



# BACK TO SCHOOL

## Prayer Guide

August 26th - September 1st





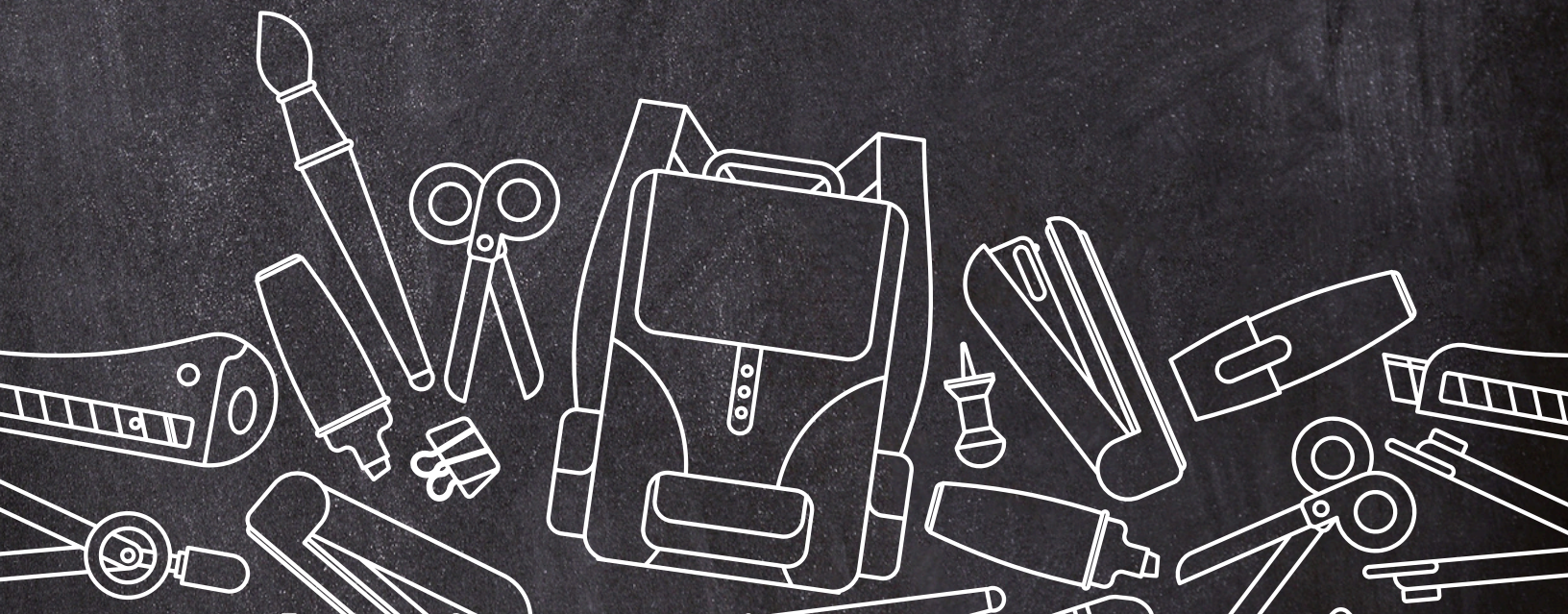
# Back to School

## Prayer Guide for Grand County Schools 2024-2025

In the New Testament we are challenged to “continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving” (Colossians 4:2). As a new school year is upon us, we would like to extend an invitation to you, to join us in prayer for our schools, students, staff, and families of Grand County. The prayer team of the Valley Life family of churches in Fraser and Kremmling, has put together this 7-day prayer guide to unite us all in common prayer during the first week of the 2024-2025 school year.

Whether you are a seasoned daily prayer warrior or have never spent time praying, this guide will lead you each day in how to pray and what to pray. Throughout this guide you will find a simple-to-follow and remember format to pray using the acronym, ACTS: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication (requests). Each day we take a moment to express each of the four types of prayer. Each day is also guided by a line from one of Jesus’ most famous teachings, the Sermon on the Mount, from Matthew 5 in the New Testament. While the world elevates and celebrates those who are powerful and prideful, in Jesus’ teachings we are reminded that God honors the humble, merciful, and lowly who reflect his love and character to others.

