

**Bk-2-Schl Tip #1**

SAFETY is a big concern as our students return to school. ASK for a copy of your school's emergency plan. Every school has one and teachers practice drills with students. READ over your copy before the school year begins.

If your child is old enough, talk to them about it--they might have some of the same concerns you do.

**Bk-2-Schl Tip #2**

WORRIED about school loans? Make yourself very visible at your financial aid office. Stop by at least once a week. Be polite and respectful--and front and center. Some money does go unclaimed, and you want them to remember YOU! (Yes, this happened to me.)

Most employees in a financial aid office are over-worked. Make their job easier by bringing all relevant information with you every time you stop by the office.

**Bk-2-Schl Tip #3**

WONDERING how to be a witness if you're a teacher? Some schools allow the private area around your desk to reflect your own personal beliefs--a paper weight, pen holder or mouse pad can represent your faith. Of course the biggest witness is YOU--your clothing, jewelry, attitude and smile. And no one can stop teachers from praying. It's how we make it through the day!

**Bk-2-Schl Tip #4**

BULLYING is a big concern--for parents and teachers. If you SEE or HEAR something that you even suspect might be bullying, stop and report it to someone. The best way to create a safe healthy environment is to be PRO-active.

**Bk-2-schl tip #5**

Start a supply cabinet at home. If you see notebook paper for 5 cents a package , buy a lot of it. Glue on sale? Pencils, pens, folders, even crayons... Your student is going to need more of all these things during the year and the price will be back to normal. Clean out one cabinet or shelf and stock up now.

**Bk-2-Schl Tip #6**

Worried about your job? Many schools are cutting back on teachers, aides, custodial staff--just about every position. Remember, your future is in God's hands. If you are affected by these cuts, God has something even better planned for you. If you're not affected by these cuts, be encouraging to those who are.

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Vannetta Chapman is the bestselling author of 5 Amish books, including *A Promise for Miriam*, which is set inside an Amish one room schoolhouse. Chapman has 15 years teaching at the middle school, high school and college level. You can find out more about her at [www.VannettaChapman.com](http://www.VannettaChapman.com).

**Bk-2-Schl Tip #7**

Whether you're homeschooling for the first time or have been doing so for several years, remember that it helps to be in contact with other parents. Find out if there is a local group of homeschoolers in your area. Field trips, special speakers, and opportunities for social interaction are good things. Plus, other parents can answer questions you might have about credits and testing.

**Bk-2-Schl Tip #8**

Whether you're a teacher or a parent, drug use among teens is probably a concern. Learn the symptoms of someone who is using, and if you suspect drug use ... contact your school counselor or pastor. Don't try to handle it alone. [http://www.medicinenet.com/teen\\_drug\\_abuse/article.htm](http://www.medicinenet.com/teen_drug_abuse/article.htm)

**Bk-2-Schl Tip #9**

TESTING is stressful for students, teachers and even parents. Every state has standardized tests now, and the pressure to "raise the scores" is tremendous. Google "ways to cope with testing anxiety" and you'll find 2,940,000 results. Wow! TALK with your student. ATTEND parent meetings, especially those regarding tests. And REMEMBER--the best thing a student can do for any test is attend class regularly and get a good night's sleep the night before.

**Bk-2-Schl Tip #10**

PERSPECTIVE. As parents, we love and adore our children. As teachers, we've chosen a profession where others place the joy of their life in our hands. School years can be stressful, but they pass--all too quickly. The BEST thing you can do is to cover your child with prayer every day. Pray for your child's teacher, school, and administrators. Prayer isn't a last resort, it's fulfilling your end of a covenant--one where you take the desires of your heart to our Father. He is faithful and perfect and can be trusted with anything, including your child.

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