

Cool School



Bubble Calculators:

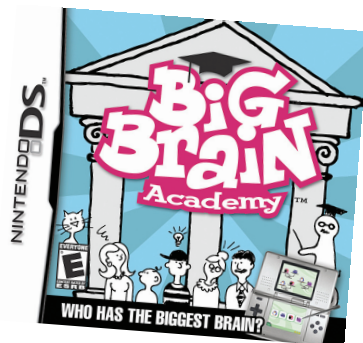
These funky and fun calculators make math almost, well, fun. "Big kids" will have to wrestle them away from their younger siblings who just want to play. (\$3.64 at Staples)

Removable Highlighter Tape:

Forget the old fashioned marker system and move to this new taping system for highlighting vocabulary words, etc. Comes in six colours (\$3.99 each at Scholars Choice)

★ Alexander's choice: "The tape is way cooler than the markers. Not the pink."

Never sharpen again! The pencil that never needs sharpening (cuts down on extra trips to the front of the class to check out the new boy.) (\$3.99 each at Scholars Choice)



Big Brain? Who doesn't want that? Nintendo has introduced a cool new learning game for its Nintendo DS Lite system, called "Big Brain Academy." Already a huge success with students in Japan, it tests kids in five major categories and exercises their brain as a warm up to the real stuff at school Fun too. (\$149.99 for the Lite unit, \$24.99 for the game, at Best Buy)

High School (Grade 9 - Grade 12):

Pen & Highlighter All-In-One:

Handy for notetaking and highlighting text simultaneously. The twist-in design is unique, versus the previous double ended version. (\$5.49 at Grand and Toy)

Vinyl Binders in Funky Patterns:

Just don't use the word "funky" with your teen. 1" fun binders. (\$3.99 at Grand and Toy)



Lock and load: Get your locker organized with this locker kit, which includes shelf, mirror, and magnets. (\$13.99 at Grand and Toy)



Staple Free Stapler: Great for putting together projects on the fly (what, last minute, us?). (\$9.99 at Scholars Choice)

WordLocks:

Teenagers sometimes have a hard time remembering small things (like



Mother's Day), but they won't forget their locker combination if it spells a word they choose. Great idea. (Exclusively at Staples, price TBA)

Relay Flash Drives: You may not know what this is, but your child does. A great way to store and save files. Plug and play, convenient keychain loop and lanyard, and security all in one. (From \$29.96 to \$79.99 depending on memory size, available at Staples.)

Frosted Poly Envelopes: Hold together projects and important information (phone numbers, etc!) in this cool and functional poly file folder. (\$1.99 each at Scholars Choice)

★ Victoria's pick: "My friends and I use these all the time. They are great."

Frosted Part II: Twin up the poly envelopes with this handy frosted note pad holder (might even match her purse...) (\$8.99 at Scholars Choice)

Shopping for back to school supplies is a bitter sweet experience for both kids and their parents. Make it easier for both of you by following your school's suggested supply list (usually found on the school website or sent home with final report cards), and allowing them to choose one special "cool" back to school item that will get their excitement level up...just a bit.

Kathy Buckworth is a frequent contributor to Today's Parent Toronto. Check out "Funny Mummy" each month and visit her website at kathybuckworth.com.