

Back to school basics

Posted on Jul 25, Posted by [Webmaster](#) Category [Telling Tales](#)

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Wilson Living Magazine

One Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Hours...(this is how long my kids have been out of school.)

One Hundred Sixty Eight Hours...(until peace is restored to my life!)

The countdown has begun in the Kane household and Brody and I are thrilled, thrilled, thrilled that in one short week, our lovely, adorable children will be back in school.

Don't get me wrong, who doesn't love driving kids around all day long between work, tennis camp, soccer camp, art camp, Wendy's and the pool?

But all good things come to an end and the end, my friends, is in sight!

So, to help you out, I've put together a list to help us get organized for the big day. I suggest working on this list a full week before school starts, but if you can't get to it until the night before,

believe me, there will be no judgment here.

1. Clean Out Backpacks. If you are like me, they are still in the back of your car from the day they were last used. I consider cleaning out backpacks to be like Christmas in July! That's because late July is usually the only time we clean out our backpacks and to our wonderment find the Christmas ornaments our children made for us located somewhere under the Cheez-Its and lost party invitations. (Spritz the bag with a little Febreze – good as new!)

2. Try On School Clothes. Wow! That's all I can say about the fun that ensues forcing three children to spend the day with you, in their room, trying on clothes and organizing their closets, Well, that's not true, I could say other words but I think the paper will get fined if I write those words out.

3. Shop For School Supplies. To all my teacher friends who claim "the list" is not some inside joke put together as payback for my sending my kids to school with a "slightly" elevated temperature – you are liars! I'm on to you and your 2 inch, three prong binders with pockets – THAT DON'T EXIST!!!

4. Write Out Plan of Action, Put it on the Fridge, Refer to it Daily.

I will make school lunches every day, which may mean you are eating peanut butter sans jelly sandwiches and a stick of gum each Friday.

I will get you to school on time and pick you up on time or better yet, I'll have your Father take you to school and I'll pick you up. You get out around 3ish, right?

I will check your agenda book every day and will not have you forge my name to it on our way to school. (That is wrong!)

I will not finish your last two math questions, because I need you to hurry up and get done with your homework before my shows come on. (Also wrong, but...if need be, you may let this one slide.)

I will buy a magnet to put this list up on the fridge or I'll put this list on my desk and will remember it's there and will not put other papers on the top of this list, because it's a very important list, that I can't lose this time.

And so as I'm writing my column this afternoon, Zoe is reading over my back.

"You say you are going to do all those things every year and it only lasts a week," bemoans my obviously, disgruntled, middle child.

Oh wait – I forgot #5.

5. Start Checking Into Boarding Schools. I hear they are very expensive but well worth the money!

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