The basics

No. 2 pencils
Mechanical pencils
Colored pencils
A pencil sharpener (hand-held with a top to collect shavings)
A large pink eraser
Ballpoint pens (Get a few red-ink ones too, because some teachers have students do peer editing.)
Highlighters
Spiral-bound or composition notebooks
Loose-leaf notebook paper (Teachers can be precise about paper — most ask that students use the college ruled variety.)
A ruler with English and metric measurements

Organizational helpers

Several three-ring binders (Some teachers require that a binder be used exclusively for their class.)
A three-hole punch (a regular one or one that fits in a three-ring binder)
A pencil case that fits in a binder
Binder dividers (The kinds with pockets are good for loose papers.)
Pocket folders (Various colors)
Folders that fit in binders
A calendar or planner for scheduling or recording assignments
A sturdy, supportive backpack (Some schools do not permit rolling backpacks because of space considerations, so check with your school before considering this option.)
Two combination locks (If the school lockers do not have built-in locks, your child might need one for the hallway and one for the gym.)

Study aids

Index cards, ruled and unruled (These are great for making flash cards.)
Highlighters

A calculator (Check with the math or science teacher first before investing in an expensive one. Graphing calculators, for example, are required in many high school math classes. Teachers advise parents not to buy a calculator with more functions than students will use.)

Craft materials

Drawing paper
Construction paper
Glue sticks
A four-ounce bottle of white glue
Scotch tape
A stapler (Even better if you buy these mini staplers that fit right into your child’s backpack for last minute stapling emergencies!)
Scissors
Water-based markers

Home computer supplies

Printer paper
Ink cartridges

Nice to have

Poster board for visual aid presentations
Flash drive for PowerPoint presentations
Personal Flash Drive