we ever dreamed of! You are the Light of the world. Even in the deepest darkness, *"the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* (John 1:5).

- ◆ We come into agreement with your Word that You are removing the veil of death and deception and that the power of this death obsession is broken, according to Isaiah 25:7!
- ◆ We declare that delusion, rebellion and the strong anti-Christian mindset associated with this culture of death is removed from the youth of Arizona. Untangle the web of confusion, manipulation, and deception, and replace it with the clear truth of the gospel.
- ◆ We take authority over the spirits of discouragement, defeat, death, and suicide, and declare, in Jesus' name, that they have no place in the lives of our students. In Jesus' name, we break the power of this self-inflicted curse over those who fully expect to die at an early age! We ask that You would counter this lie with the TRUTH about the abundant life You offer us and that every student would find eternal life this year.
- ◆ For those who are oppressed by the spirit of death, ensnared in the occult or witchcraft, we speak freedom, deliverance, and life, in the name of Jesus.

In the powerful name and authority of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Day 11 | PHYSICAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

*Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health,
just as your soul prospers.
(3 John 1:2, NASB)*

*Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit . . . honor God with your bodies.
(1 Corinthians 6:19-20, NIV)*

The youth of our nation face a health crisis of epic proportions, including things like alcohol and drug abuse, sex and STDs, obesity, and depression. Marijuana use is ever increasing; some states are



legalizing marijuana and even though it is still illegal under the age of 21, commercial enterprises are targeting youth in their marketing efforts.

Today's children face threats of violence never before seen in this country. Shootings—even the unthinkable horror of school shootings—riots, beatings, and more fill our news headlines, bringing fear and apprehension to many.

On top of this, every student across the nation is currently living through a global pandemic. This raises myriad health concerns, ranging from physical, mental, and emotional. Jesus, make a way!

Let's Pray:

Father, we pray for the physical health, well-being, and safety of all our students.

- ◆ We ask that as the Divine Physician, You would protect our students, heal the ones battling sickness or disease, and release them from any and all forms of addiction in Jesus' name!
- ◆ We ask that families would be equipped to disciple youth in a godly way, imparting practical wisdom that leads to a healthy lifestyle. Transform the health of entire households, starting with the parents and filtering down to the students! Please inspire a real change in eating and exercise habits and help our students be nourished with wholesome food.
- ◆ We declare, in Jesus Name, that our campuses are safe from illnesses, and specifically the COVID-19 virus. We pray that the pandemic would not affect or influence their health and safety. We ask You to set up a hedge of protection in the spiritual realm that would result in havens of safety and health for the students in our state.
- ◆ We pray for an end to the pervasive drug culture in our schools. Please protect our children and young people from getting involved in gangs, drugs, sex, and other destructive activities.
- ◆ God, we also pray You would keep our school campuses safe from anyone with ill intent who would seek to bring harm through shooting or other forms of terror and violence. Equip every school with frontline workers who would have eyes out for "wolves" who would in any way harm the students.

We pray all this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 12 | EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

. . . casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

(1 Peter 5:7, ESV)

*Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health
and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.*

(3 John 1:2, NIV)



Our students have already been in isolation for months leading into this school year. They've not seen their friends, and some have been with families who are less than functional or ideal in their lifestyles and relationships.

According to the National Institutes of Health, nearly one of three of all adolescents ages 13 to 18 will experience an anxiety disorder, and these numbers have been rising steadily. These statistics, combined with the rate of hospital admissions for suicidal teenagers also doubling over the past decade, are cause for grave concern.

