

# 11 Teacher-Approved Crafts for School



fave crafts



**11 Teacher-Approved Crafts for School**

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## Letter from the Editors

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Hello, Readers!

You know that summer is over when it's time to invest in brand new school supplies. Make the transition as smooth as possible by creating a few creative back to school crafts. Kids can easily personalize their school supplies and create something worth showing off on the first day. This sense of pride will surely substitute any back to school nervousness or angst. Alternatively, teachers can begin to create crafts to decorate their classroom – it's a fun way to provide a welcome environment for anxious new students. Whether it's a school-themed birdhouse or a pair of pencil earrings, there are so many crafty options for teachers to enjoy. Get in the school spirit and start the new school year with a few cool crafts!

You can find more craft projects, great activities for kids and decorating ideas at [www.FaveCrafts.com](http://www.FaveCrafts.com).

Our eBooks, like all of our craft projects, are absolutely FREE. Please feel free to share with family and friends and ask them to sign up at our website for free newsletters from FaveCrafts.com.

We hope you enjoy reading and creating!

Sincerely,

*The Editors of FaveCrafts*

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## School Crafts for Kids

### Easy Pencil Picture Frame

By: [Candace from One Minute Crafts](#)

Pencils are not only useful for writing. In fact, they can be used to create personalized pictures. This project is cute and easy to make. In fact, it's a perfect back to school craft for the kids to make.



#### Materials:

- 4" X 6" Picture; landscape or portrait oriented
- 8 Pencils; new, any color, sharpened or unsharpened
- Ribbon; 4 inch, any color
- Clear tape
- Craft glue

#### Instructions:

1. Flip the picture over so that you are looking at its back. Make sure the picture has the top at the top even when flipped over.
2. Form a loop with your ribbon and tape the ends of the loop to the top, center of the back of the picture.
3. Flip the picture back over.
4. Add glue onto the top and bottom of the picture along the edge, but wide enough for two pencils on each edge.
5. At the top and bottom, lay two pencils pointing in opposite directions, onto the glue. Make sure the picture centered.
6. Add glue down the center of each pencil set to help hold together.
7. Place glue in each of the four corners on top of the pencil sets.
8. Lay the other sets of two pencils on the left and right side of the picture.

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9. Again, add glue down the center of each pencil set to help hold.

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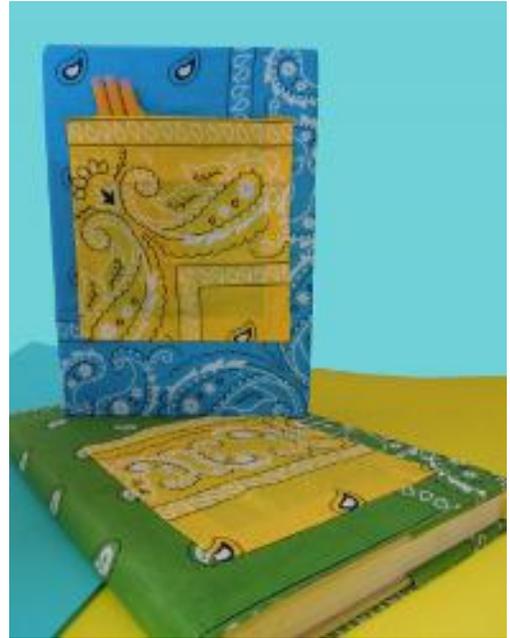
### Colorful Fabric Book Cover

By: [Heidi Borchers](#)

Save your old bandanas! This craft is practical, fun and eco-friendly. Use brightly colored fabric with easily distinguishable prints – that way, your child will never misplace his or her textbooks.

#### Materials:

- Bandanas (colors and patterns of your choice)
- Book of your choice
- Aleene's Fabric Fusion Peel & Stick Tape
- Scissors
- Pencil



#### Instructions:

1. Lay book on bandana leaving approximately 3" at top. Measure and cut to 3" at bottom.



2. If you are covering book that is larger than standard bandana size, you can add strips of bandanas with Peel & Stick Tape to create larger fabric size.

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3. Fold in sides to determine exact size of cover from top to bottom of book. Hand press and mark fold line with pencil.



4. Wrap fabric around book and mark end fold lines with pencil.



5. Apply line of Peel & Stick Tape along top and bottom edges; however, do not apply all the way to the end. You only want to apply the Tape along the bottom between the side fold lines. Remove paper backing and fold up to glue in place.

