

Simple Solutions:

Teachers' Favorite Tips & Timesavers

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Gearing up for class projects, field trips, or new lesson plans? Build your registry with supplies you want and share it with parents.



Student Motivation

Good Behavior

Take good behavior to new heights with this easy display. **Label a construction paper strip with a privilege, such as extra recess. Attach the strip facedown to the top of a door frame.** Keep cutout shapes nearby. Each time the class demonstrates good behavior, attach a cutout to the door frame. Work from the bottom of the frame to the top. When the cutouts reach the paper strip, reveal the hidden privilege and reward the class.



Here's another timesaver: use pages from die-cut notepads for this activity. They're available at Walmart.com.



Seasonal Incentive

To manage the class during the holidays, give students an incentive for good behavior. Display a variety of seasonal cutouts. **Each time the class demonstrates good behavior, have a different child color a cutout.** When the cutouts are all colored, reward the class with a treat or privilege.

A die-cut machine of your own? Yes. The Sizzix Big Shot is available at Walmart.com.

Classroom Routines and Events

Cheery Chart

Track attendance quickly and easily with this at-a-glance chart. **Divide a sheet of poster board to make a chart that has a space for each student in your class.** Write each child's name in a space, then laminate the chart. Have each child draw a happy face or self-portrait and cut it out. Laminate these as well. Add Velcro dots to each space and cutout. Display the chart with the cutouts nearby. Each morning, a child attaches his cutout when he arrives. You'll be able to see at a glance who is absent that day.



Add Velcro dots to your school supply list. Stock up at Walmart.com.

Neat Nest Award

Students will aim to keep their desks tidy to earn the Neat Nest Award! **Laminate a bird picture or use a stuffed bird toy. Each week, place it inside a neat desk (nest), where the bird will “live” for the week.** Students will be thrilled when their desks are chosen.

Earn money for your school today. Register as an affiliate, post your list on your school's website, and earn!



Walmart.com has Pacon construction paper packs in 10 skin-color hues.

Helping Hands

Here's a system to **allow students to signal for help during quiet working time.** Give a hand cutout to each child. When a student needs assistance during quiet time, have her put the hand cutout on her desk. With a quick scan, you'll know who needs a hand.

Student Storybook

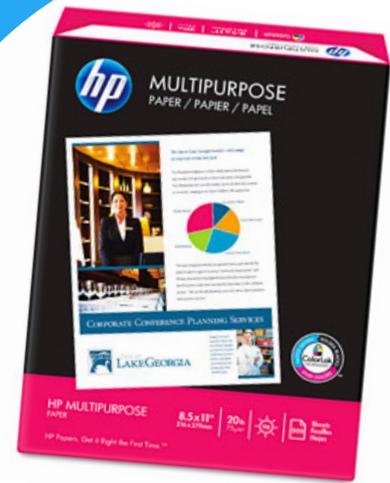
Let parents enjoy a good storybook while **waiting for teacher conferences.** Have each child write a story; then bind the stories together to make a class book. Parents won't mind waiting their turn when they have such good reading material.



For a special touch, print students' stories on colorful printer paper from Walmart.com.

Sparkling Interest

Spark students' interest in a field trip with this scavenger hunt. **Make a tic-tac-toe grid with eight trip-related activities or questions and a free space.** For example, you might have students answer questions about the field trip site's history or challenge them to think of three questions to ask their field trip guide. Give each child a copy of the grid and have him write his own activity in the free space. Students draw an X over each activity they complete and an O over each activity they choose not to complete. Reward students who get three in a row with a sticker for their grid. Happy travels!



Don't forget the copier paper. Include it on your Classrooms by Walmart Teacher Registry.

Earn even more with eBoxTop, available only at Classrooms by Walmart.

Special Event Books

If you're going on a field trip or have a special assembly coming up, **create special booklets that students can use to record their observations.** To make a book, stack several sheets of paper, fold the paper in half, and punch two holes near the folded edge. Thread a three-foot length of yarn through the holes and tie the ends, leaving the yarn long enough to make a necklace. Have each child decorate and write her name on her cover. On the day of the special event, the child wears the booklet around her neck or over her arm and records facts, writes questions, or draws pictures to show her observations.