We invite you to join us in humbly asking God to show his love and bring his presence in the lives of the students, staff, and families of Grand County this school year.





# Day 1

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:13

## **Adoration:**

Heavenly Father, You placed Your Spirit on Jesus and anointed Him to bring good news to the poor (Luke 4:18-19). You are accessible and near through the Lord Jesus Christ. You hear us when we pray.

## **Confession:**

God, You show us our spiritual poverty—our sin, our tendency to do things by our own way. We fail to look to Your provision of the kingdom of heaven for us through Jesus. Apart from You, we can do nothing (John 15:5). “Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23,24)! In Your mercy, forgive us.

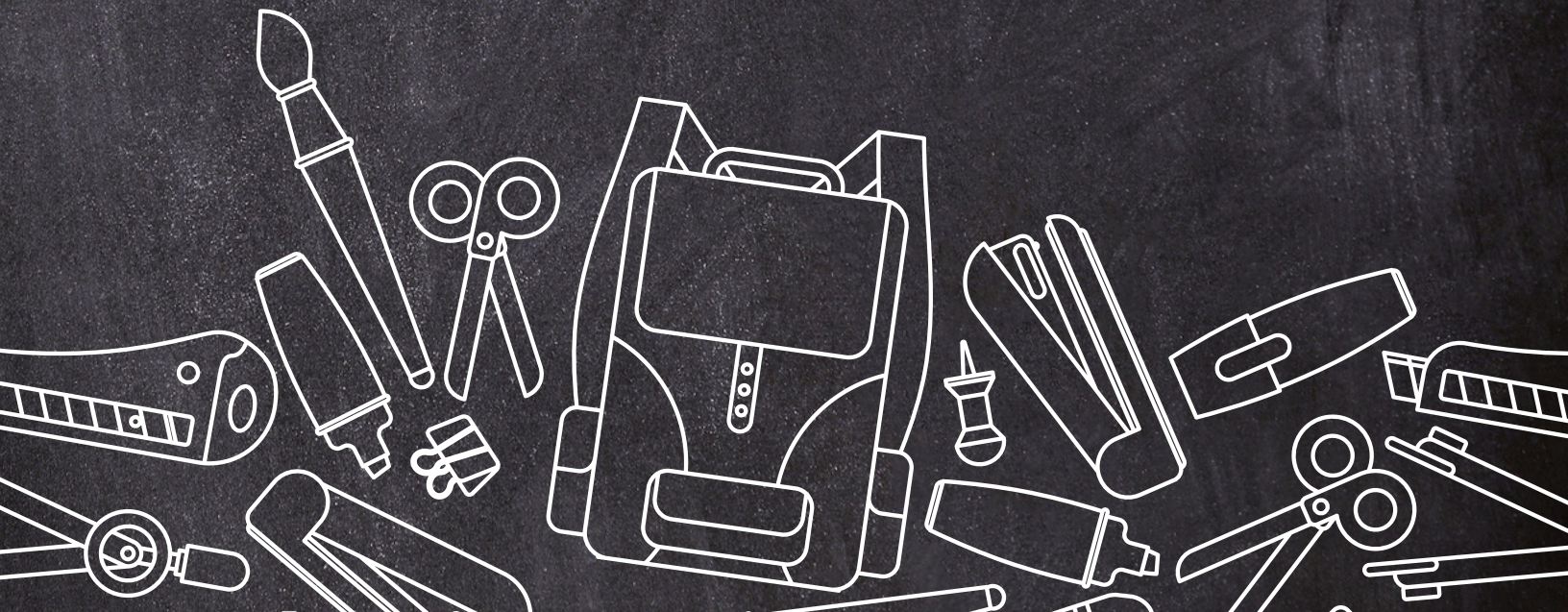
## **Thanksgiving:**

Thank You for the good news that while we were yet sinners, Jesus Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

Thank You that Jesus Christ, the sinless One, bore our sin, that we might “become the righteousness of God through Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21). Thank You for the commitment of the teachers to the schools of Grand County.

