### 31 BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS FOR TEACHERS



Reading Horizons



#### 31 BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS FOR TEACHERS

Dive into a collection of practical back-to-school advice to kickoff the year confidently. This ebook features a blend of tips from dedicated Reading Horizons staff former educators with valuable insights to share. You'll find strategies to create a positive and productive learning environment.

Whether you're looking to refine your reading instruction practices or streamline your classroom operations, these recommendations will help you begin the school year on the right foot and make a lasting impact on your students.

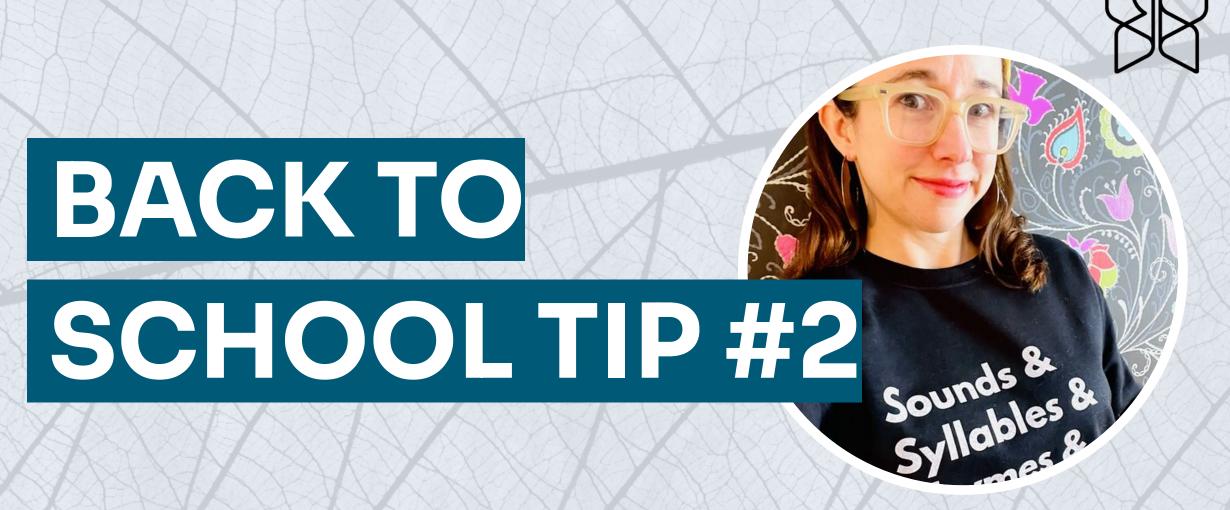


#### Before

Back-to-School Night, quiz yourself on student faces and names using their photos.

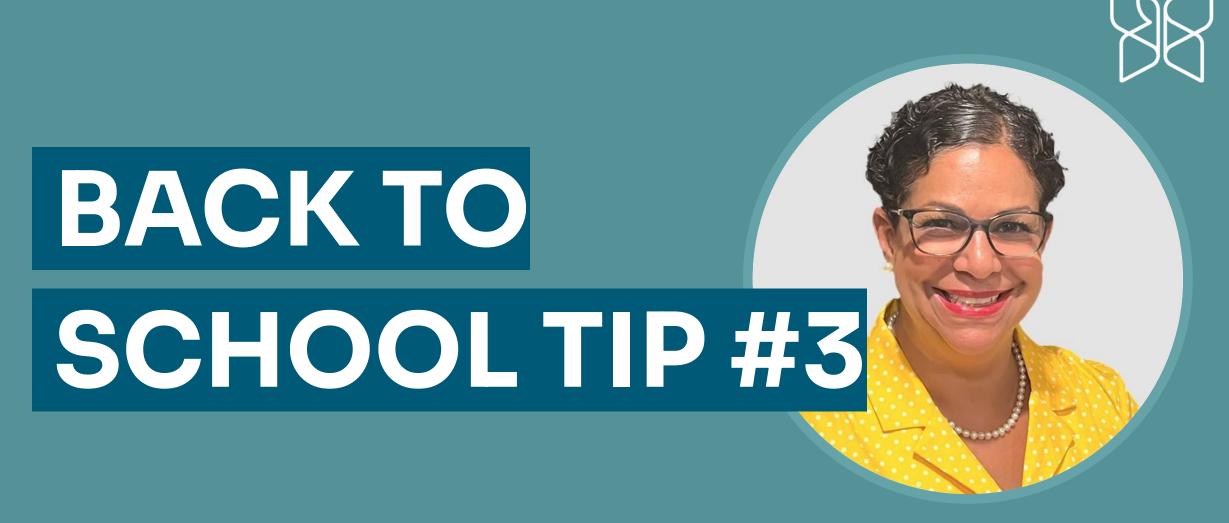
Greet them by name to make them feel welcome!

