

Prayer Requests

August

Tuesday, August 1

Bluffton (Ohio) University: Please pray for our MBA students who are beginning their classes this week. By advancing their knowledge and skillsets, may they make a difference in their lives, in the management of their organizations, and in the well-being of their communities.

Central Christian School, Kidron, Ohio: Please pray for our fall sports teams as they begin their athletic seasons (Cross Country, Soccer, Girls Tennis, and Volleyball).

Wednesday, August 2

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Ind.: Please pray for AMBS's various departments as they gather this month for their annual planning retreats.

Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Va.: Fall coaches and athletes as teams begin tryouts, conditioning routines, and team-building exercises. We pray for God's spirit to guide and be evident through the encouragement, character, and skill-building disciplines of athletics.

Thursday, August 3

Goshen (Ind.) College: Pray for student athletes and leaders who begin returning to Goshen College early this month to settle in and start their work.

Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa: As we welcome 6th graders to our school for the first time this year, pray they all experience a joyful learning environment where all are known and loved.

Friday, August 4

Bethel College, North Newton, Kan.: Pray for Dr. MeShonya Wren-Coleman, Bethel College vice president for student life, and new staff in student life as they embark on their first start-of-school-year at the college.

Lancaster (Pa.) Mennonite School: Remember Lancaster Mennonite School administration and staff as a new school year begins this month. Pray that any remaining open positions will be filled and that everyone will experience a sense of anticipation and hope for the upcoming year.

Saturday, August 5

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Ind.: Please pray for participants in today's seminar on Embracing Your Leadership Identity — one of AMBS's new Practical Leadership Training modules. May they gain inspiration and strategies to grow in effective leadership.

Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, Pa.: Please pray that all our teachers feel energized and ready to help our students grow both academically and spiritually.

Sunday, August 6

Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, Pa. We are having a Parent Teacher Fellowship potluck meal today. Pray for an enjoyable time of fellowship and connection as we anticipate the beginning of the new school year.

Monday, August 7

Freeman (S.D.) Academy: We're thankful for the hiring of good staff for crucial positions and being able to start the year well. Please pray for our renewed enrollment and development efforts. We're taking some bold steps on both fronts, and we hope the Spirit will bring fruit.

Hesston (Kan.) College: Please pray for wisdom, clarity, and encouragement for the members of the Title IX Implementation Group as they continue their work of adjusting and improving policies, procedures, and practices related to Title IX, student safety, and student support at Hesston College.

Tuesday, August 8

Bluffton (Ohio) University: Please pray for our student leaders and athletes who are moving onto campus early this week for trainings and practice. May they embrace Bluffton's mission of responsible citizenship and service to all peoples for God's universal kingdom.

Hinkletown Mennonite School, Ephrata, Pa.: Please pray for middle and high school sports teams as they begin practice preparing for fall athletic seasons. Pray that teams would grow together, experience unity, learn the value of good sportsmanship, and represent Christ well as they have the opportunity to compete with other schools.

Wednesday, August 9

Hesston (Kan.) College: Please pray for the faculty and staff at Hesston College as they gather for a time of retreat, training, and planning. May this time cultivate a culture of increased student support within the 2023-2024 academic year ahead.

Thursday, August 10

Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Ind.: Pray for Bethany Christian Schools' students and faculty as school begins today and for families of prospective students as they make last-minute decisions regarding Christian education. Pray that students may experience God's nudge during the learning process, that they may grow in their understanding of and commitment to Christ, and develop their gifts for Christian service.

Quakertown (Pa.) Christian School: Prayers for our Board of Directors as we begin another year of their guidance. We ask God's blessing on each member as they listen to God's direction for our school.

Friday, August 11

Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Va.: Please pray for EMS faculty and staff as they convene for their Fall Conference and strategic goal focus areas for the 23-24 year around the topics of school culture, community engagement, and curriculum development.

Western Christian School, Salem, Ore.: Pray that God will provide the right person for each open position.

Saturday, August 12

Colegio Américas Unidas, Cali, Colombia: Please pray for the Colegio Américas Unidas, an educational ministry of the Mennonite sister churches in Colombia for over 57 years. Pray for the enrollment numbers needed to achieve a sustainable budget. Pray for God's provision, wisdom, strength, and direction to face this challenge and the challenges of a new school year that begins in September.

