

Teachers, Is Your Classroom Ready?



September is right around the corner, and that means it's back to school time.

Supply needs can differ based on the education level, but there's still basics that every teacher should have when the school year begins: writing utensils, tape, stapler/staples, dry-erase markers or chalk, post-it notes, and a lesson planner. If you want to think ahead, buying in bulk could save money in the long-run or even be needed for those ever-forgetful students.

When getting creative for room or office decoration, keep in mind that it should also be usable. Desk organizers and file cabinets will help keep track of important papers so losing work won't ever have to be a worry. To keep both the teachers and students informed, a large wall calendar can help remind of any important test/quiz days. An extra eraser board could also be used for motivational phrases or date reminders.

For the administration offices, their supply list will be more like typical office necessities. It's best to always be stocked with printer paper and ink, pens, folders, and planners. There's a lot of daily activities at school, so being prepared with bulk orders will really ensure proper management. Just like the teachers, keeping organized with file cabinets will really show how the administrative staff takes their education seriously.

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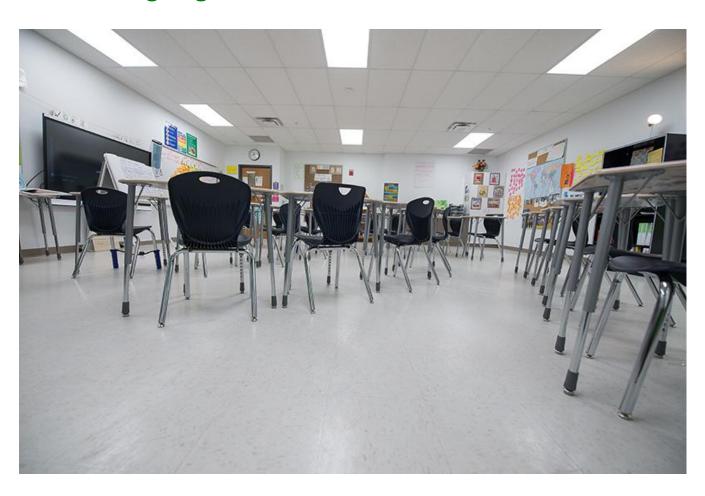


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Designing Classrooms with Students in Mind



Making sure your office or desk space is ergonomically friendly has become very important when buying furniture. For comfort's sake, making sure your knees are at a 90 degree angle with your feet planted firmly on the ground yields the best results. A desk that is the same height as your elbows when seated is the best recommended position to prevent back pain from sitting for hours. But does the positioning of your desk and chair only matter in adulthood, or do we need to worry about our students as well?

Ergonomics in the classroom is a very important yet overlooked factor in learning. According to a study done by the University of Manitoba Department of Kinesiology and Recreation Management, over 83% of chair and desk combinations at school are not suitable for body height. Having furniture that is not the correct size can harm blood and oxygen flow, and poor posture can lead to lifelong problems.

Based on this <u>handy guide</u> from Smith System, the table and desk heights change up until sixth grade, where the size remains the same through high school. By investing in chairs and desks that are the correct size for each age group and making sure the taller students get the bigger chairs and

desks, kids will have less health problems and be able to focus more than before.

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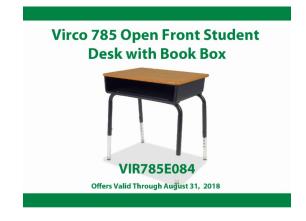












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