KATIE SHELTON, 10 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



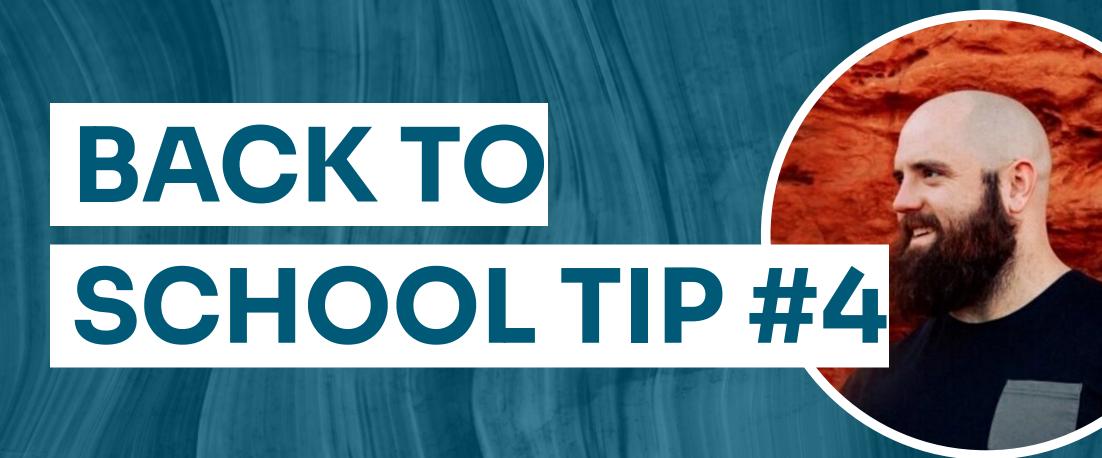
Back-to-school
emotions aren't just for kids.
Write a thoughtful note to
caregivers on the first day to
build trust and create a
strong partnership.

JILLIAN KASTER, 10 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



Before school starts, I send postcards to my students. I also offer voluntary home visits to strengthen relationships with students and families.

LORI PEACOCK, 5 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



No amount of summer prep will ever feel like enough. List your must-haves for a strong start, then relax so you return to the classroom recharged!

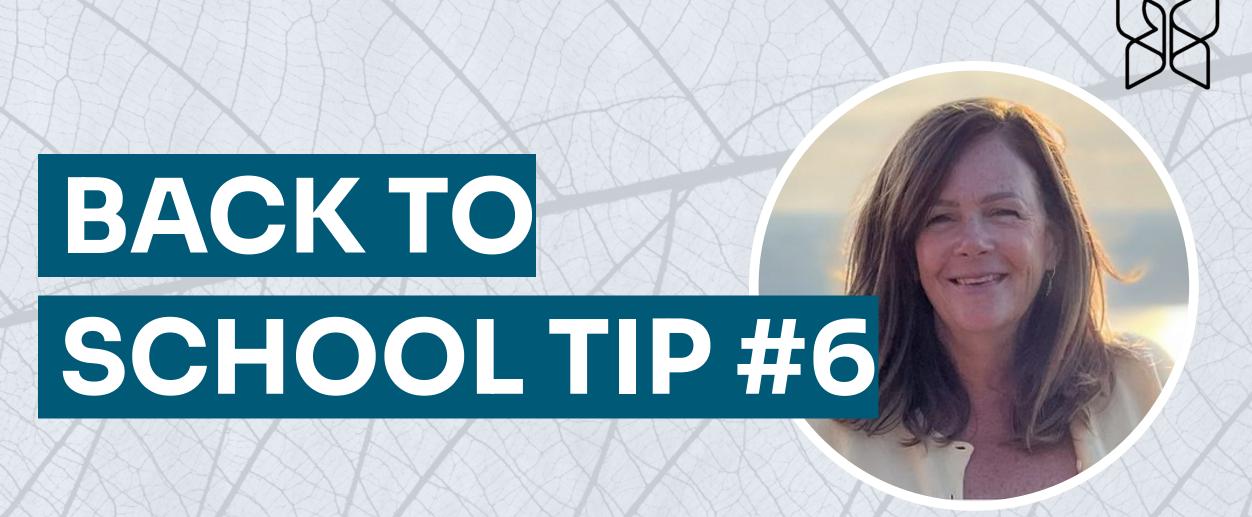
KALEB YOUNG, 10 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



### BACKTO SCHOOLTIP#5

Plan all procedures
before students arrive: lining
up, distributing materials,
and transitions. Be firm
and implement quickly for
a smoother year!

