**Prayers for Students to Start the Year**

You can share some of these prayers with your students. Have them create other prayers to help them and their classmates through the school year.

**Prayer Before Study**

Creator of all things,

true source of light and wisdom, lofty origin of all being,

graciously let a ray of your brilliance

penetrate into the darkness of my understanding

and take from me the double darkness in which I have been born,

an obscurity of both sin and ignorance.

Give me a sharp sense of understanding,

a retentive memory,

and the ability to grasp things correctly and fundamentally.

Grant me the talent of being exact in my explanations,

and the ability to express myself with thoroughness and charm.

Point out the beginning, direct the progress,

and help in the completion;

through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274)*

**Open My Mind**

Lord Jesus,

you were once a student like me.

You studied God’s law, the history of your people

and a trade by which to earn a living.

You lived in a human family,

made steady progress in understanding

and yearned to discover your vocation in life.

Open my mind to the truth of things,

make me humble before the awesome mysteries of the universe,

make me proud to be a human being and a child of God

and give me courage to live my life in the light of your gospel.

Amen.

**The Balance**

Help me, God, to find a balance

between study and leisure.

When work must be done,

let me realize that I am here to learn

and cannot go to every party.

Let me also see that

life is more than books

and being a person comes before grades.

A snowball battle,

a walk around a lake

or a simple talk with a friend

will do wonders

when studies get me down.

Guide me along this balanced line.

Amen.

*Loretta Mirandola*

**Anything Can Be Accomplished**

It’s never easy to be a student.

Every day brings more assignments until it seems

that the hard work will never end.

I know I’d rather watch TV or listen to music

many times when I sit down to study,

but please, Lord, help me to realize

that knowledge, like your love, can never be lost.

Help me never to underestimate myself as a student

because anything can be accomplished

with your guidance and love.

Let me be helpful and understanding

toward my fellow students,

and not judge them but radiate the same love

you show us through your lasting mercy.

Amen.

*Bill Starr*

**Give Me**

Dear God, give me the strength to love others and to be loved.

Guide me through each day with your helping hand.

Give me the knowledge that you are already there,

Especially when I need you the most.

Give me the courage to live each moment as if the next will never come.

Show me how to be strong when I am feeling weak.

Give me the strength to live as you intended me to.

Amen.

*Cassie Koberts*