



WOW!

The record for the largest collection of erasers was set in Germany by Petra Engel, who has 19,571 erasers she began collecting at age 9.



Get set for a new school year

Be prepared for a smooth start with these tips.

The beginning of a new grade is an opportunity for a fresh start—you get to take new classes, meet different classmates, and explore fun activities during and outside school. Whether classes have just begun or you're about to have your first day, now is a great time to think about what you can do to set yourself up for a positive experience. Here's how to get started.

Identify new goals

Think about what you might like to accomplish this school year. Write down a list of three or four goals, and talk to a family member or a teacher about how to accomplish them. The goals could be social (join one new activity), academic (read two new books a month), or athletic (improve your one-mile run time). A goal can also be something personal. Check in on your goals throughout the year to see how you're doing.

Create a homework station

Having a dedicated place to study after school can help you feel more productive. Ask your family to help you set up a study spot at home, such as in your bedroom, the kitchen, or the living room, with a table or a desk and a comfortable chair. You can also add a few

personal touches, like artwork you've made or a framed picture of a pet or a vacation memory, to make it feel more like your own special space.

Round up supplies

Before buying new items, look around your home to see what you still have from last year. You may find that you have enough pens and pencils, for example, or you can simply remove used pages from a notebook you barely opened. After you gather what you have, ask your family for help getting what you still need. Store all your supplies in a desk drawer or a small basket so they are on hand when you need them.

Write down important dates

A planner or calendar is a simple way to stay on top of your class schedule, due dates, and appointments. Being able to see at a glance what you have coming up in the following days or weeks can also help you plan out your time and keep you from forgetting anything. You can use a paper wall calendar, a notebook planner, or an electronic calendar on a phone or tablet. The best system is the one that works for you! To feel organized for each day ahead, consider using a daily checklist like the one, at right, in the box.



**Great days
are ahead!**

Next-day checklist



To help mornings go smoothly, make a list of quick tasks to accomplish the night before. Keep the list on a whiteboard or in a notes app, then check off the items each day. Some examples:

- ✓ Complete homework
- ✓ Get school forms signed by a parent or guardian
- ✓ Clean out backpack
- ✓ Charge device, like a tablet or laptop
- ✓ Lay out next day's outfit
- ✓ Make lunch for tomorrow
- ✓ Fill water bottle
- ✓ Put musical instrument or sports equipment by the door
- ✓ Take a shower
- ✓ Set morning alarm
- ✓ Read to wind down