HEATHER PRICE, 20 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



Overplan for the first
week, but don't worry if you
only get through half of it.
You'll feel better knowing you
have plans for week two!

CHRISTINE RICK, 28 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



Read "7 Mighty Moves" by Lindsay Kemeny to ensure K-to-3 reading success!

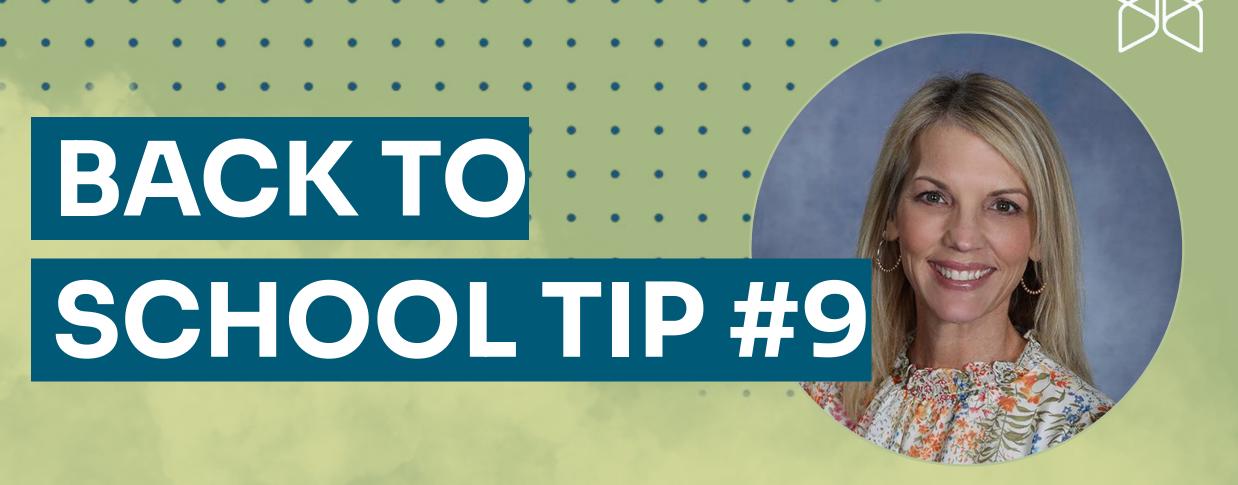
SEAN LINDSEY, 11 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



### BACK TO SCHOOL TIP #8

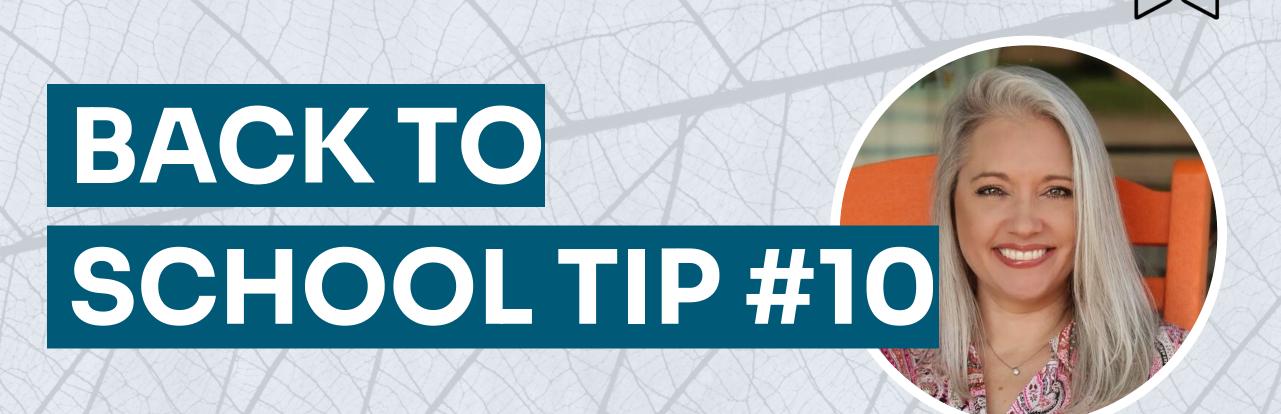
Take picture of each read-aloud and hang them on a clothesline. It sparks discussion and helps students pick books by favorite authors!