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6. Apply Peel & Stick Tape to each of the corners to the side fold lines. Remove paper backing and fold in fabric alongside fold lines.



7. Insert back cover into pocket.



8. Fold book back to insert front cover into front pocket.

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9. Determine desired size of pocket. Apply Peel & Stick tape along edges. Fold in edges to create clean edges on pocket.



10. Apply Peel & Stick Tape along edges and bottom of wrong side of pocket. Remove release paper and glue to book cover to create pocket.



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### Personalized Pencil Topper

By: [Chris Molnar for Theme A Party](#)

Get your child excited about school with this back to school craft! Pencil toppers are simple and easy to make, plus kids will love having their name on their pencil. These make great back to school ideas for teachers, too!



#### Materials:



- Stringable letter beads
- Charms, decorative beads or other decorative elements, if Desired
- School glue
- Scissors
- 1" X 8" and 1" X 3" lengths of jewelry cord in colors your child likes
- Pencil
- Pencil eraser head in a color your child likes

#### Instructions:

1. Choose a pencil eraser color. Fit it onto the top (eraser end) of the pencil.
2. Choose jewelry cord in a contrasting color to the pencil eraser (or match the two colors – it's up to you). Cut the cord about 7-8" long. Use less if the name is shorter.
3. Tie a knot in the end of the jewelry cord large enough that the beads won't slip off once you string them.

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4. Choose letter beads that spell your child's name or a special message. String them onto the knotted cord, in reverse order (so you end with the last bead being the first letter of your child's name). If your child would like added decoration, string colored beads or charms at this point as well.



5. Give the knot at the bottom of the cord one last tug to make sure it's snug, then cut the excess string from the bottom of the cord as close to the knot as possible without allowing the cord to un-knot.
6. Knot the top end of the string close to the first letter so that the beads won't budge. You should now have two knots: one at the beginning of the name and one at the end. Cut the top end of the cord so you have about 2" excess.
7. Take another piece of cord in the same or a contrasting color. Cut about 3" long.
8. Place a line of glue to completely cover the "neck" of the pencil eraser head. Begin wrapping the cord around the neck until the area is covered with string. Allow the glue to set, about 2-3 minutes. (You may need to hold the end of the cord against the glue for about a minute to get it to stay.)
9. Now take the string with the letter beads attached. Glue all over the string that you previously glued to the eraser, then cover this with the new piece of string, holding letter beads down slightly so they lie roughly parallel to the pencil as they dry. This doesn't need to be perfect – you just don't want the name sticking out too far and possibly getting snagged on things later.
10. Allow to dry completely. We recommend 1 hour, depending upon how thickly you've spread the glue. A thinner line of glue will dry faster.

### Tips:

1. For added pizzazz, string charms or colored beads before and after your child's name on the jewelry cord, or in between each letter. Possible charms include hanging musical notes,

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favorite cartoon characters, animals, sports emblems or your child's school mascot. Look in your local dollar or crafts store for threadable charms.

2. This craft requires some dexterity, particularly wrapping the cord and holding it for the glue to set, so if your child is 7 or under, help her with this part.
3. Beads can be a choking hazard. Do not do this craft with, or give it to, children under 3 or children who may place items in the mouth.
4. If your child tends to be rather rough on her school supplies, you may choose to use a hot glue gun instead of school glue to attach the cords to the eraser and one another. **DO NOT** allow any child, even an older one (12 and up), to use a hot glue gun unsupervised. For children younger than 12, have an adult do the gluing and allow the kids their fun by having them choose all the colors and bead elements instead.
5. This craft is appropriate for:
  - a. With adult help: ages 4 and up
  - b. Without adult help: ages 7 and up

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### Motivational School Magnets

By: [Ann Butler](#) for [KellyCraft](#)

Your kids will love these magnets. Make some to hang up tests and quizzes from school. Students will be motivated to do well and have their hard work displayed.

#### Materials:

- Kelly Craft "Get-It-Straight" Laser Square
- Duetica Lettering System: Froot
- Zip Dry by Beacon Adhesives
- Magnets
- Card Stock: White
- Card Stock: Print
- Scissor



#### Instructions:

1. Create words or sayings with the Duetica Lettering System and print out onto white card stock.



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2. Trim words/sayings, cut print card stock 1/2" larger than words/sayings.



