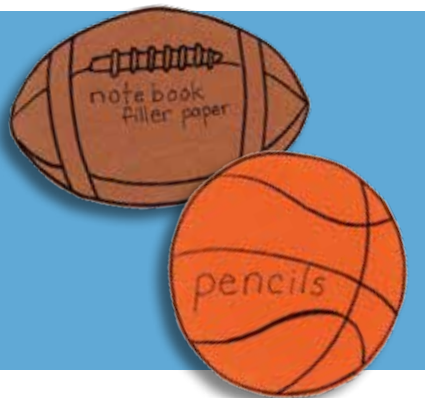




It's the Second Half!

Quick and Easy Ways to Finish the Year Strong

January is here, and it's time to hit the ground running! Starting the second half of the year focused and equipped to learn is critical to finishing strong. Use the following simple tips to ready your classroom, your students, and their parents for the important months of learning that lie ahead.



Restock supplies. By January, your cache of supplies has dwindled and it's time to restock. Enlist the help of your students' parents with this simple display. Label football and basketball cutouts with items that your classroom needs (see the list on page 2). Post the cutouts on your classroom door with the title "Help Us Be Ready for the Second Half!" For a quick title, affix Pacon® Self-Adhesive Letters (Item #697460) from Office Depot® to tagboard strips. A parent who would like to make a donation can remove a cutout from the door to take on the next shopping trip.

Continue keeping parents in the loop. Start the second half of the year off on the right foot by sending home a special *Spotlight on the Second Half* newsletter. In the newsletter, summarize the learning goals covered prior to the holiday break and then lay out the topics and skills you'll focus on in the coming months. Attach to the newsletter a list of important dates parents will want to be aware of, including testing days, field trips, and end-of-the-year celebrations. This newsletter is also a great place to request parent help with restocking classroom supplies.



Encourage attendance. In advance, cut in four-inch sections enough bulletin board border to cover one side of a classroom door frame. Try Creative Teacher Press Poppin' Patterns Border from Office Depot® (Item #103715). Also label a sentence strip with a class privilege, such as 15 minutes of extra art time. Attach the sentence strip, facedown, to the top of a door casing in your classroom. Each day your class has perfect attendance, attach a piece of border to the door casing, working from the bottom to the top. When the border reaches all the way to the sentence strip, reveal the hidden reward.

Draw models to show $\frac{4}{6}$, $\frac{7}{10}$, and $\frac{3}{5}$.

List five prepositional phrases

Keep skills strong. An easy-to-use pocket chart center can help students practice skills they learned in the first half of the year and help them build newly acquired ones. Laminate a supply of colorful paper strips, such as Pacon[®] Peacock[®] Super-Bright Sentence Strips (Item #898512) from Office Depot[®]. Each week, use a wipe-off marker to label the strips with independent activities that build skills your students need to practice. Place each strip in a pocket chart, such as the Carson-Dellosa Original Blue Pocket Chart (Item #164712) from Office Depot[®]. To change the strips, simply wipe them clean and reprogram them with new tasks.

Motivate students. Don't let the wintertime blahs keep your students from doing their best. Draw a clock face on a sheet of colorful poster board and then laminate it. For each day of great class focus and behavior, place a sticker on one of the clock face numbers. When all 12 numbers are covered with stickers, reward the entire class with a special privilege or treat.

Stop the tissues trek. Constant trips to the class tissue box during cold and flu season can be a major disruption. When restocking your supply, consider requesting that parents donate individual packs of tissues instead of large boxes. Place one or more packs on each table so that runny noses can be caught without anyone leaving his seat.

Time to restock your classroom with these supplies from Office Depot[®]!

- Office Depot[®] Brand Notebook Filler Paper, Wide-Ruled (Item #589483)
- Office Depot[®] Brand Notebook Filler Paper, College-Ruled (Item #589510)
- Five Star[®] Trend Notebook With 2 Pockets (Item #310304)
- Art Street[®] Construction Paper in Assorted Colors (Item #572103)
- Office Depot[®] Brand Composition Book (Item #588268)
- Crayola[®] Standard Crayon Set With Built-In Sharpener (Item #119594)
- Crayola[®] Broad Line Markers, Assorted Classic Colors (Item #950055)