While there are a number of factors that are likely contributing to student anxiety, three stand out as particularly noteworthy:

1. **A world that feels scary and threatening.** The news has been filled with non-stop threats of pandemic, death, race riots, terrorism, shootings, and the like. Our students from youngest to oldest have been exposed to widespread fear and threats like no other generation before them.
2. **The stress of their new normal.** Everything about school will be different this year. Their whole routine/structure has been disrupted. Everything they are used to that normally brings them comfort and stability at school will be affected. Social distancing. Masks. Going to school in shifts (possibly not with their friends). Little to no social and extra-curricular activities. In some places, no recess or lunch rooms. Their social interactions and ability to move freely will likely be greatly restricted.
3. **The negative effects of social media.** Today's children and teens are connected constantly to social media and being bombarded by all kinds of negative messaging. The resulting anxiety has been undeniable. While it is a great way to communicate through distance, take attractive photos, and stay in touch with loved ones, its abuse is rampant. Platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and Snapchat are cesspools of abuse, bullying, comparison, provocation, and darkness. Studies show that social media does more harm than good—it's not good for anyone's mental or emotional health. It lowers self-esteem, encourages comparison, and paints an unrealistic picture of reality. It causes adolescents to feel that they are never enough and that they need to buy more, do more, or act differently in order to be accepted. This is a lie.

We must pray against all the ways social media tells our youth that they are not good enough. Our children must know their worth is unquestionable, despite the messages they are receiving from social media. We must pray against the ways these platforms have destroyed their self-esteem, and ask that God renews their mental and emotional well-being with His divine presence in their lives.

Let's Pray:

Lord, we pray for the emotional and mental well-being of our students, knowing that every day they face pressures from others, as well as from what they see online, in the news, or on their smart phone.

- ◆ We ask that any messages that inspire fear or lower their self-esteem and their self-worth be replaced with Your unceasing acceptance of them and love for them. May they always know that their worth is unchanging! They are special, with an original design and plan for their life!



- ◆ Give them peace and reassurance in the face of their new normal at school or home. Help them, and their teachers, to find new ways to interact, learn, and grow within the current safety guidelines. We break the power of fear and anxiety over them, in Jesus' name.
- ◆ We pray against all the ways social media can be a toxic weapon in the lives of our children and teens. We pray against the spirits of comparison, jealousy, and greed that have robbed them of their youth and innocence. We pray against the ways cyber bullying and mean-spirited online interactions have allowed fear, inadequacy, isolation, and rejection to fester.
- ◆ We declare in Jesus' name that the mental and emotional well-being of our students will not be defined by what others say about them, nor will it be defined by what they think of themselves! We declare contentment, confidence, self-love, generosity, kindness, and joy over the lives of today's youth. We ask that students would have the boldness to step away from social media when they know it is harmful, even when it is not the popular choice to do so.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Day 13 | STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS

*Run as fast as you can from all the ambitions and lusts of youth;
and chase after all that is pure. Whatever builds up your faith and deepens your love
must become your holy pursuit. And live in peace with all those
who worship our Lord Jesus with pure hearts.
(2 Timothy 2:22, TPT)*

*Love overlooks the mistakes of others,
but dwelling on the failures of others devastates friendships.
(Proverbs 17:9, TPT)*

*Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."
(1 Corinthians 15:33, NIV)*

School relationships can be among the most life-giving or the most damaging in a person's life. From romantic relationships to hierarchical "pecking orders" to racial dynamics and beyond, there is great opportunity for learning—and great opportunity for abuse.

The kinds of friends a person chooses in school can set the course for the rest of their life. It is said that a person actually becomes like the three to five people they spend the most time with. Choosing friend groups is a huge part of what will make or break student success and relationships.

Because teachers and support staff cannot be everywhere and monitor everyone, students are often on their own to navigate these areas of socializing in schools. We can ask God to protect students from damaging relationships. We can pray for their minds to be open to God's truths about friendship, love,

and marriage, and the value of every human life. We can pray they learn to seek understanding and unity with others who may be different from us, for whatever reason.

To the extent that teachers and curricula are involved in shaping young people's minds about sex, marriage, relationships, racial equality, and other topics like these, we can pray that there would be alignment with God's heart and mind. As young adults are experimenting with new ideas, values, and behaviors, we can pray they will be turned away from relationships and interactions that are damaging and hurtful to themselves and others—and choose God's path of purity, love, compassion, and unity.

Let's Pray:

Lord, we lift up our students of all ages to you, asking for Your help, guidance, protection, discernment, and grace as they navigate the sometimes precarious minefield of human relationships.

