

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Back to School Shopping: 2020 Edition

COVID-19 has caused uncertainty in our lives now for months and it continues with back to school shopping season. What will school look like this fall? What should we buy and when should we buy?

It was recently announced that Kansas schools would not open until after Labor Day, which pushes back the start for many schools in our area. While it is tempting to hold off on back to school shopping, it is still important to plan financially for those extra expenses that come with the start of a new school year. I'd like to share some thoughts to consider as we prepare for back to school (whenever that might be/however that might look).

- 1) Stock up on certain supplies now. Stores are unveiling their back to school displays, but most school lists aren't out yet. While you might not yet know how many Expo markers to buy, one thing you'll certainly need this year are antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer. If you see those items on the shelf, go ahead and purchase a few for back to school supplies.
- 2) Budget for school clothes, but don't rush to the store. The start of a new school year means new clothes, shoes, backpacks and more. With the delayed start in Kansas, you have more time to watch for sales and snag the deals. Retail sales are down for 2020 and stores may offer timely sales to take advantage of. While I always encourage shopping local, don't forget about coupon codes for those of you that prefer to shop online.
- 3) Be flexible. This year has proven to be completely unpredictable. Online learning may be the preferred option in some homes and in others it may be a forced option as we move forward. Digital learning tools vary depending on your students age, but realizing that those types of items may be included in your 2020 back to school expenses will help you as you budget.

Stay safe out there and enjoy your extended summer break!

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