Sunday, August 13

Mennonite Early Childhood Network:

Entering the fall season, children, parents, teachers/caregivers leave the leisurely vacation days for a more prescribed routine of a new school year. Pray that adults recognize the blessing of guiding young children while also seeing each child's own unique gifts. May adults encourage children to extend those gifts to others.

Monday, August 14

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Ind.:

This week, new graduate students are coming together at AMBS for orientation activities; please pray for rich and fruitful in-person interactions among students, faculty, and staff.

Lancaster (Pa.) Mennonite School: August 14-18 is a week for staff development at Lancaster Mennonite School. Remember them as they prepare for a successful school year and pray for wisdom and strength as they teach and model the life and teachings of Christ for their students each day.

Tuesday, August 15

Central Christian School, Kidron, Ohio:

Pray for our students as they prepare for a new school year, especially our new students. We pray that God would fill their hearts with excitement and calm their worries. Help them make friends, enjoy the activities, and build relationships with their teachers.

Goshen (Ind.) College: Pray for Goshen College employees who are gathering today for their annual all-employee retreat.

Wednesday, August 16

Bethel College, North Newton, Kan.: On this first day of the 2023-24 school year at Bethel College, pray for the campus community, especially for new students (first-year and transfer) as they begin this chapter of their lives.

West Fallowfield Christian School, Atglen, Pa.:

Please pray for the upcoming school year and specifically our new High School, grades 9 & 10!

Thursday, August 17

Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, Pa.:

Prayers for New Family Orientation and the EC8 Camus Open House tomorrow. May our returning families continue to feel welcomed by the Dock community as well as be welcoming to the new families joining us for the 23-24 school year.

Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Va.:

Please pray for students, especially our new students and families, as classes and activities begin. Pray that each student will find a place of belonging within the EMS family.

Friday, August 18

Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, Pa.:

Please pray for Dock's New Faculty Orientation today as we invite new employees into our community and help them transition into their new roles here at Dock. May they feel welcomed and loved by their new work family.

Hesston (Kan.) College: Please pray for students at Hesston College as they arrive on campus and experience Opening Weekend. Pray the weekend is filled with new friendships, lifelong memories, and a strong foundation for the year ahead.

Saturday, August 19

Bethel College, North Newton, Kan.: Please pray for Bethel College fall athletes as they jump full force into the new season – for health and safety when traveling and when practicing and playing outside in the heat.

Western Christian School, Salem, Ore.: Please pray for the building project that will open up five new classrooms.

Sunday, August 20

Bluffton (Ohio) University: Please pray for our undergraduate students who are moving onto campus this week. May they embrace Bluffton's Enduring Values of Discovery, Community, Respect, and Service as they find their talent, their passion, and ultimately, their way.

Hesston (Kan.) College: Please pray for faculty and students at Hesston College as they engage in the first day of classes tomorrow. Pray for confidence, calm nerves, and a desire to learn and grow together inside and outside of the classroom.

Monday, August 21

Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, Pa.: Our teachers attend in-service on August 21-22. Please pray for meaningful professional development time spent together as a staff and a collaborative and productive start to the school year. Please pray for our teachers and staff as they prepare to welcome students and begin a new school year.

Shalom Christian Academy, Chambersburg, Pa.: Please pray that as teachers return today they will be refreshed and energized for a new school year. Pray that new faculty will feel welcomed and quickly adjust to a new school culture.

Tuesday, August 22

Lancaster (Pa.) Mennonite School: Remember Lancaster Mennonite students and faculty as they begin the new school year today. Pray that anxious students are welcomed and feel a sense of calmness and are excited and prepared for a good year.

Lezha (Albania) Academic Center: Pray for good enrollment during the month of August. Teachers' return date is August 29. Pray that each of them will experience God's presence and they are filled with love and grace as they start another school year.

Quakertown (Pa.) Christian School: We welcome back our faculty as we begin a new school year. May they feel refreshed from the summer and excited about returning to the classroom. We pray a special blessing over each of our teachers and ask that they share Christ's love for each student.

Wednesday, August 23

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Ind.: Please pray for AMBS students and faculty members as they begin a new academic year this month — both in person and at a distance. May their collaborative learning processes be filled with Spirit-led connections and insights.

Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa: Pray for our entire Hillcrest Academy school community as we begin classes today, that we will come together with joy, grace, and unity.

Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, Pa.: Today is the first day for students. Please pray for students as they anticipate and begin the school year, that they would feel a sense of welcome and belonging.

Thursday, August 24

Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, Pa.:

Please pray a blessing for the Dock students as they return to the classroom today. May the students feel welcomed and valued as they enter the building and may they form meaningful connections and feel peace as they begin a new year.

Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa: Please pray for the ten new Hillcrest Academy faculty and staff, and two new Operating Board members, that they will feel confident and a sense of togetherness and support.

Hinkletown Mennonite School, Ephrata, Pa.:

Pray for the Middle School students and teachers as they go off campus to Woodcrest Retreat for a day of orientation and bonding for a new school year.

Friday, August 25

Bethel College, North Newton, Kan.: As the 2023-24 school year gets underway, pray for new Bethel College faculty in Bible and religion, chemistry, health and human performance, music, psychology, and social work.

Diamond Street Early Childhood Center,

Akron, Pa.: We are restructuring our early care and education programs to better meet the needs of our community. Please pray for the staff, students, and families during this transition.

Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, Pa.:

Please pray that throughout the new school year, our students would come to more fully understand God's love for them, through the teaching and care they receive at Kraybill.

Saturday, August 26

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary,

Elkhart, Ind.: Give thanks for the latest volume in the Believers Church Bible Commentary Series: Luke, written by Mary H. Schertz, PhD, AMBS Professor Emerita of New Testament. May readers deepen their faith through her teachings about this gospel.

Mennonite Early Childhood Network: "Since the early 2000's, we have had a fundamental cultural shift away from child-directed free play towards more sedentary endeavors," according to Preston Blackburn. Pray that adults may outsmart the wiggles of young children by providing large motor learning opportunities.

Sunday, August 27

Bluffton (Ohio) University: Please pray for Bluffton University students, faculty, and staff as the fall 2023 semester begins. May we learn from each other, embrace new opportunities, and experience a world of opportunity.

Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, Pa.:

Please pray that the administration will feel equipped to help our staff grow both in the classroom and in faith.

Monday, August 28

Goshen (Ind.) College: Pray for Goshen College students and faculty as they start the new semester.

Quakertown (Pa.) Christian School:

As we enter into our 73rd school year we pray for God's guidance as we teach the words of Christ. We ask for prayers as we focus on our theme with our students, "Be the Salt. Be the Light!" May each of our students receive these words and put them into practice.

Tuesday, August 29

Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, Pa.:

Please pray for fall athletics, music, and theater programs.

Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg,

Va.: Please pray for the EMS community as we seek to join hands of generosity during the public phase of "We Gather," a campaign to fund our elementary school's Gathering Space, the "family room" of our K-5 school program.

Wednesday, August 30

Central Christian School, Kidron, Ohio:

Please pray for our senior class as they participate in their senior service learning trip in western Pennsylvania, from August 30 through September 1.

Western Christian School, Salem, Ore.:

Please pray that we will remain focused on bringing God glory through the work we do at WCS.

Mennonite Education Agency (MEA) is the education agency of Mennonite Church USA. Thank you for joining us in prayer for the schools. These prayer requests were gathered from across all levels of Mennonite education, from early childhood programs, primary and secondary schools, undergraduate schools, graduate schools, seminaries, and MEA's Hispanic Ministries programs. By partnering with these schools and educational programs and helping them flourish, MEA works to strengthen Mennonite Church USA through education. To subscribe to this monthly publication, please contact JoleneV@MennoniteEducation.org or 574.343.1310. www.MennoniteEducation.org

Thursday, August 31

MEA's Instituto Bíblico Anabautista (IBA –

Anabaptist Bible Institute): Pray for the group of IBA tutors and leaders who will be gathering in San Antonio, Texas, on Aug. 31 – Sept. 4, for a strategic planning meeting. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance as these leaders meet. May this be a time of discernment, fellowship, sharing, and building relationships, full of many blessings. Also, please pray for safe travel for the participants and staff.

Shalom Christian Academy, Chambersburg,

Pa.: We are hosting a back-to-school social today. Pray that families and students will use the opportunity to join our school community in starting a new school year.