- ◆ We pray against the sexualization of our children and the constant messaging from media that they need a romantic relationship to feel accepted. We pray against sexual harassment and every form of sexual innuendo, immorality, and abuse in our schools.
- ◆ We pray Your Spirit would lead our children into choosing positive, healthy relationships in friendship and dating. We pray they will have an inclusive mentality that refuses to shut out those who may be different from them, and that honors everyone from all races and walks of life.
- ◆ We pray for a spirit of inclusiveness that would help our children respect, honor, and accept all people based on the fact that we are all Your children, no matter where we come from, what we look like, or any other factor. You love us all unconditionally; help our children to experience and extend that love to one another.
- ◆ We pray against the vindictive behavior of bullying. We pray that there would be a change in the culture that feeds this maliciousness. **As part of that culture change, we ask that You would make Your people shine!** Let Christians be known as courageous student champions who defend victims and can bring healing and peace into a situation. Help them to be inclusive with one another, so no one feels “left out.” We pray for those who feel alone; help them to find healthy relationships and feel a part of a company of friends.
- ◆ We also ask that You would defend Christian students and teachers from those who would seek to bully, intimidate, or silence them. We ask that You would raise up many who are not ashamed of the gospel and who will exercise their rights to freedom of speech and freedom of religion with boldness and graciousness.
- ◆ Raise up strong and godly leadership among Christian groups and campus clubs, we pray, and help them minister effectively to those around them. As the gospel advances on campuses, may the culture shift to one of love, respect, joy, and peace among all students.

Amen.



Day 14 | OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

*Say no to wrong. Learn to do good. Work for justice. Help the down-and-out.
Stand up for the homeless. Go to bat for the defenseless.
(Isaiah 1:17, MSG)*

*God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything
and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done.
(2 Corinthians 9:8, MSG)*

*"Vision is the #1 predictor of success in school. It's much more predictive than test scores."
-John Huppenthal, former Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction*

Many schools are overwhelmed with helping students who lag behind and require a tremendous amount of help due to their home circumstances, such as lack of parental presence or support, or poverty. They may be immigrants or refugees from different parts of the world. Many of these students have never been in a school and are illiterate even in their own languages. Teachers face an enormous challenge in trying to include and educate children from such a variation of educational backgrounds and families of origin.

Across the nation, there are schools facing these issues. We know that obstacles such as poverty, lack of access to transportation, addiction and substance abuse within the home, broken families, depression and other mental illness, generational curses, familial expectations and norms, undiagnosed learning disabilities, racial inequality, homelessness and more, can all be mitigating factors in the academic success of any student. However, God, through His supernatural power, can make a way!

Let's Pray:

Father, Your Word tells us that without a vision people perish (Proverbs 29:18).

- ◆ Lord, we pray for VISION for administrators, principals, teachers, parents and students! Give them Your vision of what their schools can become and stir their faith and hope to action. Let them see that NOTHING is impossible with God, no matter how bad the situation!
- ◆ Father of Light, we ask You to plant a vision within our students to see academic success as a real possibility in their lives. Give them a vision to overcome the challenges they live with.
- ◆ We pray for mentors and tutors to come alongside each one who is struggling and give them the educational support and vital encouragement needed to finish their schooling.
- ◆ Please open the windows of heaven over our struggling schools: for finances and good staff, that they would receive a blessing they can't contain! Lord, we ask that You would be glorified when their needs are supernaturally met.



- ◆ Help our students who are struggling—whether with learning disabilities or with troubled families or anything else that would hinder them. We pray that You would restore their confidence and motivation, that failures and setbacks would not discourage them. And we ask that You would release the specialized teachers these students need.
- ◆ Encourage all who feel like giving up to press through to victory, we pray, in Jesus' name.

Amen.



WEEK 3: STUDENT SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Families, Teachers, Mentors, Administrators

Day 15 | PARENTS AND HOME LIFE

He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.

