



MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA



Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan

3703 Chesterdale Drive
Missouri City, Texas, 77459
Office: (281) 403-0670
Fax: (281) 459-0814
dswadiocesanoffice@ds-wa.org
www.ds-wa.org

DSWA/C/09/2013

August 12, 2013

Blessings to all our Cor-Episcopoi, Priests, Deacons, Parish Managing Committee members, and all the faithful, especially our dear children.

Dearly beloved,

The new academic year is upon us, with summer vacation drawing to a close. It is that time of year when students have to reacquaint themselves with waking up early, attending classes, finishing assignments and studying for exams, all the while taking part in extra-curricular activities. Often times, students find themselves with a tremendous load to carry. We try our best to handle the many challenges life throws at us, but if we try to do everything ourselves and not involve God in any way, we are setting ourselves up for failure. The following words of King Solomon in the Old Testament should serve as a reminder for us when we are faced with such stress, pressure or feel like things are falling apart: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will make straight your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

We now live in a world of information where everything is accessible to all people. The development of technology has allowed for educational resources and material to be available at the touch of our fingers. As a Christian, our duty and responsibility is to collect and sort through information that will ultimately guide our commitment to God and others. The smallest leniency towards unnecessary and distracting things can grow to a big extent and misguide our life and the purpose of education. As a student, the wisdom we obtain from God, who is the source of all knowledge, will indeed help us grow. Your task is to seek growth in all aspects of your life including but not limited to your emotional well-being, spirituality and intellect. Moreover, each student is tasked with discovering or identifying their talents, strengths and weaknesses, growing or improving them for the glory of God.

We take this opportunity to remind you of the respect that is due unto your teachers, your elders and your parents. Treat others the way you want to be treated. God honors those who obey and live according to His commandments.

We extend our love and prayers to all our beloved children for the new academic year. May the blessings and mercies of God Almighty be showered upon us all.

Your shepherd in Christ,

Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan



Prayer For The Start of a New Academic Year

Our Loving and Gracious Heavenly Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we come before You this day and entreat Your children into Your holy hands. Bless them with the abundance of Your grace as they prepare for the start of a new school year. Endow them with wisdom and strength. Send forth Your Heavenly knowledge upon them. O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges and universities, that they may be centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom. Send forth Your blessings upon all the teachers and professors, that they may find You to be the source of all truth through Jesus Christ our Lord. O Lord, teach these Your children to seek first Your glory and honor. Guide them to perceive what is right, grant them the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it. May the blessings of God the Father Almighty, the grace of the only begotten Son, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the communion and indwelling of the Holy Spirit be upon us all, especially Your children who are preparing to start a new school year, both now and always, and forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father who art in Heaven...

Hail Mary full of grace...