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School Supplies Follow Tech Trends

by Dakota Kim, Chronicle Intern
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The Samsonite Back to School Collection (courtesy Luggage.Com)

When shelves and shelves of school supplies hit local stores, you know that the opening of school can't be far behind.

This year, the best new back to school supplies for students from elementary school to college are gearing toward green and technological, and buying them online is one way to avoid the crowds and beat the summer heat.

The laptop remains the most important back to school item for older students. The ultra portable ASUS Eee PC is a new favorite among student techies for its ability to come with Windows or Linux, but Dell, Toshiba and HP remain affordable options. If your student is an athlete who throws her or his bag down on the field with abandon, consider a Panasonic Toughbook.

But what will your student tote her or his laptop in? The Eclipse Reactor Solar Backpack will satisfy the needs of your future environmental scientist by charging electronic devices and saving energy at the same time. With a laptop sleeve, chargers and multiple pockets, this backpack is available for \$117 on Luggage.com.

Another green option is Earthpak's SMOSHO bag for \$42.95 at Earthpak.com, made from up to 98 percent recycled plastic bottles.

Samsonite's Back to School Backpack Collection features Rip Stop fabric resistant to tears and pulls, contoured straps with extra padding and multiple pockets. From the jaunty Back to School Spring Break Sling Bag for \$39.99 to the Back to School Urban Backpack for \$49.99, these backpacks are reliable and high quality. For the young musician, the Burton Gauge Pack for \$59.95 offers a wired audio jack and sound pocket for headphones. All are available on Luggage.com.