## **Requests: TEACHERS**

God, our hearts are burdened for the teachers in the schools of our county. God, bless our teachers with your grace. We ask that teachers will feel valued and be reminded of the importance of what they do daily. Give them the joy of teaching and patience for the students. Give them insight and wisdom to support the students. Lord, give the teachers endurance, both physically and emotionally, and give them moments of laughter each day. God, by your grace, we ask that you give them physical and mental health along with healthy lives and families outside of school to strengthen and encourage them each day.





## Day 2

Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

Matthew 5:4

### **Adoration:**

God, You are near to the brokenhearted and save the crushed in spirit (Psalm 34:18).

### **Confession:**

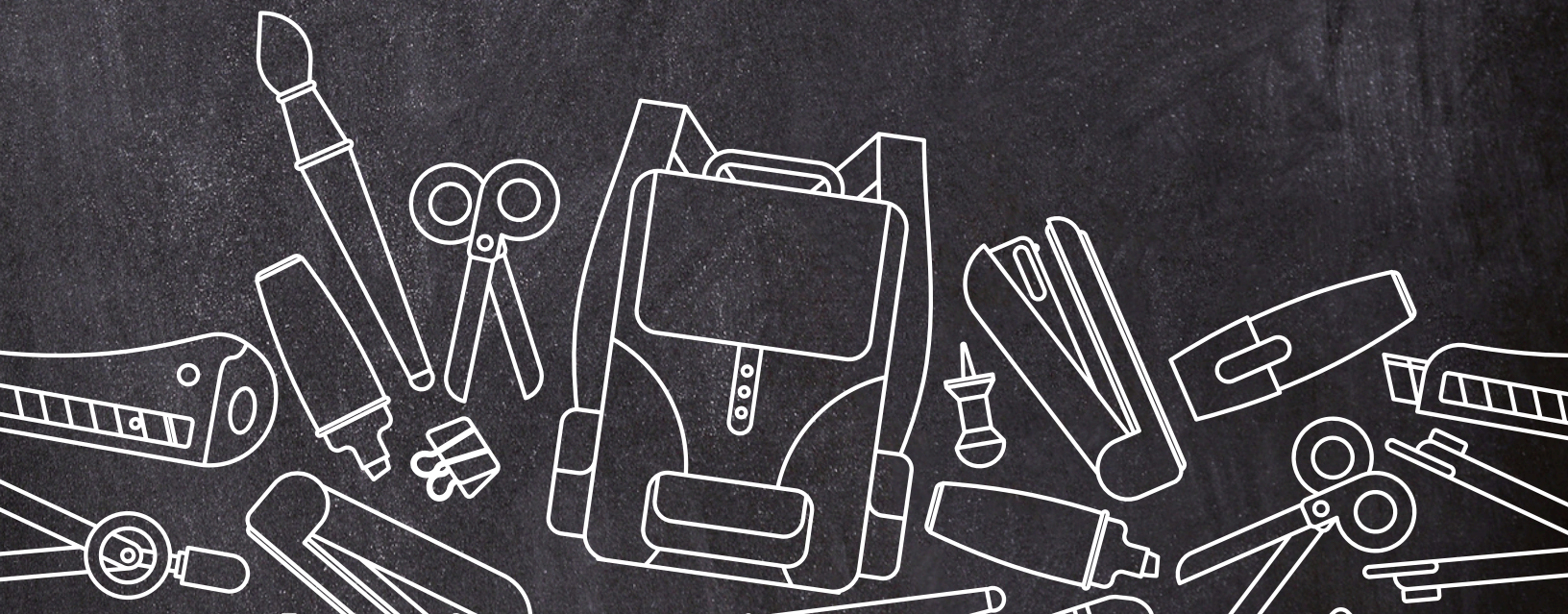
Looking to the cross we mourn over our sin. "For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death" (2 Corinthians 7:10). In our mourning, Jesus taught us that though we feel overwhelmed, we can come to you when heavy laden. You are gentle and your burden easy and In your we find rest for our souls (Matthew 11:28-30).