3. Use the "Get-It-Straight" Laser Square to align the words/sayings onto the print card stock; glue in place; then glue onto the magnet and trim as needed.

## Crafts for Teachers

### Back to School Birdhouse

By: [Carmen Flores Tanis from Bzzy Little Bee](#)

Made with simple classroom materials, this project is perfect for a teacher. The cute chalkboard design around the birdhouse makes it easy to customize and decorate. Get the kids involved in creating this fun teacher gift.

#### Materials:

- Wood bird house
- 3 dozen pencils
- Metal ruler
- Sheets of double sided tape
- Silver tooling foil
- Scrap pieces of chipboard
- Black chalkboard spray paint
- Back Sharpie permanent marker
- Scissors & craft knife
- Tin snips
- Embossing tool (or dull pencil or dull pointy dowel)
- Paint pens & white-out pen
- Electric pencil sharpener
- Scroll saw or some kind of hacksaw for cutting pencils

#### Instructions:

1. Spray paint your birdhouse black.



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2. Measure each of the side of the house and cut the metal ruler to fit.



3. These shapes will decorate each of the front bird entrances.



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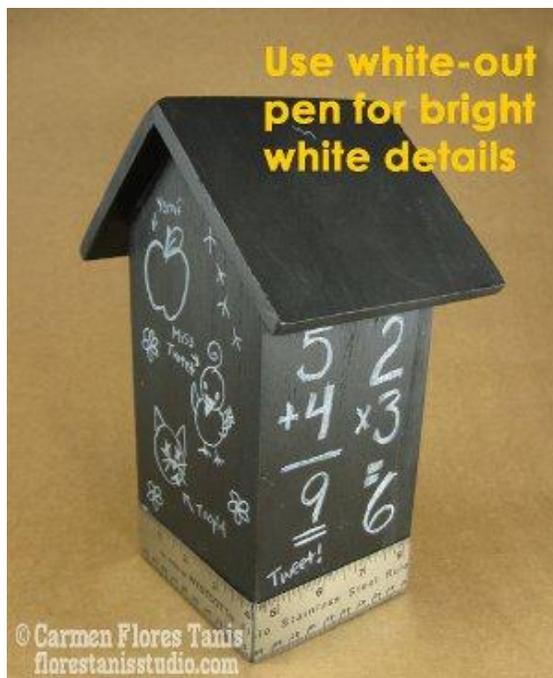
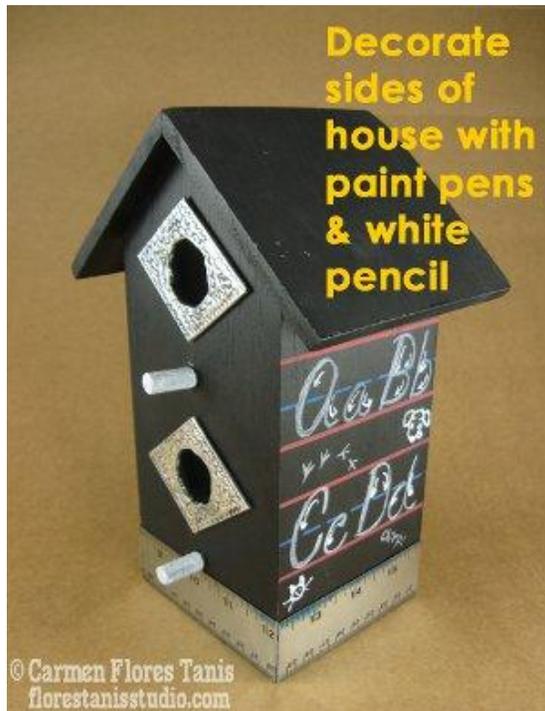


4. Darken the embossed designs with a little bit of black Sharpie. Wipe off excess ink.



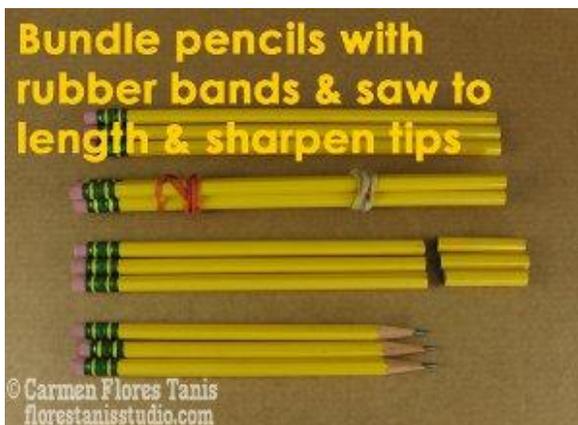
5. Fine tipped white-out correction ink pens work really well!