(Malachi 4:6, NIV)

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

(Ephesians 6:4, NIV)

Families are the cornerstone of our society, and the frontline support system for students. Where this support system is strong, our children thrive. Where it is weak, they struggle. Unfortunately, many families in Arizona are under immense pressure:*

- ◆ Families living in poverty: 379,000 or 19%
- ◆ Children living in single-parent families: 580,000 or 28%
- ◆ Children whose parents lack secure employment: 506,000 or 28%
- ◆ Homes where teens are not in school and not working: 34,000 or 7%

This year, we can add to the above challenges and tensions all the uncertainty and logistical problems accompanying the COVID-19 pandemic. Many parents are out of work. Those whose jobs are intact may have nowhere for their children to go if school is not in session. They may be unable to assist their children with online school for various reasons.

Parents need our prayers more than ever!

Let's Pray:

Father, we thank you for what You are doing in the families of Arizona.

*If you are not located in Arizona, consider looking up the statistics in your state (these should be readily available via Google or other search engine). You can find these measures for child well-being here. The statistics listed here are for the State of Arizona. The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2018 Kids Profile (http://www.aecf.org/m/databook/2018KC_profiles_AZ_pdf.)

- ◆ We bring before You every family struggling and in pain, whether from divorce, poverty, unemployment, drug or alcohol abuse, or domestic violence. Bring healing, comfort, and provision for these broken homes. We also pray for a dramatic transformation of the economy in Arizona, according to Your prophetic promises!
- ◆ We ask You to bring stability, provision, and peace to families navigating the effects of this coronavirus. Help parents make wise decisions for how their family should deal with the disruptions. Let them not lose heart or hope, or take out their frustrations on their children.
- ◆ We lift up to You students who are homeless and are staying at shelters, on the street, or living in cars. Your Father's heart is for the destitute and vulnerable, and we ask that You would help these students and their families in powerful ways as only You can.
- ◆ According to Your Word in Malachi 4:6, we cry out that the hearts of the fathers be turned to their children and the hearts of the children be turned to their fathers. We pray for those parents who simply lack the motivation, sense of responsibility, or the parenting skills to raise their children well. Break off apathy or helplessness and show them where they can find help. Please bring good parenting role models into the lives of young parents or teen moms who may not have had them while growing up.
- ◆ Raise up effective spiritual fathers and mothers, we pray! Please turn the tide of young people leaving the Church. Bring another Great Awakening to the youth and families of Arizona.

We pray, in Jesus' name—Amen!

Day 16 | TEACHERS

*Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers,
because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.
(James 3:1, NIV)*

*A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone,
be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people.
(2 Timothy 2:24, NLT)*

The quality of the teacher has a HUGE impact on how much students learn. Good teachers have an extraordinarily powerful impact on the future lives of their students. Similarly, there can be lasting damage that poor teachers can inflict on the lives of their students.

Furthermore, students who get the best teachers learn a lot—and students who get the worst teachers fall behind. This study found that teachers matter most in producing educational results: more than class size, the curriculum, or the amount of money spent per student.

This year, as many classrooms may be online, some teachers are concerned they won't be able to adequately show love to their students, many of whom desperately need the encouragement they find at



school. Other teachers fear the virus and are afraid of taking it home to their families. A large number of teachers already feel overworked and underpaid and, not thinking it's worth it, some are breaking their teaching contracts for 2020-21.

We don't want to lose our valued teachers! They need our support, encouragement, and prayers more than ever!

NOTE: If you know teachers, please pray for them by name.

Let's Pray:

- ◆ Lord, we are deeply grateful for the school teachers of Arizona! Thank You for their willingness to serve the next generation and for the personal sacrifice so many make as they go above and beyond the call of duty on behalf of their students.
- ◆ We bless our teachers in the name of the Lord and ask for health and Your abundant blessing on their families, and most of all that they would know and serve You. Keep our teachers safe and keep them healthy.
- ◆ Please streamline the workload of our teachers, especially as they navigate teaching during a global pandemic. Help them find an effective and efficient balance between in-person and distance teaching, if it is asked of them. Help them prioritize what is most important, and remove bureaucratic barriers that may prevent them from teaching at their best.
- ◆ We declare that our teachers are loved and appreciated. They are not taken for granted. They are on our front lines as they teach our youth during these unprecedented times. Hold them close as they navigate this uncharted territory.
- ◆ We pray for any teacher who is exhausted from the day-to-day job stress and has lost vision and enthusiasm. Fulfill Your Word, that You “fully satisfy the needs of those who are weary and fully refresh the souls of those who are faint” (Jeremiah 31:25). We ask that You would refresh and encourage those teachers who may be so discouraged that they are on the verge of leaving.
- ◆ Holy Spirit, You are the ultimate Teacher, and we invite You into our classrooms and online learning experiences to lead students and teachers alike “into all truth.” Father, we pray for every teacher with a true calling from You to be an educator. We cry out for a fresh anointing for our teachers—that they would be supernaturally empowered to achieve results far beyond their natural skills!

