



**BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS** - With the new school year beginning, here are six tips to help parents and children and YOU in the months ahead...

**1. INFORM children of their freedom of religious expression at school.**

Your children can express their faith in their homework and share about their faith with classmates. For a list of their religious liberties, click here <http://www.gtbe.org/news/index.php/56/72.html>

**2. TEACH children discernment.** Help your children learn to think critically about what they are learning instead of merely absorbing it. Predict what they may learn and pre-teach your perspective on the topic. You can do this by reading their textbooks and talking to them about any questions you may have about the author's bias. This will help them become active listeners and discerning thinkers. Over dinner, ask them if they detected any bias in how the topic was taught that day.

**3. PRAY regularly for your children's teachers.** Praying for your children's teachers may sound like a standard piece of advice, but I recommend that you be very intentional in your prayers. Make a list of your children's teachers, school principals, and other adults in their lives. Put this list in a place where you will be reminded daily to pray for them. Here's the key: Ask God how He wants to use you to be a godly influence in their lives this school year. Then, watch for the doors He opens!

**4. BLESS the teacher with an encouraging note.** Even within the first few days or weeks of the school year you can find something the teachers are doing that you appreciate. It may be something your children enjoyed learning, it may be the way the teachers decorated their rooms, it may be a classroom activity that you think is a great idea. Let them know by writing a brief note of appreciation and encouragement.

**5. ENCOURAGE your children to pray each morning at school.**

In 34 states, schools can, and in about half are required to, start the day with a moment of silence. Even if your state doesn't have a moment of silence law, you can download a beautiful prayer and give it to your children to pray each day. Click here for a list of all the states with laws regarding moments of silence. <http://www.gtbe.org/news/index.php/5/102.html>

**6. BE an encouragement to Christian teachers at school.** If you know a teacher at your children's school who is a Christian, get a map of the campus from the school office, and meet with that teacher. On the map, ask the teacher to circle the names of other Christian teachers he or she knows. During the school year look for opportunities to connect with those teachers



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and give them encouraging information about how they can address religious holidays, their students' religious liberties, and helpful articles - from the [Gateways to Better Education](http://www.GoGateways.org) website [www.GoGateways.org](http://www.GoGateways.org)

*May God bless others through you & your children at school this year!*



### ***Misinformation threatens students' freedom***

Misplaced concerns over violating a misunderstood “separation of church and state” keep many educators from encouraging—or acknowledging—the religious lives of their students. Increasingly, this confusion and misinformation is putting their religious freedoms at risk...

**In Tennessee 10-year-old** Erin Shead experienced this personally. Her elementary school teacher told her class to write about someone they idolized. Erin decided to write about God. “I look up to God,” Erin wrote. “He will always be the #1 person I look up to.” But Erin’s teacher told her that she could not write about God, and she had to start over. Reluctantly, she wrote about a pop star. After the incident made the news, Shelby County Schools issued a statement saying “No laws or district policies allow teachers to limit students’ expression of religious beliefs in their personal classwork. This was a regrettable misunderstanding, and we as educators must learn from it.”

**16-year-old Jacob** says “I’m a junior in high school and I’m trying to balance school and social activities as well as keeping Christ at the center of my life.” He’s been listening to BreakPoint commentaries since last summer to help him understand the state of the nation and stay informed. He recently wrote to us, “I always seem to miss out on the important news articles that you mention on BreakPoint... Could you maybe tell me some ways to stay up to date, such as getting news apps and setting up my own RSS feeds?”

Jacob, like many others, counts on BreakPoint as an important source of truth in an increasingly mixed-message world. Audio, print and electronic resources help equip him to live out his Christian worldview—and empower him to express his religious freedom in an increasingly intolerant world.

Thank you for prayers and support - [BreakPoint](http://www.BreakPoint.org) - [www.BreakPoint.org](http://www.BreakPoint.org)

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