JENI COX-HOWARD, 18 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



Self-care is essential. Go for a walk, work on a puzzle, or order from your favorite restaurant. Take some time for yourself every day!

LUANNE TUBBS, 25 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



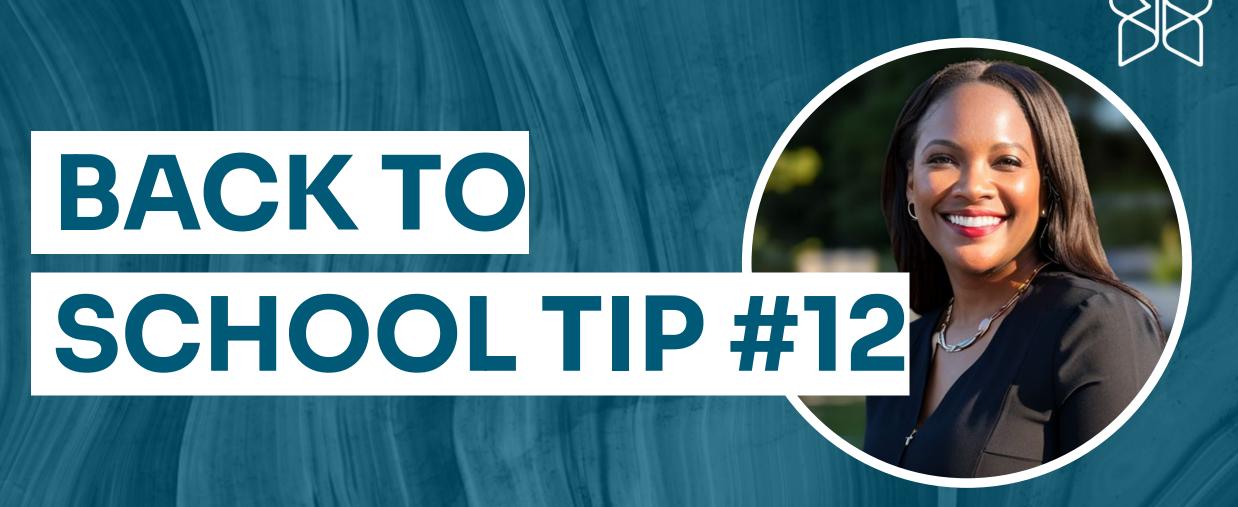
Label classroom furniture and other items in English and other languages. It's a great way to promote inclusivity and learning!

JENNY KIER, 13 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



To build proficient readers collaborate with general ed, special ed, and interventionists to align on grade-level content for students.

LAURA AXTELL, 29 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



When prepping first-day packets, prepare a few extras and store them for new students throughout the year. Your future self will thank you!

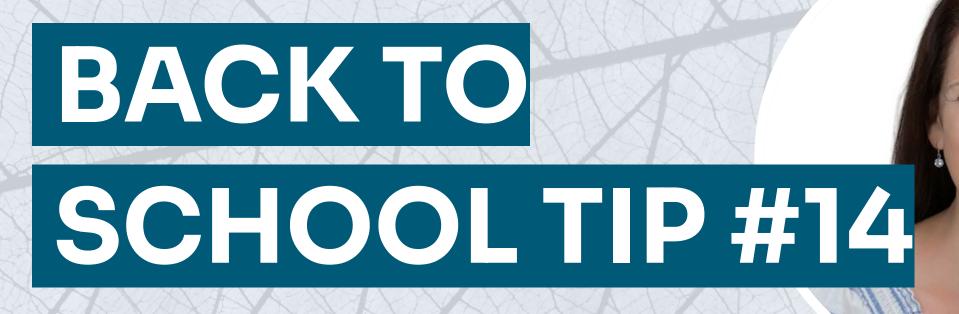
KIANA PORTER-ISOM, 7 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