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 17 | SUPPORT STAFF

*And do not forget to do good and to share with others,
for with such sacrifices God is pleased.
(Hebrews 13:16, NIV)*



*In the same way, let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”
(Matthew 5:16, NIV)*

Our school systems rely heavily on a vast army of crucial workers who make life and education happen for our children. These include para-educators and classroom assistants, librarians, counselors, tutors and specialists, school nurses, lunchroom and kitchen staff, school bus drivers, playground monitors, crossing and security staff, custodial staff, office workers, and more. When these positions are not well-funded, well-appreciated, and filled with the highest quality of personnel, our children and their education suffer in many ways. These people fill vital roles in our schools and in our students' lives!

Let's Pray:

- ◆ Thank You, Lord, for this army of vital workers that often goes unnoticed and unappreciated in the roles they play. These people are the glue that holds together our schools. We pray they would experience Your pleasure and blessing on their sacrifices and their investment in the lives of students.
- ◆ Please provide the funding that is needed for their programs; so many of them are the first to be “cut” when there are budget shortfalls. We pray against any lies of inferiority or rejection the enemy would try to plant in their minds about the significance of their role in education and building young lives.
- ◆ Please protect them in every way: financially, physically, their health, their emotional well-being, their relationships . . . may they be governed by integrity and honor and kindness in all their interactions with students and one another.
- ◆ For all the vital qualities and programs they contribute, we pray You would use them to bring wisdom, guidance, creativity, safety, nutrition, health, and order.
- ◆ Help them to always treat the students with dignity, respect, and compassion. We pray that they will experience huge satisfaction and significance in their jobs, and we ask You to use them in a mighty and powerful way in the lives of the students they serve.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Day 18 | PRINCIPALS AND ADMINISTRATORS

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions,
and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions,
that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.
(1 Timothy 2:1-2, ESV)*



The wisdom that comes from God is first utterly pure, then peace-loving, gentle, approachable, full of tolerant thoughts and kindly actions, with no breath of favoritism or hint of hypocrisy. And the wise are peace-makers who go on quietly sowing for a harvest of righteousness—in other people and in themselves.
(James 3:17-18, PHILLIPS)

Principals and administrators play a huge role. Their leadership sets the pace and priorities for schools. At the same time, many principals and vice principals are dealing with discipline issues with students, personnel issues with faculty and staff, and policy issues with the school district. School administrators “wear a lot of hats” in our schools.

School district officials and administrators also play a key role, functioning as the bridge between state legislators and the communities they serve, making curricular choices, establishing and enforcing boundaries, setting policy, including regulating sports and extra-curricular policies, and other important decision-making responsibilities.

Let's Pray:

Father, as taxpayers, voters, and parents we bring before You our Arizona educational system.

- ◆ We pray for those in authority over our schools, including principals, administrators, and education officials at every level. We pray for the Arizona Department of Education, the State Board of Education, and County Education Agencies, and ask that You would bless all who work there.
- ◆ May Your wisdom direct them and may a fresh wind of Your Spirit blow into our state educational system at the highest levels! Where there is turmoil, we pray for peacemakers who can bring a fair and righteous outcome in a spirit of humility.
- ◆ We pray for the Arizona State Superintendent, Kathy Hoffman. We ask for the wisdom that is from above to be given to her: favor, strategy, and the ability to bring about consensus, cooperation, and reconciliation at the highest levels in our state.
- ◆ We pray for district superintendents and school principals across Arizona. Help them in their day-to-day responsibilities; let them function in a spirit of peace and bring peace and order into situations. Expand their leadership and executive abilities, we pray, and help them to implement innovative solutions to bring unity and productivity to their schools.
- ◆ We pray for positive and happy work environments and for healthy, professional regard and respect among all faculty, administration, and staff.
- ◆ We stand in faith and boldly declare that our state will embrace biblical values and operate on the principles of our constitution and protect the rights of the weak and the “least of these,” and that our rights of freedom of speech and freedom of religion will be upheld and protected in our classrooms and school districts this year.