### **Thanksgiving:**

Thank You that through Jesus, You comfort all who mourn over sin. Thank You that we can bring our heavy hearts, our grief, and our mourning to You. We rejoice that you hear us when we pray. And we thank You for the provision, guidance, and leadership of the administrators of the schools of Grand County.

### **Requests: ADMINISTRATORS**

God, give gentleness and courage to the administrators of East and West Grand School Districts. Give them comfort as they look for help in the challenges and relationships which they oversee. As administrators prepare for this upcoming year, we pray that You would give them wisdom and discernment for the decisions that they will be making; those that are big and small. We pray that they come back from summer break refreshed and renewed and ready to lead their staff. God, bless our administrators with Your grace.





## Day 3

Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

Matthew 5:5

### Adoration:

Jesus, You embodied meekness (gentleness) for us through your humility and submission to God, your Father. You are the Lion of Judah and the Lamb of God who was slain for us (Revelation 5:5-6). Though You were in the form of God, You did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied yourself by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. In human form, You humbled yourself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross Philippians 2:5-8.

### Confession:

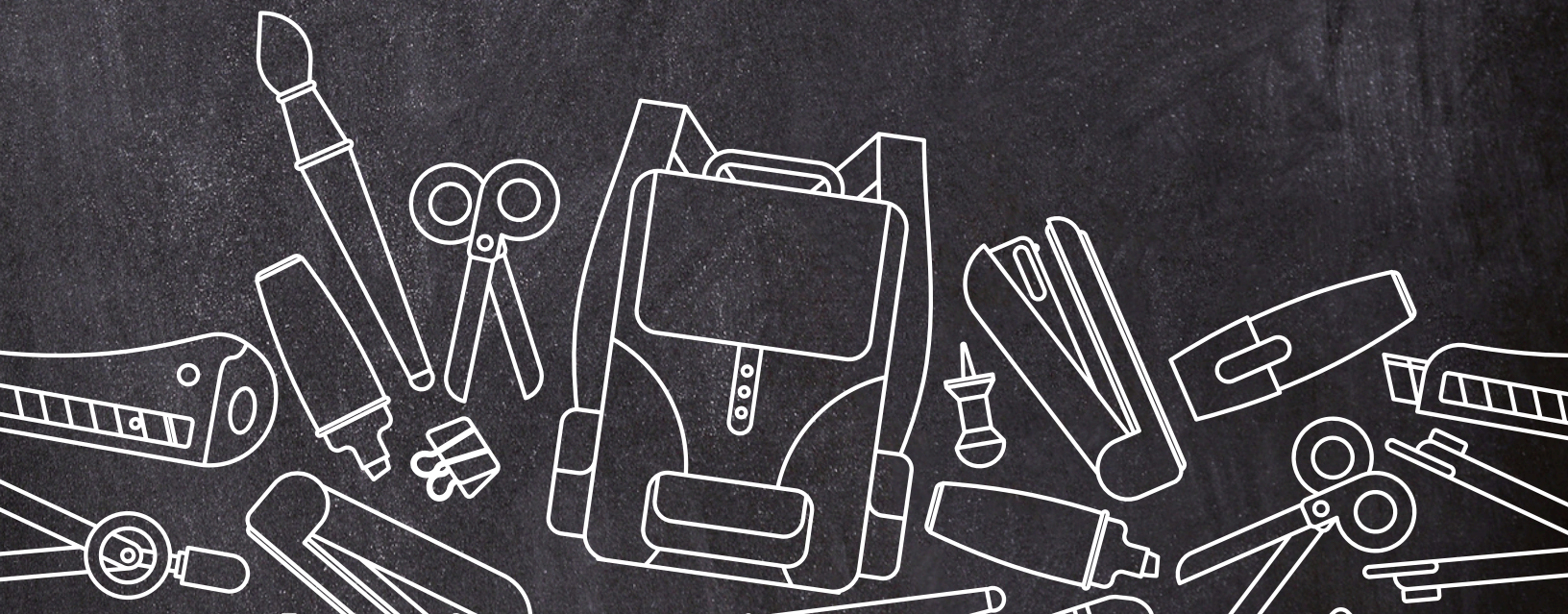
God, forgive us for not being mindful of the great gift of salvation that is given to us through Jesus's submission to Your will and purposes. Hence, we find that we are more mindful of ourselves than others. God, forgive us, in Your mercy.