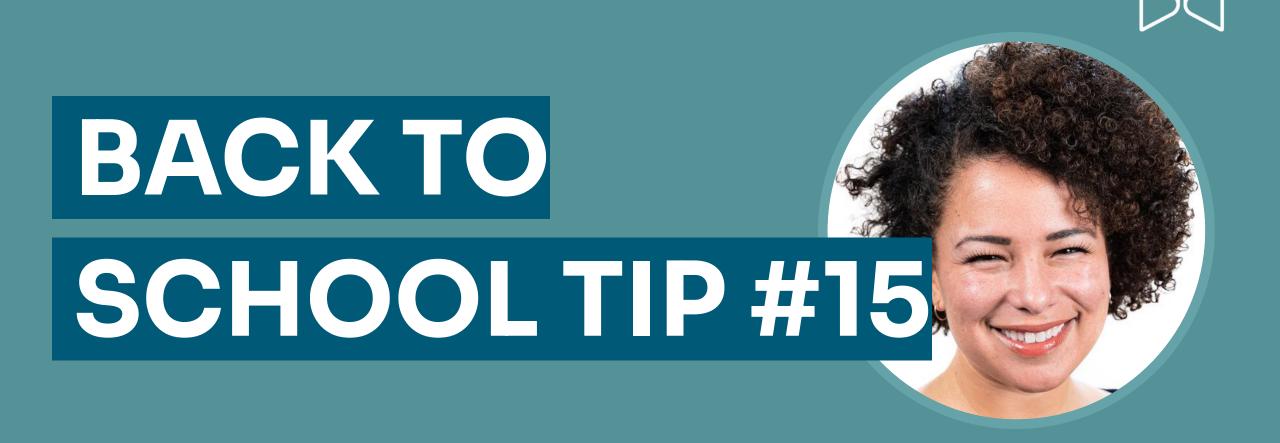
## BACKTO SCHOOL TIP #13

# Get your back-to-school playlist ready! Playing music as students enter the classroom is an easy way to ease those first-day jitters!

JARVIS PACE, 8 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



Discover your students' passions, dislikes, and even a bit about their families. It will make supporting them easier—especially when chararise. ENINATI, 10 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



Don't do things for your students that they can do for themselves. The independence will boost their self-confidence. Kids are capable of so much more than we realize!

WENDY MORREY, 11 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



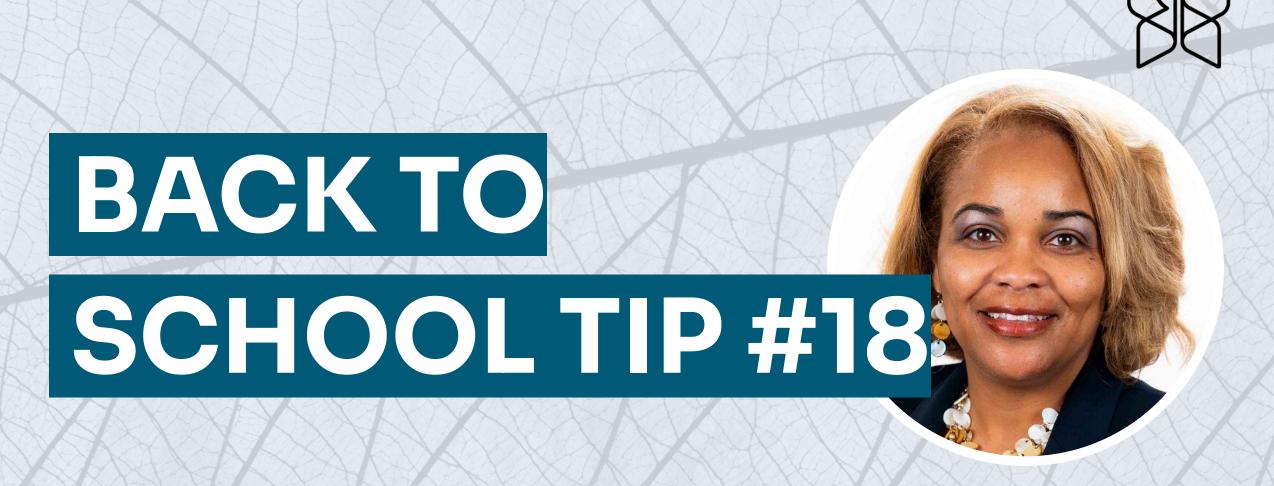
Create a shared digital to-do list with your team or co-teacher (Google Docs work well). It's an easy way to track tasks and divide prep work!

