

Tackling The Mountain Of Paper Your Kids Bring Home

5 TIPS TO GET YOU STARTED

As we settle back into the school year, we are inevitably confronted by something lurking from our past. PAPER!!! Yes, the never-ending paper! Truly, in a paperless world, the amount of paper a school-aged child accumulates over the years may actually outweigh said child!

Remember when the last school year ended, and your kids came home with 35 pounds of papers? Remember how you said, "I'll get to it this summer." Well, summer has come and gone, my friend. We are back in full school swing. And that paper is still there. Waiting. Waiting to be taken care of as more projects, essays, and worksheets pile up during the new school year.

The time has come for it to be addressed. But how? The molehill from the first few weeks of this school year does indeed become a mountain. Where do you even begin to tackle a mountain of school paperwork that, at the very least, may require some tactical gear to manage?

The solution? **Start.** Set a small goal as your first step. Sort for 5 minutes. Go through paper while watching your favorite show ... just start.

With that said, here are some ways for you to "just start"!

1 **PURGE.** When your child brings home paperwork, go through it immediately!

2 **PLACE.** Once the paper has made it through the first round of purging, have a designated basket, folder, or area where you can store your child's precious drawings of the family or your struggling student's first A on an algebra test.

3 **DECIDE.** When the school year is over, sit down and go through the papers. It's decision time. Do you really need 54 pages showing that your child understands their multiplication tables? A handful of papers showing the same type of work is more than enough.

4 **FILE.** There are many options out there to store your kids' schoolwork from ling cabinets that can double as a nightstand to plastic ling bins that are easily moved and stored. Label it in a way that works for you (name, age, year, grade, etc.). The key is to label and organize those school memories now to allow you to access and reminisce later.

5 **ENJOY.** Once you put in the work on the front end, paper management during the school age years CAN be manageable. Having a system in place will make each step and decision easier. These are treasured memories and deserve to be treated as such.

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