- ◆ We declare that Arizona staff and faculty will not be antagonistic toward any Christian students or teachers and their values, but that You would change the hearts and minds of those who are offended by the gospel; transform hostility into sincere inquiry and dialog.
- ◆ May the hearts of all in leadership always put the good of our students first.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

==== Day 19 | SCHOOL BOARDS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT ====

*Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works,
and glorify your Father who is in heaven.
(Matthew 5:16, NASB)*

*I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the
words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."
(Acts 20:35, NIV)*

*Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen . . . to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to
clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?
(Isaiah 58:6-7, NIV)*

Studies show that local school boards play a critical role in the success of their district's schools. They have tremendous authority to make decisions at a local level including:

1. Strategic planning for their community's goals, setting goals, and establishing policies
2. Approving curricular materials
3. Being accountable to the community to make sure schools are well run
4. Hiring and evaluating the district superintendent
5. Overseeing the budget, salaries for employees, and approving purchases

The role of school board members is one of the most important and influential in our community. School boards not only have a lasting impact on local education, they are typically the first step for anyone seeking higher public office as a mayor, state representative, or congressman.

School boards are the launching pad for many political careers. If more Christian citizens were involved in their local school boards, it would not only be a blessing to our schools, but would also produce a strong pool of Christian candidates who would go on to win other local and state races. Think about the ways this could impact our communities, our states, and beyond!

(Of course, this highlights the importance of Christians being informed and VOTING in these critical elections! If just 10 percent more citizens with biblical values came out to vote, it would tip an election. In one case study in Austin, TX, for example, only 2.5 percent of registered voters showed up to the polls for one school board election! The study went on to say, “*Voters often do not know their elected school board member’s name or responsibilities . . .*”)

Even if you are not a board member, as a concerned parent, property taxpayer, and a prayerful watchman, you can still attend school board meetings in your local area, get to know your board members, pray for them, and share your encouragement, ideas, or concerns.

Let’s Pray:

Heavenly Father, we lift up our communities and pray for them to be valuable sources of support for our schools.

- ◆ For our local school boards, we pray that Your plans and purposes for each district and school would be reflected in their long-term strategic planning, and we invite Your Spirit to be present in every school board meeting across our state.
- ◆ Lord, we pray for Your answers to the obstacles that often confront our school boards: the lack of unified vision, little urgency to implement needed reforms, resistance to change, frequent member turnover making it difficult to follow through on long-term strategies, financial shortfalls, community apathy, disunity, and a lack of stable leadership.
- ◆ We pray that You would bring order, peace, and clarity in these situations and that You would raise up those gifted leaders who would champion the education of the next generation.
- ◆ Lord, impart vision to the business community and to the elected representatives of the community as they partner with their districts. We pray that local businesses would be moved to donate and support long-term programs in struggling schools.
- ◆ We pray for abundant funding to be released over Arizona schools and for the prospering of students and teachers.
- ◆ We ask for a new level of generosity and faith as churches and local organizations step up to provide food, clothing, and supplies for students. Give these organizations creative wisdom and strategies as they approach schools and distribute the resources that You are providing.
- ◆ Send godly volunteers, mentors, tutors, and coaches to come alongside students, teachers, and their families. We pray that more churches would be led to partner with schools, becoming a financial support and a spiritual covering over the teachers and students.
- ◆ Raise up Your Church to partner with local schools in caring for the needs of every student and their families. We declare that Your Church will shine brightly and glorify God in our schools through unprecedented acts of love, service, and kindness, in Jesus’ name!

Amen.