LAUREN HAYES, 8 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



If you don't want to take care of a class pet, you can always bring in a pet rock!

KATIE SHELTON, 10 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



Set aside one day each week for grading and updating your gradebook. It keeps your bag (and weekends) paper-free!

SHATAMARA DAVIS, 17 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



Shine bright like the star you are, and embrace your mistakes—they're part of the journey!

CHRISTINE RICK, 28 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



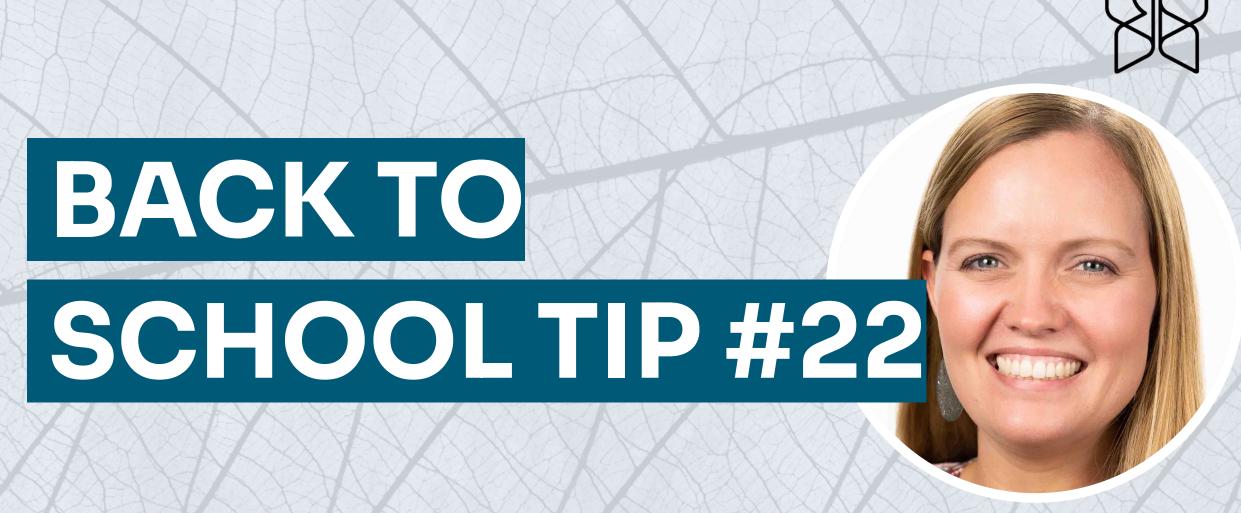
Read-alouds aren't just for the little ones! Sharing stories sparks imagination and builds connections at any age. Make it a classroom tradition!

STACEY BLACK, 14 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



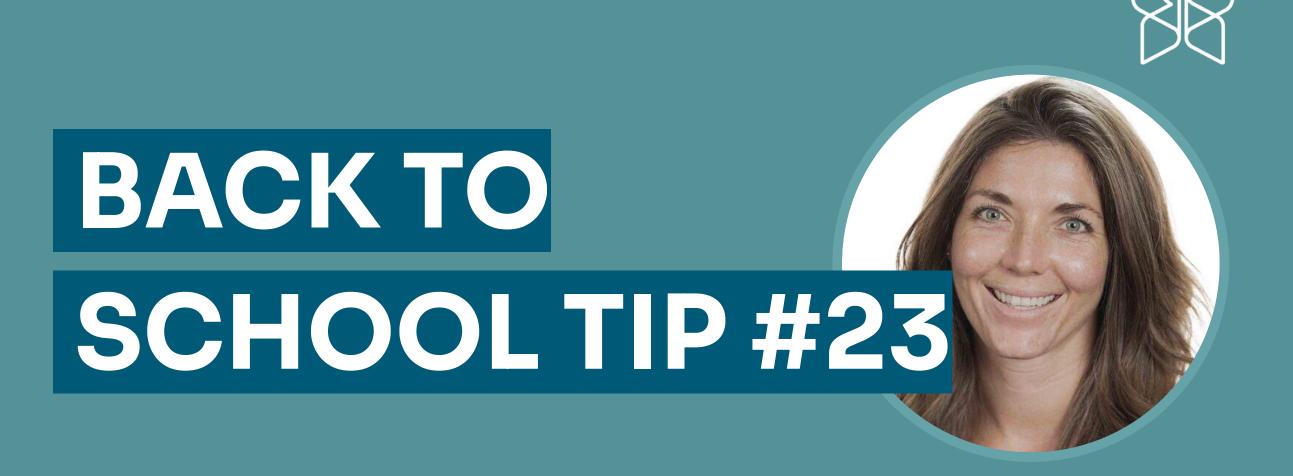
Classroom clean-up
hack! Label bins and shelves
with matching pics. Start the
year with a "Where is my
home" game—students love
keeping their space tidy!

