

# BACK-TO-SCHOOL GUIDE

Looking to reduce waste as your family prepares for back-to-school season? Check out the simple, affordable, and fun low waste tips below!

## REUSE SCHOOL SUPPLIES YOU ALREADY HAVE ON HAND

- Check your family's junk drawer, backpack from last year, and homework stations for materials you can use again.
- Refurbish partially used supplies. Tear out used paper in notebooks, tape over small rips in folders, and patch holes in backpacks.
- Make your own DIY schools supplies. Check out Pinterest for creative upcycling ideas, like making a homework station organizer out of empty jars and cans.

## SHARE SCHOOL SUPPLIES WITH OTHERS

- Host a school supply swap. Invite your kid's class to trade their extra or gently used school supplies.
- Ask your kid's teacher if families can donate money to a shared school supply fund instead of asking everyone to purchase their own materials.
- Donate gently used dishes and utensils to a classroom set for class parties.

## PURCHASE LONG-LASTING ITEMS AND AIM FOR USED

- Check out local thrift stores for "new to you" school clothes for your child.
- Look for refurbished electronics or take your broken devices to a repair shop instead of buying new.
- If you choose to purchase new, aim for high-quality, durable items that will last several years. Choose simple designs that your child won't outgrow.

## REDUCE PAPER WASTE

- Borrow books from the school or local library for your kid's reading assignments.
- Buy used textbooks or digital versions to save paper.
- Opt for digital permission forms and communications from your kid's school.

## SWAP SINGLE-USE LUNCHBOX ITEMS FOR REUSABLE. TRY TRADING:

- Paper or plastic lunch bag for a reusable lunch box.
- Paper napkins for cloth napkins.
- Plastic utensils for reusable utensils.
- Plastic water bottles for reusable water bottles.

## INVOLVE YOUR KIDS

- Use the back-to-school season as an opportunity to talk to your kids about waste prevention and responsible purchasing. This will help create lifelong, sustainable habits.
- Engage your kids in creative reuse projects. They will be more likely to use and preserve supplies they helped create!