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6. Use a scroll saw or hack saw to shorten the pencils. Then use the electric pencil sharpener to sharpen each pencil. Dull the tips a little by rubbing them on a piece of sandpaper.

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### Look of Copper Enamel Pencil Box

By: [Heidi Borchers](#)

Create a pencil box before you or your favorite kid heads back to school. This is a fun and sophisticated back to school craft. The copper enameling process is complicated and difficult to achieve at home, so use this technique instead.



#### Materials:

- Aleene's Original Tacky Glue
- Wood pencil box
- Acrylic paints – one for base coat and 3 to 4 for the mixtures
- Brush for base coat
- Tooth picks/wood skewers- for mixing
- Pin – I used a corsage pin
- Waxed paper
- Blue painters tape

#### Instructions:

1. For my box, I used a wood box with an indentation on the top. This is ideal for this technique so that the glue mixture does not drip off the top. You can also see that my box had a design embossed into the wood. You will not see this design once you apply your glue mixture.



2. Using the brush, base coat the entire wood box. Let paint dry.

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3. Using the blue painters tape, tape off the top area where the glue mixture will be placed.



4. To keep your waxed paper from moving around, tape it down to your work surface. The waxed paper should be large enough to hold the box and have space for mixing the glue and paints. Place a puddle of glue for each color of acrylic paint you will be using. Make one puddle larger (for the background color).



5. Immediately squeeze acrylic paints into the puddles of glue.
6. Using the toothpick or wood skewer mix the paint into the glue, until completely mixed. (Note: For the white background, you will need to mix the white paint into the glue. (If you only used the glue, it would be clear when dry which would be another technique all together).

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7. Using a wooden skewer, place the background mixture (white paint and glue) into the area you taped off. Make sure all of the wood area is covered with the mixture. Don't worry about the uneven texture, it will flatten out.
8. Immediately drop small drops of the other mixtures into the wet background mixture.



9. To create your designs, place point of the pin in the center of the drop and pull outward through the glue mixture. Wipe the pin point off and continue to draw through and wipe pin off after each time.



10. You can add more dots of colors on colors, and repeat pulling pin through colors.

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11. Carefully remove blue tape after about two hours. Let glue dry completely. If necessary touch up the box base coat paint color with a brush.



12. For legs on box, glue plastic water bottle caps onto the bottom of the box and paint. Let paint dry.

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### Back to School Pencil Earrings

By: [Savannah Starr](#)

If you're looking for ideas for homemade jewelry, look no further than an office supply store. Gather up some pencils and cover them in glitter for these earrings. This is a great wearable craft for teachers.

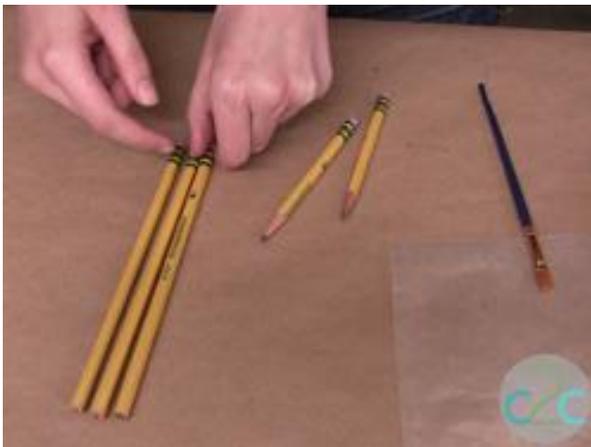


#### Materials:

- No. 2 Pencils
- Pencil sharpener
- Drill with small drill bit
- Eye pins (one for each pencil)
- Aleene's Tacky Glue
- Jewelry glue
- Glitter – pink, green, gold, copper, black
- Paper plates or wax paper (to catch excess glitter)
- Paint brush
- Clear spray sealer

#### Instructions:

1. To shorten pencils, sharpen to approximately 4" in length (or shorter or longer if desired.)



2. Drill through top of pencil eraser to create hole for eye pin.

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3. Using jewelry glue, glue eye pin into hole.