### Thanksgiving:

Thank You for showing us what true meekness is in Jesus's laying down His life in love for us. Thank You for enabling meekness in us as we consider others more highly than ourselves. Thank You, God, for those in our lives who help to teach us to value and serve others in meekness. Thank You for the counselors of Grand County Schools.

### Requests: COUNSELORS

Increase our love and mindfulness of others as we pray. God, we desire Your will that through our prayers, our schools will be blessed. We ask you, Lord, for wisdom for the counselors of our school. By Your grace and Your mercy, give them words to guide, care, instruct, and encourage the students of Grand County Schools. As they pour their lives into serving others, both staff and students, give them gentleness and courage to speak truth and share hope.





## Day 4

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they shall be satisfied.

Matthew 5:6

### Adoration:

Lord, you are righteous in all your ways and kind in all your works. You, Lord, are near to all who call on you; to all who call on you in truth. You fulfill the desire of those who fear you; you also hear their cry and save them. (Psalm 145:17-19)

### Confession:

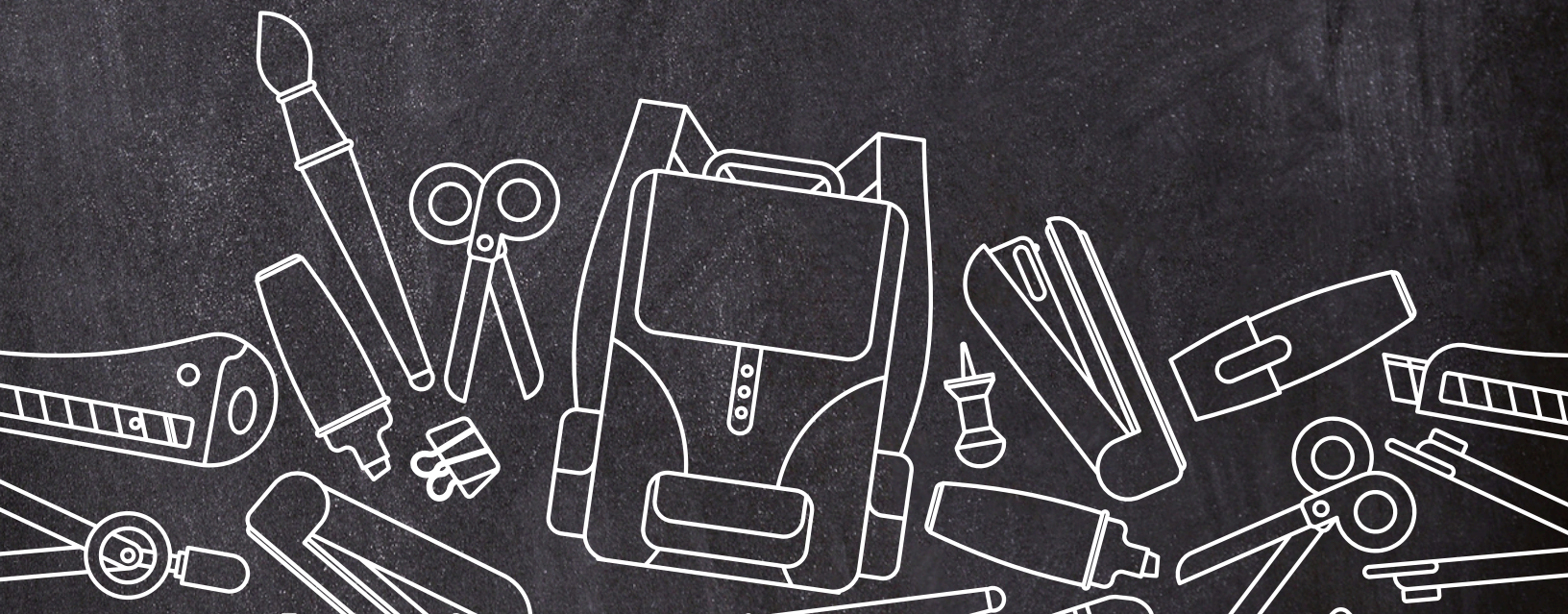
God, we confess that we, like the apostle Paul, tend to rely upon and rest in our own long lists of self-righteous acts. Forgive us for not counting them as garbage as Paul confessed them to be. Cleanse us from our towering self righteousness that we may gain Christ, not having a righteousness of our own (Philippians 3:7-11).

