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Back to School: Must-Have Tools and Tech

Back to school season has begun

It's that time of year again — **preparing for back to school!** While the last few days of August are a great time to enjoy the summer heat, it's also the best time to get ready for school. The beginning of September is absolute chaos for back-to-school shopping — so do yours now! To make this process easier for you, we've created a list of **school essentials that you'll need and may forget**. You won't find the basic pen/pencil/notepad list here — you already know that list by heart. These are **tools and technology that you may not think of, but are incredibly useful!**



What to expect when classes begin

Whether you're starting your first year or returning as an upper-year, the **start of school always feels a bit chaotic**. Finding your classes, getting into a routine, collecting your textbooks, and signing up for clubs can take up a lot of your time. Follow these tips to **limit your stress when you begin classes**:

1. Get your textbooks before classes start

Avoid those long bookstore lines at the beginning of the year by buying your textbooks before classes start. Most classes will release their reading lists early, so take advantage of this!

2. Control your sleep schedule

If you've got early classes this term, now might be the time to **practice going to sleep and waking up early**. Waking up early may be more difficult if you suddenly change your routine.

3. Scope out the best route for your classes

If you're able, check out where your classrooms are and go before classes begin to **find the best route to take**. Need coffee or a snack between classes? Find a route that's quick, but also has a little coffee shop along the way.

Tools to help you succeed in classes

By this point in your school career, you already know that you need to bring a pen and paper to class, but what other tools will you need that don't quickly pop into your head? Check out this list of **tools that are essential for succeeding** in your classes:

1. Large calendar

Yes, we're avoiding the basics, but this is an absolute necessity that CANNOT be forgotten! A lot of universities will sell large calendars that show four months at once. This'll be incredibly beneficial for you as you **get your syllabus and can write down all the important dates** for your assignments, midterms, and exams for the entire term. Now, you'll have a **clear picture of your busy days and free time** at a quick glance as well as in your traditional planner.



2. Phone wallet case

These little pouches that stick to the back of your phone case, or a case with a built-in card holder, are great for when you're in school. Some days your backpack is going to be filled to the brim with schoolwork, and you won't have space for a wallet. You may also want to go out and not have to carry a lot of items on you. These card holders allow you to **keep your debit and credit cards on you without taking up any more space** in your bag.

3. Alarm clock

We never think of having an actual alarm clock because our phones have one built-in already. But, let's get real — sometimes we forget to charge our phone, it gets lost, or it breaks. Having an actual alarm clock for school will **ensure you don't miss any classes or finals**. Plus, now there are alarm clocks that include phone chargers, white noise, and can fit any aesthetic.

4. Whiteboard

Either big or small, a whiteboard is super helpful to have in school. You can write down daily tasks that need to get done, **use it to study**, and even play games like pictionary or hangman with your friends. A whiteboard will replace all those sticky note reminders you leave all over your room and **help you be more organized**.

5. Mattress topper

Sleep is absolutely necessary to do well in school, and most beds in dorms aren't that comfy. So, adding a foam topper on top of your mattress will ensure you have the best chance possible to get as much sleep as you can.

Must have tech

Let's face it — we live in a very tech-centred world. So, there's going to be some tech that you'll need for school other than a laptop that'll be very beneficial. Check out this list for **tech you should consider getting** before classes begin:

1. USB memory sticks

USBs are a great tool to have on you while in school. You can load all your assignments and notes onto it and have it as a **backup copy** in case something were to happen to your laptop or printer, or you forget the paper copy of your assignment on the day it's due.

2. Portable phone charger

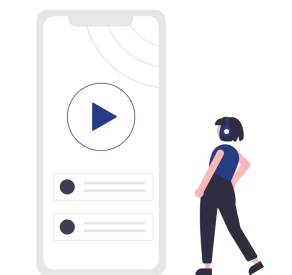
These are a lot more useful than you think. For the days where you have back-to-back classes all day, a study group after, and then you go out for dinner with your friends, you might not have time to charge your phone. A portable charger will allow you to **charge your phone and other devices when you need** without searching for a wall plug.

3. Power bars

There are never enough outlets in your room for all your electronics, lights, and everything else. You most likely have two — or three if you're lucky. You might not even have an outlet by your desk, so a power bar will help you reach and **charge everything you need**.

4. Noise-cancelling headphones

Students can be noisy — whether in dorms or on campus. It's inevitable. So, when you want to actually get some work done and need to focus, having a pair of **noise-cancelling headphones are lifesavers** — especially during midterm season when everyone has midterms at different times. So, while you may need to study for a midterm the next morning, your roommate may have finished theirs that day and want to celebrate.



Have fun back-to-school shopping

There you go! With this list of items, **you'll be all set for when classes begin**. Get out there and start your shopping!

