Activities for School

Label the School
Label the school in the target language and then do a hide-n-seek activity using the directions in the target language.

Label the Classroom
I label my room (these are laminated and have pieces of Velcro on them – taping them would work too). We label the room together. To review for several days, I simply say, Where is la porte (door)? (the flag, the blackboard, the chair) One can even incorporate numbers by saying, “How many chaises (chairs) are there? How many portes (doors) are there? After several days of practice, I switch the labels and have groups find these mistakes or even remove all labels and have groups re-label the entire room.

Backpack Activity
Make a large overhead of an empty backpack. On an overhead transparency, put several items that may be found in a backpack. Then cut out the individual items. Put all the items in the backpack, but take one away as you ask the question – What do I need? Then ask the question What do I need for math, English, etc. Fill the backpack with items needed for each class subject.

I have created laminated backpacks for the students (which stay in the room) Inside there is a flashcard for each classroom item and another of its picture. They can match these up as a bell ringer (time them – many like to race to see improvement). They can also play memory with a partner.
Find the Object
Have a student leave the room. Hide an object in the classroom such as a pencil. The student then returns to the classroom and tries to find the object with his/her classmates’ help. When the student is closer to the object, the other students say the name of the object in the target language louder. As the students get farther from the object, the other students say the word softer until the object is found.

School Commands
I like to teach my students simple commands to use daily in the classroom such as open your book, close your book, and pass in your homework.

Do you have------?
Using the list below, randomly call upon different students and ask if they have an item. If they show you the correct object, give them bonus points or whatever you use for rewards.

- a pencil – yellow, short, un crayon jaune, court
- a pen – black, blue or red un stylo noir, bleu, rouge
- a calculator une calculatrice
- a notebook – red, green or yellow un cahier rouge, vert, jaune
- a pencil without an eraser un crayon sans une gomme
- a photo une photo
- a magazine un magazine
- a clock une horloge
- a ruler une règle
- a pencil with an eraser un crayon avec une gomme
- an exam with the grade of A un examen avec un “A”
- some scissors des ciseaux
- a dictionary un dictionnaire
- a book – math, English, or history un livre de maths, anglais, histoire
- two crayons of different colors deux crayons des couleurs différentes
- a book from the library un livre de la bibliothèque
Find the Object
One student guides a blindfolded student to a classroom object. The blindfolded person must identify the object in French.

- You write with this and it is permanent.
- Students keep all of their notes in these.
- You use this to measure.
- Each book has several of these.
- This is a teacher’s desk.

Post It
Write all of the objects found in a classroom on separate post it notes. Have the students put the post it notes on the correct objects. This can be done individually or in teams.

Pictionary
One member of each team illustrates the word to see which team guesses first correctly.

Categories
Divide the students into pairs. Each pair of students writes sixteen vocabulary words of things in a classroom. They mix up the vocabulary words and leave them on the desk. When the teacher gives a signal, the pair moves to the next desk and then has the task of putting the cards written by his classmates into categories. For example, the words can be categorized by things to write with, things to write on, things to read etc.
Classroom Auction
The teacher holds an auction of pencils, stickers, or other small classroom items. Each item has a price marked on it between 1 and 31 (hidden from students’ sight). The teacher calls on students to call out a number, trying to guess the price of the item up for bid. After a number has been guessed, the teacher says “plus” if the price needs to be higher or “moins” if the price needs to be lower. When someone guesses the price, he/she wins the item.

Classroom Telephone
The teacher creates in advance 2 sets of identical classroom items. The teacher divides the students in half and instructs them to form 2 lines by saying, “Faites deux queues, s’il vous plaît.” In front of each line leader, the teacher places a set of different classroom items of different colors on a chair or desk. The teacher models the activity for the students. The teacher whispers the classroom object and color (i.e. la règle rouge) to the student who is last in line. That student in turn whispers to the next student and so on until the message reaches the line leader. The line leader picks up the classroom item of the color that was “telephoned” (whispered down the line) to him/her. The person at the front of the line moves to the back of the line so that each student gets a chance to choose the correct shape.

Where are you----?
I like to post places of the school around my room (labels). I make a statement. In the target language, I make the statement that you are talking with the school principal. I then call on a student and they walk to the place they would most likely be doing this thing.
School Clues

Fill in the blank with the word in French that fits the description given.

1. ___________It is white and has lines. We write on it.
2. ___________They study in the school and go to classes.
3. ___________It represents the United States and is red, white & blue.
4. ___________It is a desk where students sit.
5. ___________You use this to erase the blackboard.
6. ___________This is round and has countries, cities, rivers etc.
7. ___________The same as above only it is flat.
8. ___________You read these.
9. ___________You enter and leave through this.
10. ___________Students attend here to learn.
11. ___________It is of glass, and you look through it.
12. ___________You cut with these.
13. ___________This person teaches.
14. ___________This has the days and months on it.
15. ___________You write with this, and it is permanent.
16. ___________Students keep their notes in these.
17. ___________You use this to measure.
18. ___________Each book has several of these.
19. ___________This is a teacher’s desk.
20. ___________These are wonderful when they work.

drapeau  globe  carte  pages  ordinateurs
pupitre  ciseaux  livres  gomme  porte
papier  cahiers  fenêtre  bureau  stylo
élèves  instituteur  calendrier  règle  école