4. Use brush to apply tacky glue to eraser area.



5. Sprinkle with pink glitter.

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6. Apply glue to metal band. Sprinkle with green glitter.



7. Apply glue to pencil. Sprinkle with gold glitter.



8. Apply glue to end of pencil. Dip tip into black glitter.

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9. Sprinkle with copper glitter. Set aside to dry. Spray glitter with clear acrylic sealer.



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### ScrapTastic Notebook

By: [Kathy Cano-Murillo from Diary of a Crafty Chica](#)

Add some glitz and glamor to your notebooks. This is a great craft for teens and tweens, and is a clever way to get them in the mood to head back to school! Mix and match different media to create a notebook cover that's truly unique, colorful, and fun!

#### Materials:

- One blank journal
- Assorted trims
- Crystal trim
- Craft knife
- Aleene's Fabric Fusion Peel and Stick Tape



#### Instructions:

1. Open the book flat, covers facing up.
2. Measure and cut the trim so it goes across the entire book.
3. Set out your trim in an order that you like. I love contrast, but if you look close, you can see I used gold as a repeating theme in the pattern.
4. Apply the tape to the book all the way across, rub it down with your fingers and then peel off the backing.
5. Apply the ribbon/trim along the sticky side.
6. Keep going, when you get the composition part; use your craft knife or scissors to cut away, so that title still shows. That is what really gives the book character!
7. Add trim around the frame of the title and set the crystal trim in place. If the tape is too wide, cut it in half before applying.
8. Use your fingers to press the trim in place.
9. Trim edges.

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### Back to School Activities

#### Altered Personalized Pencil Case

By: [Jennifer Ellefson](#) for [Spellbinders](#)

If you have an unusual name, personalized gifts can be tough to find. A quick and easy alternative is to make your own version using a plain item, such as this once all-white pencil case.



#### Materials:

- Spellbinders Die Templates L3-01 Indulgence Font, S4-092 Stars 5
- WorldWin DoubleMates Perfect Plum
- ColorMates Deep Terrific Teal papers
- Pencil case
- Metallic rub-ons
- sticker maker
- Patterned paper

#### Instructions:

1. We purchased four Styrofoam balls (two that were 4", one 8" and one 10").
2. We painted them a shade of brown so that the white was not seen in between the corks. I hung them to dry overnight.
3. Next, I hot glued the corks on one by one.
4. I glued a line of corks around the center and then filled in one half. Then I flipped it over and filled in the other half row by row. Occasionally the bottom of a cork had to be trimmed down some to fit into a tighter space.

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### Denim Back to School Chalkboard

By: [Amanda Formaro](#) for [FaveCrafts](#)

This craft is a great way to use up those old school clothes. Made with old jeans, this fun mosaic framed chalkboard is great for decorating lockers, doors, or using as a classroom drawing pad.

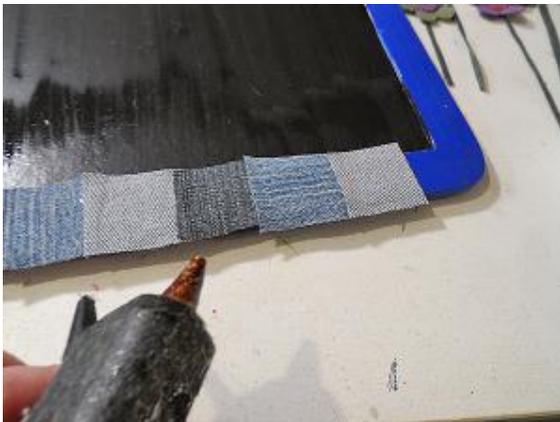
#### Materials:

- Framed chalkboard
- Recycled denim jeans
- Scissors
- Hot glue gun
- Dye or acrylic paint (optional)



#### Instructions:

1. Cut denim into squares wide enough to cover and overlap the border of the chalkboard.
2. Hot glue the squares all the way around the border, overlapping a little as you go and alternating different shades and types of denim for some contrast.