### Thanksgiving:

Thank you, Jesus, for welcoming us to become like little children who depend wholly upon You. We are reminded of Your words, Jesus: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never become hungry, and whoever believes in me will never become thirsty" (John 6:35). We come to You to be satisfied of all that we deeply hunger and thirst for In our souls.

### Requests: STUDENTS

Lord, we lift up to You the students of Grand County. We know that the start of a new school year brings excitement and anxiety to many. God, we ask that Your presence and love be felt and known by all our students. We ask that You give to each student adults and peers who see them, know them, and care for them. God, as these children, adolescents, and young adults search for truth, help them to discover the ways You uniquely created them and to know how much You love them. We also pray, Lord, for protection over the students: physical, emotional, and spiritual as they navigate relationships, responsibilities, failures, and opportunities. We pray that they grow in discernment, discipline, and dependance on you, Lord.





## Day 5

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they shall receive mercy.

Matthew 5:7

### Adoration:

Lord God, You are most merciful. It is because of Your mercies that we are not consumed, because Your compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. You, Lord, are my portion, therefore I will hope in You (Lamentations 3).

### Confession:

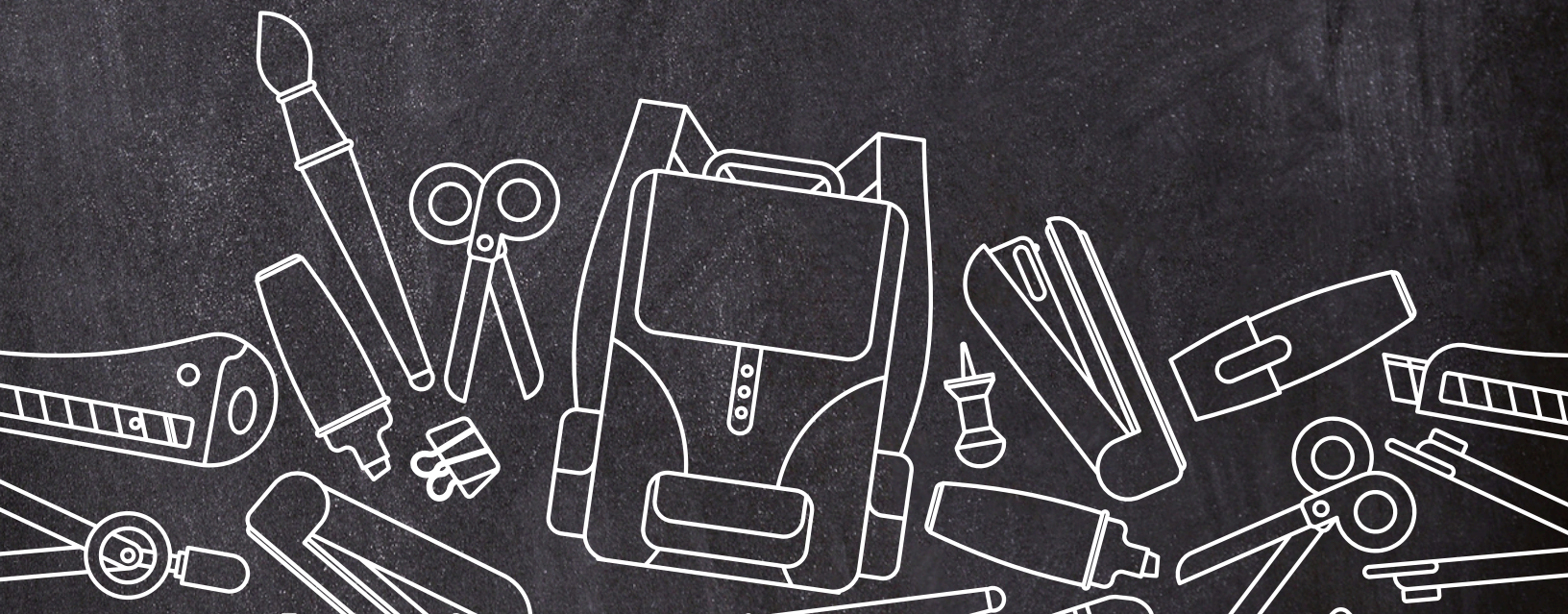
God, we confess that we, like Your prophet Jonah, often prefer judgment (on others) to mercy (Jonah 4:2). Forgive us for not loving as You do, for not being gracious and compassionate, for not being slow to anger and abounding in love, like You, Lord. Have mercy on us!

