Blessing of the Backpacks

This is especially appropriate at the beginning of a new school year, inviting all students and teachers to bring their backpacks. It is also a good opportunity to invite all members of the congregation to bring their briefcases, computer bags, purses and diaper bags, whatever they use to bring the stuff of work with them. You may consider providing a pin, a key chain or some other reminder that people can put on their bags to take with them.

Older voice: At the start of a new school year, we think of all that God is calling us to make.
Young voice: Making our lunch and making it to the bus stop on time. Making friends and making the team. Making art, music, math equations and computer code.
All voices: May God the Father guide our making

Young voice: We think, with excitement and fear, of all the work ahead in this new school year.
Older voice: Administration, janitorial staff, teachers, social workers, counselors, cafeteria workers, crossing guards, safety officers, classroom aides, and volunteers all work to keep our students safe, healthy, learning, and flourishing.
All voices: May God the Son our working bless

Older voice: At the start of a new school year, we pray that God will use us to share Jesus' love
Young voice: With the friends we already have, with new kids too and even with our teachers and staff. Help us not to bully others and to stand up for those who are littler than us. Make us excited to learn about everything in the whole world, which You made and You love. Make us brave, give us wisdom and help us to be kind.
All voices: May God the Spirit lead us into righteousness.

While singing *Worker's Blessing*, all members of the congregation are invited to receive or to come forward to take a pin, luggage tag, key chain or some other remembrance to put on their backpack for the year.

Written for the Worship for Workers Project of Fuller Seminary by Meg Jenista Kuykendall from Washington, DC