

# Personal Technology

TECH REVIEW

## School supplies go beyond the basics



The Grid-It system uses elastic bands to hold all the little things that usually ride around loose in a backpack.



Iomega has released Skin Industries-branded portable hard drives.

### Gadgets and apps can bring out the best in students

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August means back-to-school for thousands of North Texas students. Whether they're off to college or just going down the street to kindergarten, they'll always need school supplies. Schools will tell you what pens and paper to buy. But how about on the tech side? Here are a few gadgets and apps that can help your little or big learners do their best.

#### Gadgets

An Apple iPad (starts at \$499.99) might be a little expensive for smaller kids, but there are a ton of educational apps available in the iTunes App Store to help them learn.

Adding an iPad to your household might let you keep your sanity and keep your kids from bugging you about using your computer.

You can load up an iPad with a dozen learning apps for under \$50 and keep your kids occupied for months.

The last thing students need is to lose a semester's worth of notes or a term paper because of a hard-drive crash. Sending your kids off to school with a portable hard drive to back up their data makes good sense.

Hard drive maker Iomega has teamed with Skin Industries, a leading sports fashion brand, to create Skin-branded portable hard drives. There are three designs that all feature USB 2.0-powered 500GB

portable hard drives.

The \$119.99 Skin drives feature drop protection and include backup and antivirus software.

Some kids are messy and some are neat, but nearly every kid has a backpack. Neat kids will especially love Grid-It organizational solutions from Cocoon Innovations.

The Grid-It system is based on a series of crisscrossing elastic bands attached to a firm board. They're designed to hold all the little things that ride around loose in your bag.

They come in a variety of sizes. Some even have their own carrying cases.

They offer a great level of protection for items like your digital camera or iPod that you don't want bumping against other things in your bag.

If you're the kind of person who keeps things superorganized in your house, you're exactly the type of person who'll love Grid-It, which is available at the Container Store.