### Thanksgiving:

Thank you, Lord, that we are your workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has prepared beforehand that we should walk in them, no longer conformed to this world (Ephesians 2:10). Thank You for showing mercy to us, even when we fail to show mercy to others. Thank You for embodying mercy in Your son Jesus, and empowering us to be merciful.

### Requests: **LEARNING SPECIALISTS**

Lord, we pray for the learning specialists in our schools: reading specialists, special ed, ESL, speech therapists, and others. We know that each one plays a vital role in the lives of the students as well as supporting the teachers. God, may You grant them fresh energy each day to meet the students with care and compassion. Give them wisdom to navigate the particular issues of each child and to craft strategies and programs to support each child in their learning journey. When the days are tough and discouragements outnumber appreciation, let them look to You for strength, love, and the abundant life Your promise.





## Day 6

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see God.

Matthew 5:8

### **Adoration:**

Lord God, You alone are pure. Adam and Eve had that pure joy of walking and talking with You in the garden of Eden, until they sinned and broke their relationship with You. You alone are pure, holy, perfect; the same yesterday, today and forever. Our rock and our refuge.

### **Confession:**

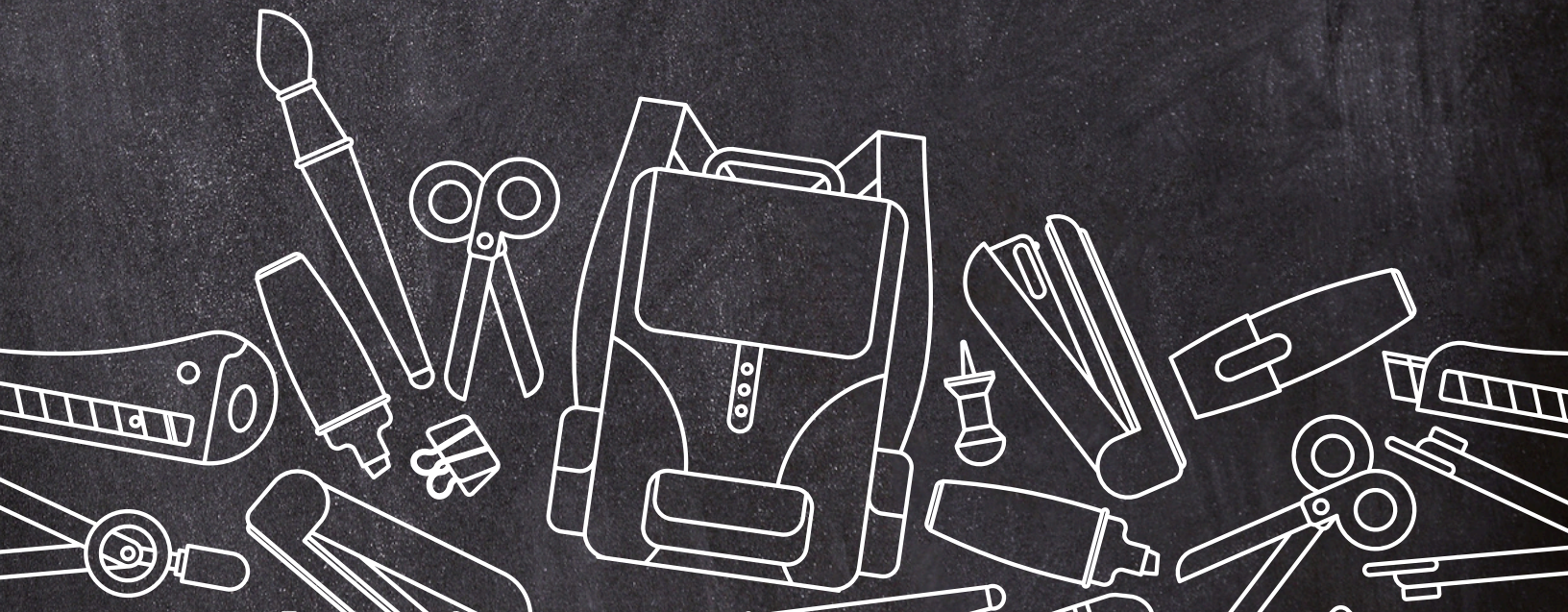
With David, we can only confess our sin and appeal to You, Lord, to do the impossible: "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10). Man looks on our outward appearance, but You, Lord, look on our heart (1 Samuel 16:7). Conform us, evermore, to Your image.

### **Thanksgiving:**

Thank you, Lord, that Your grace is sufficient for us, and Your power is made perfect in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9). We long to see You, God, in our lives and in our schools. Thank You, that though our sins are like scarlet, You make them white and as pure as the snow that will surround us this winter.

