

BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS FOR PARENTS

From PBS.org



Starting the new school year can be a time of great excitement... and anxiety. Help calm your child's fears (and your own) with these teacher-approved tips.

Meet the new teacher.

For kids, one of the biggest back-to-school fears is "Will I like my new teacher?" Breaking the ice early on is one of the best ways to calm everyone's fears. Take advantage of

your school's open house or back-to-school night. Some teachers welcome phone calls or e-mails — another great opportunity to get to know each other before the year begins.

If personal contact with the teacher isn't possible, try locating the teacher's picture on a school website or in a yearbook, so your child can put a name with a face. If your child's teacher sends a welcome letter, be sure to read the letter together.

Tour the school.

If your school hosts an open house, be sure to go. Familiarizing your child with her environment will help her avoid a nervous stomach on the first day. Together you can meet her teacher, find her desk, or explore the playground.

With an older child, you might ask him to give you a tour of the school. This will help refresh his memory and yours.

Connect with friends.

A familiar friend can make all the difference when heading back to school. You might try calling parents from last year's class and

finding out which children are in your child's class this year. Refresh these relationships before school starts by scheduling a play date or a school carpool.

Tool up.

Obtain the class supply list and take a special shopping trip with your child. Having the right tools will help him feel prepared. While keeping basic needs in mind, allow for a couple of splurges like a cool notebook or a favorite-colored pen. These simple pleasures make going back to school a lot more fun.

School supply lists also provide great insight into the schoolwork ahead. Get your child excited about upcoming projects by explaining how new supplies might be used. Let him practice using supplies that he's not used before — such as colored pencils or a protractor — so he will be comfortable using them in class.

Avoid last-minute drilling.

When it's almost time to stop playing, give a five-minute warning. Giving clear messages to your child is very important.

Chat about today's events and tomorrow's plans.

While it is important to support learning throughout the summer, don't spend the last weeks of summer vacation reviewing last year's curriculum. All kids need some down time before the rigors of school begin. For some kids, last-minute drills can heighten anxiety, reminding them of what they've forgotten instead of what they remember.

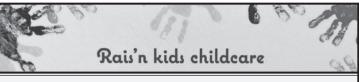
Ease into the routine.

Switching from a summer to a school schedule can be stressful to everyone in the household. Avoid first-day-of-school mayhem by practicing your routine a few days in advance. Set the alarm clock, go through your morning rituals, and get in the car or to the bus stop on time. Routines help children feel comfortable, and establishing a solid school routine will make the first day of school go much smoother.

PARKSIDE

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS	
EMERGENCY	911
Fire	
Ambulance	
Williamson County Sheriff (Non Emergence	
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SCHOOLS	
Leander ISD	512-434-5000
Parkside Elementary School	
Stiles Middle School	
Rouse High School	
Vista Ridge High School	
UTILITIES	
AT&T/Uverse (phone, internet, cable)	800-288-2020
Atmos Energy	
City of Georgetown	512-930-3640
Pedernales Electric Co	
Time Warner (phone, internet, cable)	512-576-3521
Wastewater (Parkside MUD)	512-930-3640
OTHER NUMBERS	
Williamson County Phone	512-943-1100
Williamson County Road Department	512-943-3330
Parks & Recreation Department	512-943-1920
Williamson County Regional Park	512-260-4283
Williamson County Animal Shelter	512-943-3322
Georgetown Post Office	512-868-9925
Georgetown Animal Control	
Round Rock Animal Control	512-218-5500
Travis County Animal Control	512-972-6060
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DISTRICT CALENDAR



Calendar Key

Student/Teacher Holiday

Staff Dev./Student Holiday

New to LISD Staff Dev.

Bad Weather Makeup Day*

Proposed Testing Dates

ER Early Release Day - All levels

ER Early Release Day - Elem. Only

ER Early Release Day - HS Only

Last Day, 6-Weeks Period

Last Day, 9-Weeks Period

[] First/Last Day of School

italics First/Last Day Semester - Elem.

BOLD First/Last Day Semester - Sec.

Important Dates

First Day of SchoolAug. 10
Labor DaySept. 3
Staff Dev./Student Holiday Oct. 8-9
Fall BreakNov. 19-23
Winter BreakDec. 24-Jan. 4
MLK Day Jan. 2
Presidents DayFeb. 18
Spring BreakMarch 18-22
Student/Teacher Holiday April 19
Bad Weather Makeup Day April 22
Memorial Day May 2
Last Day of School May 3

Proposed Testing Dates

STAAR (high school only)	Dec. 3-7
STAAR	April 9-12
STAAR	May 6-17

*Bad Weather Makeup Days are holidays unless the assigned day is needed due to bad weather, which will be communicated in advance.

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