First Aid Kit

Prepare your field trip chaperones to deal with **minor scuffs and scrapes.** To make a simple first aid kit, pack bandages, cotton balls, antibacterial cream, tweezers, gauze, and adhesive tape in a resealable plastic bag. Give a kit to each field trip chaperone so she'll have what she needs in case of a minor injury.



Include resealable plastic bags on your supply list. Have girls bring sandwich-size and boys bring quart-size. You'll be well-prepared.

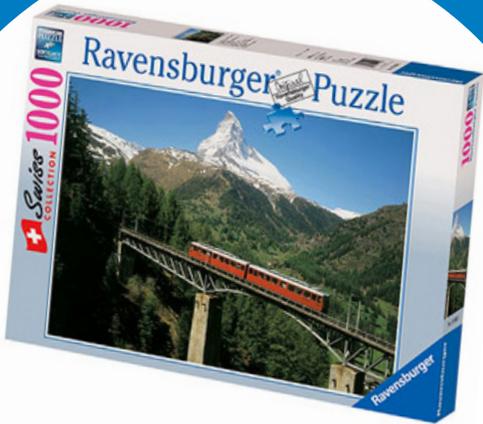
Terrific Tickets

Boost positive class involvement with tickets that promote good behavior, participation, and turning in homework.

Give students tickets throughout the week when you catch them demonstrating good behavior or for participating in class or turning in homework. Have a student write her name on the back of the ticket and put it in a designated container. Hold a weekly drawing and choose one ticket from the container. The winner gets a reward.



Walmart.com carries single and double rolls of tickets. Stock up today.



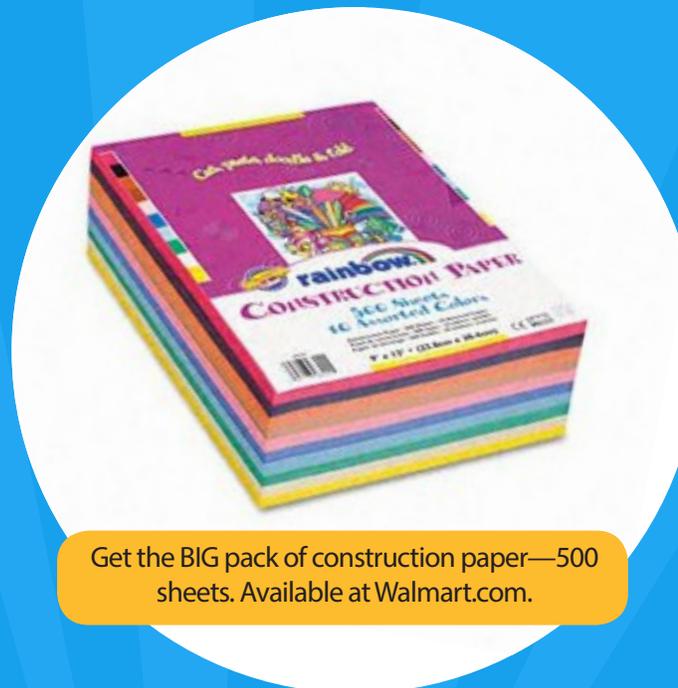
Puzzle Power

Set out a puzzle for students to work on anytime they finish their work early. **Puzzles give students a chance to work different parts of their brains and help get them refreshed for their next class activity.** Plus students will feel a real sense of accomplishment when they snap that last piece into place.

Once students put together their puzzle, challenge them to write stories about the scene. You'll find hundreds of puzzles to choose from at Walmart.com.

Shapely Management

Attach a colorful shape to the corner of each student's desk or table space. Then **use these shapes to save time on basic classroom management tasks.** For example, to group students ask every student with a square to pair up with a student who has a circle. Have students with green shapes distribute homework or with triangles line up first. Easy!



Get the BIG pack of construction paper—500 sheets. Available at Walmart.com.

Organizational Tips

Border Storage

Looking for a handy way to store bulletin board borders? **Roll up borders inside clean, empty frosting containers.** Use glue to attach a piece of the border around the outside of the can. You won't have to guess what's inside.



Make a sweet treat, then reuse the icing container in your classroom. What could be better? Stock up at Walmart.



Colorful binders keep you organized. Get them at Walmart.com.

Student Information at Your Fingertips

Create an information binder to keep ongoing notes of students' progress, strengths, and weaknesses. To make your binder, label a small sticky note for each student and affix it to the edge of a page. **Throughout the day, write notes about a child's progress with a skill or what she is having difficulty with.** Add more pages to the binder as necessary. The notes will be a great reference as you prepare for conferences and report cards.

