

BACK-TO-SCHOOL PREPARATION!



**To start the school year positively,
COMMUNICATION is essential.**

- Provide concise information at the beginning of every school year for every teacher your child has contact with, including cafeteria personnel, coaches, and bus drivers. Info should be available prior to the first day of school.
 - Recommendations for an effective packet include:
 - A colorful folder: include a fact sheet from Tourette Texas, and a one page or less synopsis of your child and his symptoms entitled “All About <Your Child’s Name>.” (SEE SAMPLE LETTERS of *All About Brian*, *All About Bobby*, *TS Fast Facts*.) Avoid information overload.
 - Make early contact with all teachers prior to start of school through email or notes to introduce yourself and offer support.
 - Arrange an informal meeting with all teachers to reinforce your child’s needs as early as possible in the school year, preferably before school starts. Bring snacks. Usually, meeting is scheduled before or after school.
 - Make “teacher care packages:
 - Provide a container filled with pencils, pens, Kleenex, stickers, paper, glue, candy, etc. for each of your child’s teachers. Your child will often arrive at class without supplies, due to intrinsic disorganization.
- See attached “Teacher Survival Kit” list, next page.

Teacher Survival Kit

Cute teacher 'gifts' to include with your school packet

Crayon – to color your day beautiful

Jolly Rancher – to remind you it's ok to feel jolly and happy

Animal Cracker – for when your classroom seems like a zoo

Band-Aide – for when things get a little rough

Extra Gum – for all the extra things you do

Mint – to remind you that you are worth a mint

Paperclip - to hold you together when everything seems to fall apart

Penny – to remind you that you are a priceless part of your school

Sweet/Salty Bar– to remind you to appreciate your students' differences

Peanut – to remind you it's what's on the inside that counts

Marbles – to replace the ones you might lose from time to time

Sponge – to soak up the overflow when your brain is too full

Puzzle Piece – to remind you that without you, things wouldn't be complete

Rubber Band – to remind you to be flexible-things won't always go as planned

Clothespin – to help you hang in there

Toothpick – to remember to pick out the best in your students

Tissue – so you can dry the tears of a wounded heart

Cotton Ball – to remind you to soften your words with kindness

Eraser – to remind you that everyone makes mistakes

Lifesaver – for when you've had one of THOSE days

Foil – to remind you to give every student a chance to shine

Smarties – to teach your students to be smart

Wiggly Eyes - for those days when you wish you really did have eyes in the back of your head

Chocolate – it just makes everything seem better