

HOPE FOR OUR SCHOOLS

21 Ways We Can Make A Difference



Back on April 9th, 2014 another school tragedy struck but this time it was close to home. Franklin Regional High School in Murrysville was the location of another act of violence in a long string of tragedies that have occurred since the Columbine shootings back in April of 1999. We know these things happen in “other” places, but it was terrible to see it happen in our own backyard. But God was present in this tragedy - from the trauma surgeons’ conference at Forbes Hospital taking place that day, to the youth group meetings turned into community prayer services that night, to the 200+ students who came out to pray for their school on their first day back to school (pictured above and to the right), we believe all of this was God’s way of saying He cares about our schools and He can and will be present no matter how much we may try to keep Him out of our public life.

For so long Christians have believed that schools are off limits - the so-called ‘separation of church and state’ has been a mental and legal barrier that has led many of us to give up on schools as a place where the Gospel can be lived and shared. But this tragedy has reinforced the idea that churches must not give up on schools. While we may not be able to do some things, there are plenty of other things that we can and must do.

There are many things that need done to prevent tragedies like this from happening in the future and followers of Jesus have something powerful to offer.



What can we do? First, we pray!

Our most powerful tool for influence is prayer and there are many creative ways to pray for schools.

1. Adopt-A-School – the website www.everyschool.com has a database of every school in the country and their goal is to see people praying for all of them.



2. Moms in Prayer – all over the country groups of moms meet weekly to pray for schools. You can start a group by visiting www.momsinprayer.org

3. Prayer Zone Partners – we are used to seeing “Drug Free Zone” signs near schools. What if we mentally translated that to say “Prayer Zone”? Prayer Zone Partners encourages adults to pray for teachers, students, administrators, coaches, etc. as they drive past schools. www.prayerzonepartners.com



4. Prayer Walk – What better way to pray than to walk around the buildings/grounds that your tax dollars pay for! Visit www.reviveprayerwalk.com for ideas.



5. Bless Our Schools Sunday – on the 3rd Sunday of each September, Moms in Prayer encourages churches all over the nation to dedicate a Sunday morning service to praying for their students, teachers, and local schools. (www.momsinprayer.org)

6. Claim Your Campus – youth groups are encouraged to partner with other youth ministries in their town to cover their school with prayer each day of the week (www.claimyourcampus.com)



claimyourcampus.com

7. See You At The Pole – students are encouraged to meet at their school flag pole the fourth Wednesday of every September to pray for their friends, their teachers, their administrators, coaches, etc. (www.syatp.com)



Mission Statement

Moms in Prayer International impacts children and schools worldwide for Christ by gathering mothers to pray.

Vision Statement

Our vision is that every school in the world would be covered with prayer.

www.momsinprayer.org

Moms In Prayer invites
your church to participate in

**BLESS
Our
Schools
SUNDAY**

**Churches Worldwide
Praying for Children & Schools**

To Bless Our Schools through prayer, please pray for ...

Students—Pray Christian students will stand firm in their faith, showing God's love on their campus so many will come to Christ this school year.

Staff—Pray for unity and high moral standards among the teachers, administration, school board and support staff, that all decisions will be based on biblical values, and that God will strengthen, refresh and bless the Christians serving in our schools.

Safety—Pray that God's hand of protection will be upon the students, school and staff, that any plans for evil will be quickly thwarted.

Sunday, September 21st, 2014

What's Next? Get Involved!

As we pray and seek God the result will be a burden to do something. Here are some practical ideas.

PARENTS

- Join your school's PTA group.
- Organize parent meetings on a regular basis to pray for schools, communicate prayer needs, resource needs, and volunteer needs.
- Meet with school officials and ask about ways to volunteer.
- Run for election on the School Board

CHURCH LEADERS

- Partner with a local school to provide tutoring for kids
- Buy Bibles, Gospels of John, tracts, etc. for Christian students to distribute at school (www.ibsdirect.com, www.pocketpower.com, www.bookofhope.com, www.atstracts.org).
- Plan a [commissioning service](#) to pray for/over Christian teenagers as "missionaries" to their schools.
- Buy pizzas for the campus ministry at a school to do an outreach event.

TEACHERS

- Learn your legal rights (www.alliancedefendingfreedom.org)
- Pray with fellow teachers
- Host a student led campus ministry

YOUTH PASTORS

- Meet with the principal and ask for their perspective on students in your community.
- Work with other youth pastors to bring school assembly programs. (www.feelthepower.org, www.reachyourcity.com, www.thesevenproject.com, www.sethfranco.com)
- Become an assistant coach.
- Sponsor an evangelism/ campus ministry training event with other youth pastors in your community.
- Equip students with the knowledge of their legal rights at school (www.aclj.org).

STUDENTS

- Think of your school as a 9 Month Mission Trip (www.9monthmissiontrip.com)
- Start or lead a campus ministry at your school (www.yausa.com, www.teensforchrist.org, www.gocampus.org)
- Organize See You At The Pole
- Plan outreaches to your fellow students
- Participate in Fields of Faith (www.fieldsoffaith.com)

What will you do?

We hope that you can take one or two of these ideas and implement them this school year.

Is there one particular school that you have a concern for?

What is one way that you could pray intentionally for that school and the students, teachers, coaches, and administrators there?

Is there one of those practical ideas that you believe God would have you do to make a difference?

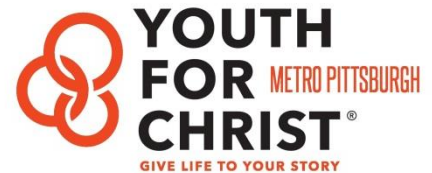
Would you pray for these local ministries that reaches students on local high school campuses?



www.fcapittsburgh.com



www.teensforchrist.org



www.yfcmp.org



www.riverregion.younglife.org



www.reachtheschool.com

This resource was compiled by