Crafty Carryalls

Empty potato chip cans make unique carryalls for all kinds of classroom supplies. Cover the outside with colorful Con-Tact covering. Use the cans to hold manipulatives, craft supplies, pencils, paintbrushes, and more. Label the outside of the cans with the contents.



Cool Con-Tact covering—add it to your cart at Walmart.com.

No More Clutter

Keep clutter to a minimum by **repurposing empty laundry detergent boxes or large cereal boxes**. Cut a diagonal opening in the top of each box so you can easily slide papers and books inside. Stock each box with supplies for activities for early finishers, materials for upcoming units, extra copies of homework, and so forth. The possibilities are endless.



Save those cereal boxes—and ask parents to do the same.

Lesson Helps

Gearing up for class projects, field trips, or new lesson plans? Build your registry with supplies you want and share it with parents.

Parent Volunteers

Do you have students who are struggling with a particular skill? Enlist help from your parent volunteers. When a parent comes to the classroom, give her a learning center or game that focuses on the necessary skill and have her work one-on-one with a student. While the parent and child work, you can focus on the rest of the class.

Dice Control

To keep dice from rolling away during use, place them in a **clear, lidded container**. Shake the container and set it down to see where the dice land. No more searching for runaway dice.



Walmart.com has plastic containers galore.

Marked for Success

These bookmarks help students keep track of their success with reading. Make construction paper bookmarks and give one to each child. **After a child reads a book, have him give a summary of it. Then give him a sticker to add to his bookmark.** Once he earns a certain number of stickers, reward him with a small prize or, if possible, a free book.



Stinky Stickers make students smile. Get yours at Walmart.com.



Stock up on rolls of magnetic tape at Walmart.com.

Regrouping for Work

Make quick work of assigning students to groups. **Attach a self-adhesive magnetic strip to the back of each student's school picture.** Group and regroup pictures on a whiteboard or filing cabinet. Students can quickly see which group they're in for a particular activity.

Gameboard Skills Practice

Get your students to help you create a supply of fun and flexible gameboards that the class can use to review almost any skill. Give each child a half sheet of poster board and markers. Explain that students should draw a simple path, like on a Monopoly gameboard or The Game of Life, and then **decorate the board with a favorite theme or activity**, such as soccer, in-line skating, horses, or planets. For each skill, create a deck of question cards and an answer key. Students select a board they want to use, and you choose cards for the skill you want to reinforce. At the end of the year, mix the cards for a big skill review.



Get the classpack of markers, available at Walmart.com.

Tips for Teaching Hygiene in the Classroom

Keep students from spreading illness-causing germs with these tips:

Focus on simple, effective measures. Have students routinely wash their hands, cover their coughs with their arms rather than their hands, and promptly dispose of tissues. Remind them to never share cups or utensils.

Handwashing is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of germs in a classroom. Soap and water are a must when it comes to getting rid of germs. To effectively wash away germs, teach your students to scrub in between fingers, under nails, and on both sides of their hands. They should do this for 15 to 20 seconds, the time it typically takes to hum the “Happy Birthday” song twice.

Focus your class’s handwashing routines on the key times that your students’ hands are most likely to be germ. These include after going to the bathroom; after blowing noses, coughing, or sneezing; after playing outside; after touching used tissues or other contaminated surfaces; after touching a class pet; and after touching garbage. Consider having your students wash their hands more frequently when illnesses are going around.

No soap and water available? Alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60 percent alcohol can help in some situations to decrease the number of germs on hands. Just be aware that hand sanitizers are not effective when hands are visibly dirty.

Know the kinds of clean. Cleaning and disinfecting are part of a broad approach to preventing infectious diseases in schools, as reinforced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.¹ While cleaning is important for physically removing dirt and germs from objects or surfaces in the classroom, it does not actually kill germs. Disinfecting wipes can be a practical way to target and kill illness-causing germs in the classroom. For the sake of both safety and effectiveness, always use Environmental Protection Agency–registered disinfectants, including disinfecting wipes, and be sure to use them according to the instructions on the label. Focus on wiping frequently touched surfaces in the classroom, such as door handles, sink handles, and even tables and chairs.



¹ How to Clean and Disinfect in Schools to Help Slow the Spread of Flu, <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/cleaning.htm>