3. Cut colored denim into smaller squares and glue them randomly around the frame.

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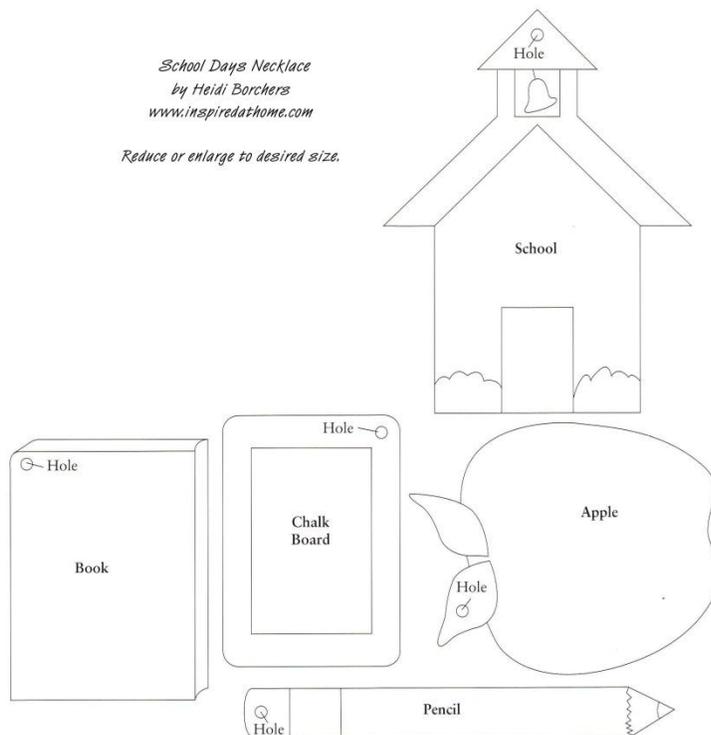
### School Bead Necklace

By: [Heidi Borchers](#) of [Inspired at Home](#)

Kids can help make this school-themed necklace with shrink plastic and wooden beads. This cute necklace makes a great gift for teacher.

#### Materials:

- Shrink plastic – white
- Fine sandpaper
- Permanent marking pen – fine tip black
- 1/8" diameter hole punch
- Colored pencils
- Non-stick baking sheet
- Spray sealer – gloss
- 5 (6 mm) jump rings
- Needlenose pliers
- 54" (1/8" wide) red satin ribbon
- Wooden beads: 26 (3/16") assorted colors, 18 (3/8" ) white
- Pattern (see below)



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### Instructions:

1. Sand 1 side of each piece of shrink plastic. Be sure to thoroughly yet lightly sand both vertically and horizontally. Using marker, trace patterns onto sanded side of plastic. (Note that marker ink may bleed slightly on sanded surface but not to worry – this will disappear during baking!) Cut out designs. Punch holes in designs where indicated on pattern. Use colored pencils to color designs. Remember that colors will be more intense after shrinking. Referring to photo, add lettering to designs with permanent marking pen.
2. Preheat toaster oven (or conventional oven) to 275 to 300 degrees. Place designs on room temperature baking sheet and place in oven. Edges should begin to curl within 25 seconds; if not, increase temperature slightly. If edges begin to curl as soon as designs are put in oven, reduce temperature. After about 1 minute, designs will complete shrinking and lie flat. Remove from oven. Let cool. Apply 1 coat of sealer to front of each design. Let dry.
3. Attach 1 jump ring to hole in each design using pliers. Knot ribbon about 24" from 1 end. Working from other end of ribbon, thread 4 colored beads and 3 white beads alternately onto ribbon. Thread 1 shrink plastic design onto ribbon and knot ribbon, catching jump ring of design in knot. Repeat beading sequence to thread remaining wooden beads and shrink plastic designs onto ribbon, reserving 2 beads for ribbon ends and knotting ribbon after last bead. Thread 1 bead onto each end of ribbon and knot ribbon around bead to secure.

## Special Thanks

[Heidi Borchers](#)

[Chris Molnar](#)

[Ann Butler](#)

[KellyCraft](#)

[Carmen Flores Tanis](#)

[Savannah Starr](#)

[Kathy Cano-Murillo](#)

[Spellbinders](#)

[Amanda Formaro](#)

Jennifer Ellefson

Candace from OneMinuteCrafts



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Get excited for the back to school season with a couple of fun and creative crafts for kids, teachers and everyone in between! Kids will love personalizing their school supplies and creating gifts for their new instructor, while teachers will have a blast preparing their classrooms after a long, hot summer. Feel the back to school spirit and show some pride – these projects make it so easy!