Day 20 | THE CHURCH

Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”
(Matthew 9:37-38, ESV)

“And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bondservants may speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.” And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.
(Acts 4:29-31, NASB)

Many churches and Christian ministries have found that reaching out to their local schools is an important way to serve children and their families and reach them for Christ, as well as to strengthen ties with their communities. Prayer is a huge and vital step to that engagement. There are also myriad ways that believers can support and invest in schools and help build God’s Kingdom there.

You can get to know your public school officials and teachers by name. Thank them and express appreciation for the hard work they do. Send notes and cards of appreciation to teachers in your schools. Provide modest gifts as a token of appreciation, such as coffee shop or bookseller gift cards, plants, note pads, etc. Ask how you can pray for them, and really listen. Consider volunteering in a local school and being “boots on the ground” for bringing transformation and the light of Jesus to the campus.

Things may look different on campus for schools this year, but teachers still need our tangible support. Reach out to the teachers you know and find out how you can help. Most importantly, pray—and then be a part of the transformation you are praying for! Churches, Christian ministries, and individual believers can build vital bridges of hope within their community that can lead to stronger schools all across our state and nation.

Let’s Pray:

Thank You, Lord, for Your prophetic promise that we are on the verge of the greatest revival ever . . . and that Arizona is about to see the glory of God and another Great Awakening. As we stand in faith before You for these promises, we obey Your command to pray fervently that You would send workers into our schools and universities where the harvest indeed is plentiful.

- ◆ Thank You for every Christian student and teacher You have placed in our schools. We pray You would stir them up and help them resolve that this coming school year they will get to know You in a deeper way. May they walk more closely with You, be an example of character and righteousness, and show Your love and compassion to those around them.



- ◆ We fervently pray You would awaken the “sleeping giant” of Your Church, and that believers would become actively engaged in their local schools and our education system. Help us see this harvest field in our own backyards and find meaningful ways to serve and reach our schools. Especially during this time of great need, when there is so much uncertainty, fear, isolation, and hopelessness, the Church has a message of Hope to impart to our communities and schools. Show us how to do that!
- ◆ We pray for the young student evangelists in our schools. We ask for You to remove all fear of their peers, and any compromise and intimidation.
- ◆ We pray they would walk in an anointing to preach the gospel with power, and that they would see a flood of undeniable healings and miracles when they pray for others. Show them creative ideas to reach out to their classmates with the message of hope and love in Jesus, even if they are not regularly seeing them daily on campus.
- ◆ Thank You for the Christian students who will step into leadership roles with their peers during this time. We bless them and ask for a deep spiritual maturity, unshakeable courage, the zeal of the Lord, and that You would not let them be distracted from their high calling in You.
- ◆ May thousands of young leaders spring up from across our state, students who are wise beyond their years, faithful to the truth, and effective apologists for the gospel. Release the fivefold ministry (Ephesians 4:11) in our schools, we pray: the leaders, the pastors, the teachers, the prophets, and the evangelists!

Day 21 | REVIVE AND AWAKEN A GENERATION

*For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.
(Habakkuk 2:14, NASB)*

*Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness,
and for His wonders to the sons of men!
(Psalm 107:21, NASB)*

Let's Pray:

Father, we praise You that You have heard every prayer over these past 21 days as we have cried out to You on behalf of our students, teachers, families, and schools. Now we ask that You would be glorified, that You would be exalted over our schools and over every power and principality that would seek to influence and infiltrate with the purpose to deceive and destroy the next generation.

- ◆ We ask You to bless the students in the preschools, home schools, alternative, private, charter, and public schools, and the colleges and universities of Arizona with the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Yourself.



- ◆ We declare it is time for our Christian students and teachers to **ARISE AND SHINE** as Your glory rises upon them, and that nations will come to the brightness of Your rising (Isaiah 60:1,3).
- ◆ We stand in faith on Your many prophetic promises that Your glory is going to be revealed in Arizona in a dramatic and unprecedented way.
- ◆ Thank You that when You revealed Your glory to Moses, it was Your *goodness* that passed in front of him! Likewise, we remain confident knowing that we will surely see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living (schools)! (Psalm 27:13)
- ◆ Reveal Yourself and Your ways in undeniable and sovereign acts. Empower and equip our schools to fulfill their sovereign purpose according to the highest plans of God, in Jesus' name.

Amen!

