

Opening Thought:

August, paper, pencils, paper clips, notebooks, markers, scissors, highlighters, staplers, notecards, erasers, backpacks, calculators, buses, crayons, glue, folders, lunchbox, and new clothes. These are all items that remind me that like it or not, we are getting ready to go back to school.

A few helpful tips for back to school:

- Start getting into an earlier bedtime routine starting at the beginning of August. During the week of August 3, try getting the kiddos to bed about 15-20 minutes earlier than the week prior. Then adding another 10-15 minutes each week or every few days depending on how much time you need to adjust. This will help for waking up earlier and just getting into the habit of transitioning into school mode again.
- Practice getting ready in the morning and eating breakfast, and making lunches prior to the first day of school
- Discuss school with your kids. Don't ignore it. Make sure they understand that going back to school is coming soon.
- Have your kids go back to school shopping with you to help build excitement
- Make sure to attend Back to School night on August 21 to help with familiarity with teachers and classmates
- Start praying for and with your students to help with this transition
- Finally, here are a few good Bible verses to help with back to school:
 - "...casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7)
 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).
 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).

Teachers:

We sometimes get so caught up in trying to transition our kids to get them ready for back to school, that we forget teachers are transitioning back to school as well. So, please remember to pray for them, encourage them when you see them, and even write them an encouraging note or email to help them with transitioning back to school.

We also have new staff who will be transitioning into a new role and for some a brand new school. Please remember to pray for them as they transition. Here are those new staff members to pray for:

Denise Kennedy: Pre/k teacher

Desiree Garcia: Pre/k-6th Grade Spanish

Lauren Schaeffer: Pre/k - 10th Grade Art

Sophie Bramble: High School History

Justin Murray: High School Language Arts

Tyler Morris: Pre/k - 6th Grade PE

Ryan McFadden: IT Director

Emily Sauder: k-10 Computer Teacher (in addition to her teaching Music classes)

Events:

- 4th of July Parade: Thank you to those that came and walked in the 4th of July parade. It was hot, but an amazing time to celebrate our country's 250th anniversary and promote our school at the same time
- Lititz Christian School Class of 2027 Guatemala Fundraiser: Thank you to those that supported this fundraiser. It was a great time to see a lot of people come together to support our seniors while catching up with our friends and family at the same time.
- Prayer Walk: Come to the school anytime between 7:00 AM and 4:00 PM on Friday, August 14th to pray for our staff and students. Prayer prompts will be around the school. Come and go as your time allows.
- Back to School night: Friday, August 21st
- 1st Day of School: Tuesday, August 25th

Summer Reading and Summer Math:

Hopefully, your student(s) have been able to keep up with these assignments. Most of them are due the first day of school or sometime during the 1st week. Any questions, please contact your child's teacher(s).

Theme for the year:

This year's theme for the year is the Armor of God. This is based on Ephesians 6:10-20. Each month, our speakers and discipleship groups will be discussing topics centered around the theme of the Armor of God. Here is the breakdown for each month:

September: Whose team are we on? We are on Team Jesus

October: Stand Firm

November: Belt of Truth

December: Breastplate of Righteousness

January: Shoes of Peace

February: Shield of Faith

March: Helmet of Salvation

April: Sword of the Spirit

May: Prayer and the Holy Spirit

Please remember to pray for our chapel speakers and that God would use them and this theme to have our students and staff grow closer to God and start revival in our hearts.

Final Thoughts: Summer time is fun and hopefully you have been able to make many memories with your friends and family. However, ready or not, school is right around the corner and summertime as you know it, will be over.

Thank you for your continued support.