### **Requests: SUPPORT STAFF**

Lord, we pray for the support staff in our schools: bus drivers, food servers, front office personnel, custodians, tech support, librarians, maintenance crew, and others. We pray that they would know how valuable they are in the lives of the students as they serve in the school communities. God, we ask for You to use them to make a positive impact on students. Give them patience, wisdom, and love to handle the challenging situations that arise. We asks that You give them more energy each day as they serve the students and staff. We also pray for more staff to fill the great needs of our schools.





## Day 7

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called sons of God.

Matthew 5:9

### Adoration:

God, You made peace with us at immense cost, through your son Jesus. He who knew no sin became sin for us (1 Corinthians 12:5). Only His shed blood as the Lamb of God could bring about peace with us sinners, covering us with his righteousness. You alone are the author of peace and reconciliation.

### Confession:

We confess that we are often the ones responsible for conflict and at times even seek it out. We don't want to do the costly work of reconciliation; the pain of apologizing to the person we have injured or the pain of speaking truth the person who has injured us. Forgive us for settling for cheap grace.

### Thanksgiving:

Jesus, You are the Prince of Peace. Through You, Jesus, God was pleased to reconcile to Himself all things...making peace through Your blood shed on the cross (Colossians 1:20). Purify our hearts that we would desire to follow hard after You and Your ways, to Your glory.

### Requests: FAMILIES

Lord, we lift up the parents, caretakers, and guardians of all the students in our schools. We pray for those who are sending a child to school for the first time and those who will soon be sending off graduates to a new season of life. God we ask for strong partnerships between families and schools, that we can all work together as a team to help our students succeed, grow, and flourish. Lord, strengthen our homes to be places of safety and refuge from the troubles and temptations of this world. Give grace, patience, and wisdom to all the parents, caretakers, and guardians of our students In Grand County to raise up young men and women of love, faith, and character.

