

## Backpack Blessing

We bless this backpack that you, the wearer, ...*[name]*...  
May carry with you the  
life-giving, love-weaving, courage  
of your whole community  
and of a God who comes close,  
who lives in every breath of being human,  
And even in the threads of this backpack, to remind you...  
You are *always* loved, and you are never, not for one second alone.  
Something special and sacred lives  
In every ordinary moment you touch because  
you are a part of growing life.

In every pencil your hands sharpen  
In every question and curiosity that pops into your mind.  
In every page you turn to see what's next.  
In every note you sing,  
In every loud (*or quiet*) cafeteria conversation.  
In every chore - (*even the boring ones*) - that help your family get ready for the day.  
In every little part of your bedtime routine that leads your body to rest.

*May you sense that you are growing life,*  
In every smile and warm hello,  
In every moment that you feel confident and can help someone else,  
AND every moment that you feel lost and need help yourself.  
*And may you know that you are never alone,*  
Both when your body is filled with happy, connected energy,  
AND when you are so frustrated or anxious that you feel like you just might explode!  
*Every inch of you is loved.*  
*As you wear this backpack may you feel that life-giving, love-weaving, courage, stretching*  
*into your hands, through your chest, into your lungs, and all the way down to your toes.*  
*So that whatever is yours to do, you may do it with your whole heart.*

*Knowing that you are you are held by a community who loves you, and a God who is*  
*always with you. †*