

Simple Solutions: Teachers' Favorite Tips & Timesavers

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



Clever Classroom Routines

Eye-Catching Agenda Board

Students won't have to ask what's on the schedule for the day. With this **frog display**, they'll see what's coming up! Write the day's activities on lily pad cutouts and arrange them on a bulletin board or in a display area. Move a frog cutout along the lily pads as you move to each event.



Create bolder, brighter, more durable displays with card stock from Walmart.com.



A laminator in your classroom? Yes. Find affordable options at Walmart.com.

Happy Helpers

Here's a fun way to designate your classroom helpers each week. **Attach a large, laminated smiley face to the back of one chair in each group of students.** These children will be your helpers, distributing and collecting materials and keeping the group's area clean. Students will look forward to seeing the smiley faces on their chairs!

Wave 'Em In

To get your students' attention at the end of recess, **wave a set of pom-poms or a colorful scarf.** When students notice the pom-poms, they alert other students until everyone is lined up. Add some extra motivation by letting the first child to arrive in line hold and wave the pom-poms. Fun!



Fashion meets function. Find scarves in all colors of the rainbow at Walmart.com.

Easy Organizational Tips

Made by Me!

Here's a picture-perfect way to **display students' work**. Glue a photo of each child to a spring-type clothespin and clip the clothespins to a short clothesline in your classroom. When a child wants to show off her work, she clips it to the clothesline.



Parents will love this creative display. Get inexpensive wooden clothespins at Walmart.com.



Get organized with storage crates from Walmart.com.

Weekday Files

This filing system keeps everything in one place. In a crate, arrange hanging file folders with a **different-color folder for each day of the week**. Store papers, books, and other supplies needed for a particular day in the corresponding folder. When you pull out your daily folder with all your materials, you'll be ready to go.

Shoe Organizer Storage

A hanging shoe organizer with see-through pockets provides the **perfect place to keep bulletin board borders**. Roll up borders and store one in each pocket. At a glance, you'll quickly find the border you need.



What a timesaver! Find shoe organizers of all types at Walmart.com.

Earth-Friendly Storage

Any clean container can become an earth-friendly storage tub. **Carefully cut away the top portion of a clean milk jug, laundry detergent bottle, or other container**, leaving the handle attached. Have each table of students decorate a container. Use the storage tubs for crayons, art supplies, trash, and more.



Stock up on your family's favorite brands of laundry detergent at Walmart.com. Then repurpose the bottles for use in your classroom.



Placemats add color to the classroom.
Gets yours at Walmart.com.

My Space

If your students sit at tables, **give each child a vinyl placemat**. Have students work on the mats to keep tables free from glue and crayon marks. The mats also help define each child's personal space while working with manipulatives or other items. When students are working on the floor, the mats offer a smooth surface for writing and drawing.

Art Organizer

Corral small art supplies into one convenient organizer. **Collect several disposable plastic cupcake trays with different compartments.** (Discarded metal cupcake pans work well too.) Sort and store small craft items—such as sequins, pom-poms, and tissue paper scraps—in the cups. No more scattered pieces!

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

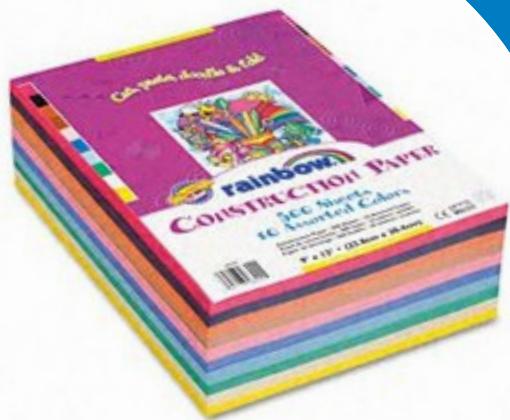
A Smooth-Running Classroom

Magic Circle

Make a magic circle on the classroom floor with colored masking tape or painter's tape. **Have a seat inside the circle with individuals or small groups.** Use the time to review a skill, read a book, or talk. Students will enjoy stepping into the circle and getting some extra attention.



Walmart.com has painter's tape at Every Day Low Prices.



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

Colorful Reminders

Monitor classroom noise with a smile. **Post smiley face cutouts to indicate the level of noise allowed** for an activity. A red smiley face signals quiet work time. Yellow means moderate noise is okay. And green means any noise level is acceptable. Students will appreciate these cheerful reminders.

Blooming Work

Keep early finishers busy with work that changes with the season. **Fill a plastic planter box with seasonal books** and place it near a window. Watch independent work skills bloom throughout the school year.



Find creative storage options at Walmart.com.

Friendship Fishbowl

Here's a colorful way for students to choose partners. **Gather patterned paper or paper scraps.** Cut two fish shapes from each piece and place them in a fishbowl. Have every child choose a fish from the bowl. Students with matching pairs work together.



Scrapbook paper is perfect for classroom projects. Take a look.

Student Motivation



Sticker storage that every teacher will love. Get yours at Walmart.com.

Sticker Strips

This is a behavior incentive students will want to stick with. Attach a paper strip to each child's desk. **When a child shows good behavior, give her a sticker she can put on her strip.** After earning a certain number of stickers, a child gets a small reward.

Compliment Chain

Reward your students' good behavior with a compliment chain. Keep construction paper strips on hand. **When the group does something good, add a paper link to the chain.** When a certain number of links have been earned, reward the class with a treat or privilege.



Find neat and tidy construction paper storage options. Visit Walmart.com.

Brag Tags

Brag about your students while building up their self-esteem. **Collect various die-cut shapes**, write a positive comment on each one, and laminate. When you want to recognize a student for something positive, present the child with a brag tag and invite him to wear it home.



No more waiting to use the school's die-cut machine. Get the Sizzix Big Shot at Walmart.com.

Spot-On Good Behavior

Get students to aim for perfect hallway behavior. Cut out a white Dalmatian shape and 20 black spots. Display the dog in the classroom with the spots nearby. When the class shows good hallway behavior, **have a student tape a spot on the dog**. When all 20 spots have been put on, reward the class with a special treat or privilege.

Looking for packs of construction paper in all one color? You'll find them at Walmart.com.

Homework Tickets

Tickets will get students on board with bringing in their homework every day. To make the tickets, create a simple template with the words "Homework Ticket" and a set number of dots along the top and bottom edges. Print the tickets on card stock and cut them apart. Have each child write her name on a ticket. **When a child turns in her homework, use a hole puncher to punch out one of the dots along the edge**. When all the dots have been punched, she can redeem her ticket for a small prize.



Kids get a kick out of shaped hole punches. Try this set with hearts, stars, and circles from Walmart.com.

Clear Communication

Label Reminders

Remind parents of upcoming events with stick-on reminders. Print the message on adhesive mailing labels. **The day before the event, peel off a label and attach the message to each student's shirt. Easy!**



What a handy tip. Get your mailing labels at Walmart.com.

Stress-Free Transitions

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

How to End the Day

End each day on a positive note. Just before dismissal, gather students in a circle and compliment each child on something he did well. **Talk about the day's events and favorite activities.** In just a few minutes, students will be reminded of all the good things that happened.

Skill-Filled Centers

Pick a Center

Put children in charge of choosing their own centers. Write the names of your centers on index cards and laminate them. Place the cards in a decorative bag or basket. **A child chooses a card and goes to that center first.** Allow different groups to choose first each day.



Add a pop of color to your classroom with Mead Index Cards in assorted colors from 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 germy. 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>