

A STUDENT'S PRAYER AT THE BEGINNING OF A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

WRITTEN BY REV. MARK MUCKLER

I praise You, O God, for everything that is new and beautiful, and for everything which holds promise and brings me life and great joy. Bless me as I start this new school year, and help me to make the most of every opportunity I have to start afresh.

May the new beginning of this school year remind me that You give me chances to start over again and again and again. As I receive Your forgiveness, help me to be forgiving of others as well.

I praise You for my old friends, and for the new friends I'll meet this year. Help me to be the friend You would have me to be, and may I show Your love to all those I meet. May Your Spirit guide me in being a good friend, student, and witness this year. Provide me with holy friendships with those willing to invest in me. And may You empower me with Your Spirit to invest in the lives of anyone you may send my way.

Teach me Your wisdom O Lord. And with all that I learn, may I see our world through the Biblical lens You have provided for me in Your Word. Help me to be a good student, classmate, and friend as one who listens when I should listen, and who speaks only when I should speak.

Help me to set realistic and yet challenging goals this year. Empower me with Your Spirit to be well disciplined and strengthened to persevere in every task You prepare before me.

I thank You in advance for ALL those that are investing in me this new year, even those whom I may never see or meet. Help me to be aware of Your love shown to me in the people around me each day. Bless all those who care for me in school and at home.

Keep me safe and protect me from the evil one in every way every day. Protect me as I travel, and remind me of Your abiding Presence with me.

And finally Lord, grant me courage to bear witness to my faith through my actions and the way I live this new year. And if necessary, grant me words to faithfully tell others about You.

Thank You for loving me and for being my strength, my wisdom, my help, my courage, and my Savior, and Friend. I humbly offer this prayer in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. - Amen.