SUSANNAH ALLEN, 31 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



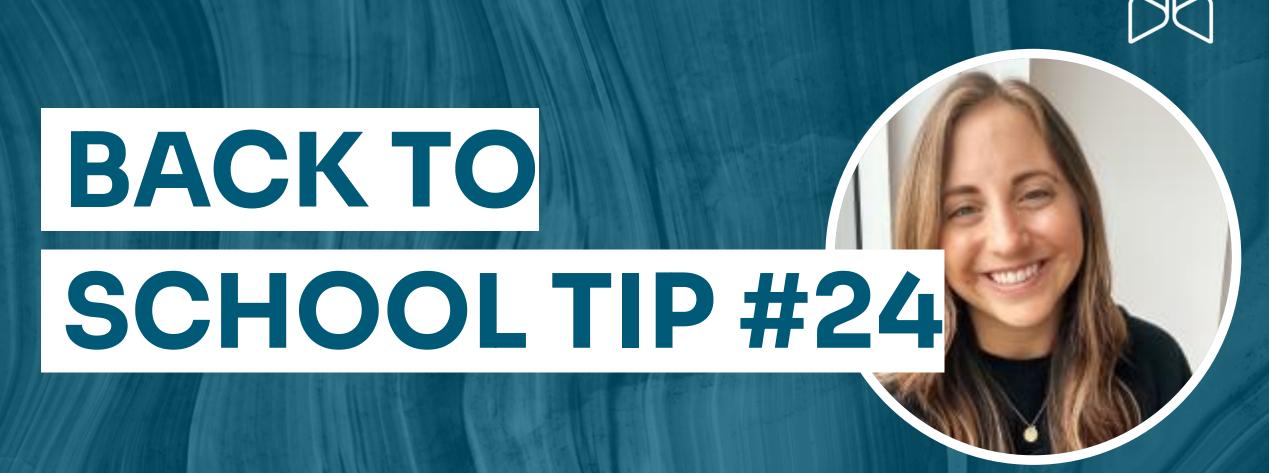
Boost literacy with digital tools! Use interactive reading apps, online libraries, and digital writing platforms to engage students.

Explore local library resources, too! THE CLASSROOM



Give students a voice in the classroom library. Let them rate and recommend books for their peers in a cozy reading corner. A love of reastarts with choice!

KATIE MOORE, 3 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



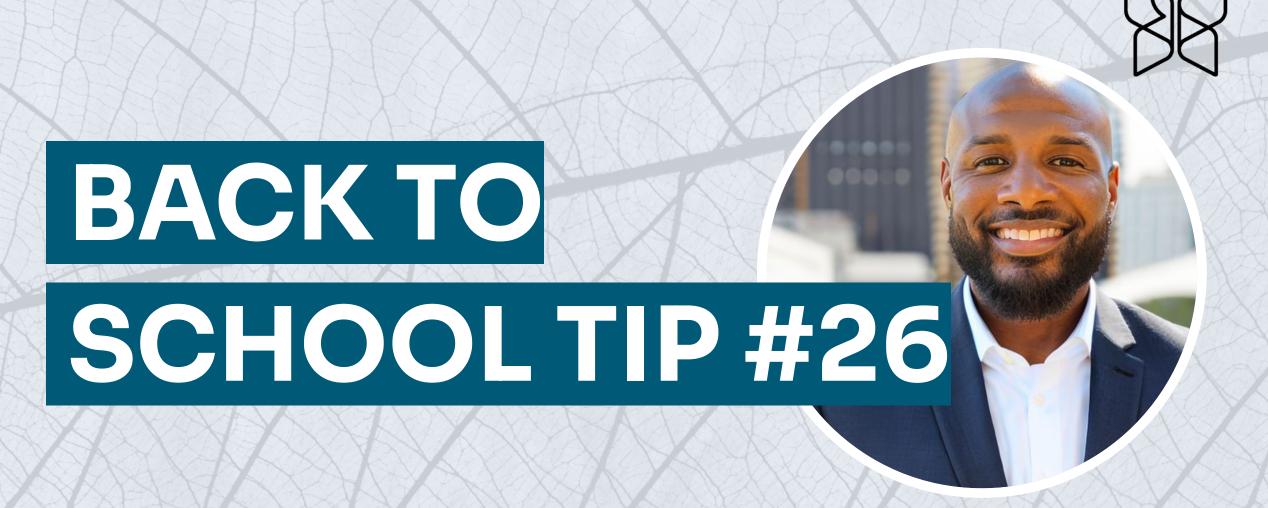
Kick off the school year with read-alouds to teach classroom rules and expectations. One of my favorites is *The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes*.

