

School News & Notes

Hottest School Gear Gets Good Grades

(NAPSA)—It's almost time for the fun part of going back to school—shopping! Want to know what will be hot this year in back-to-school supplies? Read on... We've got this year's trends and must-haves to keep you (or your kids) cool, calm and totally organized from the first day through the last final.

"Back-to-school supplies have to keep you organized, but they should also be fun," said Kimberly Carr, brand manager for Oxford, maker of school and office supplies. "Choose binders, folders and notebooks that do double duty by reflecting your personality while keeping everything in order."

Here are some suggestions you may want to take note of:

• **Supplies With Color**—Back-to-school supplies should be both functional and stylish! Did you know that all the fun colors and designs you love can actually help you find items faster? It's true—if you assign different colors or patterns to each class or subject, you'll be able to find the folder you're looking for with just a glance. This simple strategy will save you time, while keeping you more organized than ever before. So there's no reason to limit your back-to-school supplies (or yourself) to just one style!

One of the hottest brands this season is Oxford—from a wild Exotic line to cool Retro designs, you'll find all the supplies you need in bright colors and fun patterns perfect for mixing and matching.

• **Plan For It**—Tests, projects, games, dances and dates. The life of modern teens and 'tweens is full of commitments. The art to juggling your hectic life is to plan for everything, so a planner (also known as an agenda) is perfect



Honor Roll: When back-to-school shopping, look for stylish supplies that will keep you organized from the first day of school through the last final.

for busy teens. Look for one large enough to hold all the notes you'll need to store, but make sure it's compact enough to fit in your book bag.

Best way to use your planner? Enter in notes as soon as you hear about your upcoming group project or paper—you'll have a visual reminder of your due dates and game schedules (not to mention your social life!) every time you glance at the page.

• **Get The Message**—You'll need something to carry around all these supplies with, but who wants a boring old backpack? Messenger bags—the hip, over-the-shoulder style—are a fashion staple that's hotter than ever. Take these textbook totes everywhere, from the schoolyard to sleepovers—they're fun, versatile and come in almost any color!

"Back-to-school shopping is fun, so relax and enjoy the experience," added Carr. "Just remember that everything you buy has to work for you."