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## **Back to School Shopping... Where Did the Summer Go?**

The older I get, the faster the summers seem to go. I feel like I was just attending graduation parties yesterday, but my daughter starts her sophomore year of high school in just over two weeks. Yikes! If summer went just as fast for you, odds are you have not had a lot of time to think about back-to-school shopping. Even if you have not planned well this year, here are some tips to consider as your family prepares for the 2022-23 school year.

- 1) Inventory your home first. There may be items on the supply list that you already have and will not need to purchase again.
- 2) Compare prices. It is tempting in today's world to buy everything on Amazon and avoid a trip to the store. Keep in mind though that brick and mortar stores keep our local economies healthy and many stores are running great deals on school supplies right now.
- 3) Get creative. Instead of loading the cart with brand new clothes, take your kids on an adventure to garage sales, thrift stores and consignment shops. You can really stretch your dollar and kids feel great about scoring their own deals.

Personally, I am a lover of all things school and office supplies, so my best advice to save money during your shopping trip is to stick to the list. Enjoy the last few weeks of summer and best of luck for the new school year!

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