KATIE SHELTON, 10 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



Always clean off your desk before you leave. Every other table can have projects on it, but having one organized space to return to in the morning will help you plan the rest of your day.

WENDY MORREY, IT YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



Set timers for those
quick classroom transitions and
track the times on your
whiteboard—your students will love
trying to beat their time every
day! Efficient transitions mean more
precious instructional time!

SEAN LINDSEY, 11 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



### BACKTO SCHOOL TIP #27

Start your week with a mystery word aligned with the skills being taught. Drop hints throughout the week and reveal the word on Friday! It's a fun way to build excitement around phonics!



Phonemic awareness just got even more fun! Try calling grot to line up by the sound of the first phoneme in their name. It's a playful way to reinforce key skills!

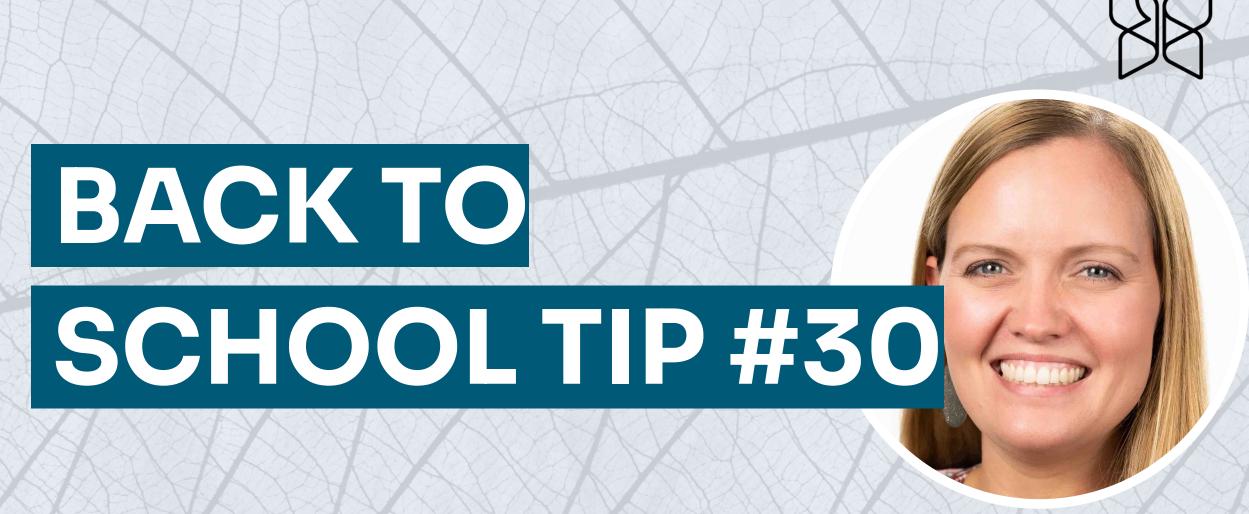
JENNY KIER, 13 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



### BACKTO SCHOOL TIP #29

Remind students and families that recipes, graphic novels—and even closed captions on TV—are all fun ways to practice reading.

KATIE MOORE, 3 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



Give students the gift of think tim After you ask a question, pause and count to seven. You'll be surprised at how many more students become willing and eager to

ASHLEY GARGULAK, 10 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM



Give yourself grace.

Whether it's your first or 25th year in the classroom, there will be challenges—but you've got this!

RACHEL McCOY, 16 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM

#### Here's to a fantastic school year! Reading Horizons empowers educators to eradicate illiteracy with effective, tech-enabled foundational reading instruction that helps all students achieve reading proficiency. To learn more, visit readinghorizons.com. Reading Horizons Where reading momentum begins